



August 2022

Dunnottar School

# Newsletter



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What a fantastic week we have had back to school! We have enjoyed hearing all about the children's summer adventures and my, what a summer it was! The children look healthy, full of enthusiasm and ready to learn. Classes have quickly settled with the introduction of lines, and I am impressed with how busy and productive the environment seems. All our new children in P1 are settling well and have mastered the playground already! They are being supported very well by their P3 buddies who are doing a great job showing them around Dunnottar School.

I have also been able to visit the nursery setting – in all its new revamped splendour – to see a very settled setting where the children are thoroughly enjoying being together in play. A huge thank you to Mrs Henderson who has worked tirelessly throughout summer on our nursery. It is beautiful!



WELCOME to Dunnottar School P1!

We have already experienced a wet playtime so I thought I might take this moment to remind all grown-ups of the routines around wet days and arriving at school.

- Children arriving on school transport will be invited straight into school and guided to the hall where they will wait till 8.55am
- On wet mornings we ask that all other children are dropped off as close to 8.55am as possible to avoid waiting too long in the playground.
- If the weather is heavy, we will keep the children indoors at breaktime and they have a range of activities to do during that time.

• We do not allow the use of technology unless a teacher is happy to play a move. All movies are U rated. A PSA will either be in class or in the corridors and the P7 prefects are called to play with the children.

- P6 and P7 eat lunch outdoors most days as a choice. There is always space in the canteen on wet days for the children to come in if they would prefer.

## Drop Off

Regretfully, we have received a few complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking (which includes photos of parking on driveways and garage forecourts. Behaviour towards those residents who have challenged parking has been reported too. Our neighbours have reached out to our Cllrs Sarah Dickinson, Alan Turner, Dawn Black and Wendy Agnew, and Community Police Officer David Charnley, who have all been in touch to support the residents. We will of course work in partnership with all to ensure we maintain good relationships with the wider community. As a first step, can I please reach out to all parents to request that alternative arrangements be considered for dropping off children in the morning. We will monitor this matter and it will be added to the agenda at our first Parent Council meeting. Please consider:

- Walk to school
- Park and stride – park a safe distance away and walk the rest of the way

We also have PSA observations of children going onto the road to negotiate the large crowd of parents standing at the school gate, as they try to make their way through the crowd. Could parents please be aware of the danger they are causing by creating the bottleneck at the gate. Mrs Johnstone will attend to the gate until this is improved.

### P6 and P7 Lunch

We had anticipated, in line with the rest of the school, P6 and P7 families would begin to receive free school meals this term.

Sadly, I am advised that this will not be the case for at least the next two terms due to resources being used elsewhere to support Covid Recovery and storm damages across the Shire.

This is disappointing news. We are acutely aware that families are negotiating changes to personal circumstances following the Pandemic and now we are amid an energy crisis.

I would urge parent to get in touch directly and confidentially with me to discuss any financial concerns arising from the current pressures. I am able to contact agencies, apply for funding or support where needed.

### Parental Engagement

Over the course of this term, we will begin to work on our three priorities identified in the school improvement plan:

- Further embed our vision, values and aims.
- Increase parental engagement in the life of the school.
- Learning, Teaching and Assessment that has the learners voice at the centre.

We will begin by issuing a brief survey on the current work of the school, ahead of our first Parent Voice meeting. From there we will work with the Parent Voice members to establish which areas of school life we should prioritise this session. We look forward to hearing your views and establishing a strong parent voice at Dunnottar School.

An identified priority from our self-evaluation activity last session was to revise the Positive Behaviour Policy with our parents. This would be an activity I would be keen to do earlier rather than later, as we work on embedding our Vision, Values and Aims. To begin this process, I will issue a survey with proposed dates and options for Teams/Face to face to ensure we can include as many parents as possible. Once we have the data from the survey a short-term working group will be established.

### Staffing for Session 2022 - 2023

P1 – Mrs Brown and Mrs Reid

P2 – Mrs Marshall

P3 – Ms Black

P3/4 – Mrs McLeod

P4/5 Mrs MacKenzie and Mrs Gibson

P5 – Miss Smith and Mrs Gibson

P6 – Miss Fisher

P7 – Mrs Shannan

We are delighted to welcome back Miss Wallace to cover staff planning time on a Monday and Tuesday.

We are sad to say goodbye temporarily to Mrs Harley but wish her good health and hope she settles into her new role at Laurencekirk.

Miss Marshall continues to support Miss Wallace with McCrone cover.

### Parental Involvement

Our allotment is thriving and producing a huge amount of fruit and veg, which will be harvested in the coming weeks.



The school allotment is a wonderful space which provides rich learning experiences for all classes when they visit. Having been there over the summer I was especially proud of what the children, staff and parents achieved last session. The allotment is visited by classes on a weekly basis, but we do require the support of parents to ensure the space is well-maintained. We dearly need the support of a small group of parents to make it work and would like to invite anyone interested in helping to attend a meeting being held by Mrs Marshall and Mr Jones on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September @4.30pm**. The meeting can be attended in person, or we can send a link to support parents with other commitments.

Mrs Marshall will be able to outline the role of parents and establish a rota for support.

Even if you can only manage a few hours monthly please do note your interest in this extremely valuable asset.

### Admin Requests

Families arriving after 9am will now be asked to report to the office before going to classes. This is to allow the admin team to track late coming, in accordance with Promoting and Managing Pupil Attendance In Nursery, Primary and Special Schools Guidance, (Updated June 2022) Children **must** be accompanied with a parent who would then sign their child(ren) in to school.

Thank you for supporting the office with this matter.

### Ask me about....

In assembly we EXPLORED our right to be safe, healthy and nurtured. P1-3 identified how the adults and children work together to met those needs and P4-7 looked at the articles of the United Nations Rights of the Child and explored those which ensured those rights are met.

UNCRC - Article 42

You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights.

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Term 1</b> In-service day - Monday 22 August 2022 Term starts - Tuesday 23 August 2022 10-14 October - Music Week (more to follow) Term ends - Friday 14 October 2022	<b>Term 2</b> Term starts - Monday 31 October 2022 In-service day – Thursday 17 Friday 18 November 2022 Term ends - Friday 23 December 2021
<b>Term 3</b> 9 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 Term starts - Monday 9 January 2023 Occasional Days* - Thursday 9 and Friday 10th February 2023 Mid-term holiday – Monday 13th February In-service day - Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15th February Term ends - Friday 31 March 2022	<b>Term 4</b> <b>17 April 2023 to 7 July 2023</b> Term starts - Monday 17 April 2023 May Day holiday - Monday 1 May 2023 P7 Residential Trip – Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May Occasional Day* - Monday 5 June 2023 HEALTH Week – w/c 12th June SPORTS DAY – 16 <sup>th</sup> June: 1pm P7 Mackie Transition – Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June End of Term Service: THURSDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> July @ 9:30am Term ends - Friday 7 July 2023

\*Occasional Day – School is closed