

Carmondean Primary School Newsletter 4

April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back

I say this every year and this one is no exception - I can hardly believe it is the final term of the session already and, as usual, we have a really busy term ahead of us and we are looking forward to all the exciting things that are planned. Please keep looking at your emails, inside school bags and the school BLOG and website for updates about events that are coming up. We now only have 13 families who receive paper copies of letters which is great news for us as an Eco friendly school. If you are not receiving either an email from school or a paper copy please contact the office to ensure we have an up to date email address.

Staff News

John Platt, our Music Specialist, retired at the end of last term. Mr Platt has been a valued member of the staff since starting with us in 2012. He will be a great loss to the staff team as, on many occasions, he has gone above and beyond what was expected of him. We wish him all the very best as he moves on to the next chapter in his life.

Following many years as a Nursery Nurse, Mrs Aslam decided to leave us to spend more time with her family, especially with her grandchildren. She will also be a great loss to the Nursey and we wish her well in her role as a grandmother.

A belated welcome back to Carmondean is extended to Mrs Muir. She recently returned to us following her maternity leave and has taken on the role of Support for Learning Teacher.

At the end of last term Mrs MacMillan, Pupil Support Worker, left us to take up a new post in another school. This week we welcome Mrs Cochrane to the staff team in the role of Pupil Support Worker.

The West Lothian Primary Schools Glee Challenge 2018

The School Choir spent last term preparing for the West Lothian Primary Schools Glee Challenge 2018, which went ahead on Tuesday, 13 March at Howden Park Centre. The children's performance was outstanding and each and every child was a credit to the school. Feedback we received from the judges complimented the children on their excellent attitude, sportsmanship and their great behaviour. Unfortunately, we did not progress to the regional final in May. However, there are an additional 2 choirs going forward to the final who were unsuccessful within other local authorities so we wait with bated breath to find out if we have been chosen.

Euroquiz 2018

Every year we enter a group of Primary 6 pupils into the West Lothian round of the Euro Quiz. This is an annual quiz run by The Scottish European Educational Trust which sees teams of four pupils working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe covering subjects such as history, geography, sport, culture, languages and the European Union. Heats take place in each local authority with the winning team from each local authority area competing in the national final. This year's heat was a hard fought battle and unfortunately we did not succeed to the final. Well done to Karly Cowan, Nathan Paterson,

Mason Pow, Chloe Merson and Lucy Scott and Sakina Chalal (reserves) for their hard work over the past few months, much of which was done in their own time.

Scottish Concert Band Festival National Finals Perth Concert Hall

Huge congratulations to the Deans Cluster Brass Ensemble who took a GOLD award on Saturday 17 March. Zoe Dudgeon, Daisy Stewart and Aimee Murie were brilliant ambassadors for West Lothian, performing to a really high standard with exemplary behaviour throughout from all. Well done! Zoe Dudgeon along with Louisa Barrie performed as part of West Lothian Junior Concert Band on the same day. Their performance was also awarded GOLD. Congratulations girls!

School Show

At the end of the last term Primary 6 and 7 took to the stage to perform The Dracula Rock show. This was no mean feat. The children's performance was outstanding and each and every one of the children rose to the occasion. Many thanks to all those involved with the show and who turned it into something amazing. We now look forward to the Primary 4 and 5 show, Pirates of the Curry Bean.

Residential Programme

We are well underway with our very successful Residential Programme. Primary 5 had a ball at Lendrick Muir and P6 are looking forward to Dalguise which had to be postponed due to the snow fall week beginning the 5th of March. Their adventure will now take place week beginning the 30th of April. Primary 3 are set to go to Low Port Centre at the end of April and P4 to Auchengillan at the end of May. Final details are being made in preparation for travelling to France with Primary 7. Each residential is a unique and exciting experience for the children and a huge thanks to every member of staff for making these experiences happen.

Letters regarding next year's residential will be issued at the end of May/beginning of June.

School Uniform

Thank you to all parents and carers for ensuring your children arrive at school in school uniform. We are all very proud of our school and we are keen to continue to display this by encouraging the children to wear school uniform in line with West Lothian Council's guidelines. A reminder that the school uniform consists of grey, black or navy trousers/skirt, white polo shirt and navy sweater.

Unfortunately, over recent months, we have seen an increase in the number of children wearing skinny jeans to school which are not part of our uniform. We have gently reminded the children that this is not school uniform and with some success. However, there are still some pupils continuing to wear them. At your next opportunity please encourage your child to adhere to our uniform policy so that the whole school community looks smart and ready for the day ahead.

Footwear

A reminder to everyone - to ensure the floors are kept clean and well maintained it is important that the children change their outdoor shoes to soft indoor shoes. This is even more important now that we have new corridors, changing facilities and a Gym Hall. Please ensure that your child has appropriate indoor footwear to change into.

Clothing Bank

Please remember that we have a Clothing Bank situated just inside the inner car park for all parents to use to recycle used clothes. This continues to be a successful fund raiser for the school and profits support our ECO school initiatives. If you are using the Clothing Bank please ensure that all items of clothing are placed in a tied plastic bag before placing it in the Bank.

Lost Property

Due to the volume of unclaimed and unnamed lost property we will have to recycle these on a monthly basis to our Clothing Bank. Any named items are passed straight back to their owner. Please ensure that all items are named as this makes them easier to return.

Attendance

West Lothian Council recognises the need for all children and young people to engage fully in the education process and has developed a strategy for promoting attendance through a positive and supportive approach. This strategy provides a framework that allows early intervention, comprehensive information sharing and a positive partnership with parents/carers through a staged intervention. The West Lothian Council strategy provides a system that intervenes at an early stage. Stage 1 is where a child's absence has fallen below 90% in the previous month. A letter will be sent to inform the parent/carer that this absence is unacceptable and needs to improve. If there is no improvement, Stage 2 involves a meeting in school with parents/carers. If there is a continued drop in the absence rate Stage 3 is implemented and the school will make a referral to the Children and Young People's Team who provide programmes to address school attendance directly. If there is no improvement a Child's Planning Meeting will take place. If there is no further improvement the pupil will be referred to the Area Attendance Group with the option of referring on to The Children's Reporter.

As an employee of West Lothian Council I am required to follow this policy and monitor attendance on a monthly basis. If you have received a letter from me regarding absence and you would like to discuss this further please contact me at school.

Child Protection – Council Policy

West Lothian Council is responsible for investigating and providing help for children who have been abused, or are at risk of abuse. Social workers and police officers work together to assess and protect children and prepare an individual response to their circumstances. At Carmondean it is the responsibility of all school staff to help children to be safe and that means that if a child makes an allegation of abuse, Edinburgh and Lothian Child Protection Procedures make it very clear that action must be taken on the same day as the alleged abuse, and that the school follows procedures to alert Senior Management. As the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection, it is my responsibility to follow procedure and that extends to contacting one of the Core Agencies, for example, teams from Health, Social Work or Police. These procedures are not taken lightly by the school and once a Core Agency is involved it remains with the Agency to make an appropriate decision. Any decision regarding a Child Protection issue is not down to the school.

As an employee of West Lothian Council I am required to follow this policy. If you require any further information regarding this please contact me at school.

Healthy Tuck Shop

Our Healthy Fruit Tuck Shop is doing really well with a good number of children buying fruit regularly. Most pupils are also bringing water to school, which is worthwhile too. Please support the school with

our tuck shop by giving your child the occasional 30p to buy a piece of fruit.

Breakfast Club

Ms Mercado, Mrs Steel and Mrs Shepherd continue to work hard to make the Breakfast Club an enjoyable experience for the children who attend. This is a free provision and runs from 8.15 where entrance to the building is guaranteed. However, some children start arriving much earlier than 8.15 when entry to the building is not guaranteed and there is no supervision. Please ensure that if your child is attending the Breakfast Club that they arrive as near to 8.15 as possible. Entry to Breakfast Club is through the P6/7 entrance.

Lunch Money

The cost of school lunch is now £2.04. If paying with cash, please ensure that your child has the correct money. This is greatly appreciated by the Pupil Support Workers who gather the monies and by Mrs McLean in the Office.

The Office Staff

As always, Mrs Wotherspoon and Mrs McLean are very busy, in particular, first thing in the morning. Please ensure that your child/children has/have everything they need for school before they enter the building. At times, many parents gather at the school office handing things in which children have forgotten and often the ladies are overwhelmed with delivering forgotten items. Money for lunches, milk, etc. should also be given to the children for payment at class collections rather than the school office. In addition, it would help if exact money is handed in to the Office as there is very little change to give out each day. Banking is done on a daily basis and so there is no availability for change to be given first thing in the morning. If you have not yet taken advantage of the online payments system that was introduced last session, then, by signing up, you will no longer have to search for the exact amount of money for lunches. iPayimpact offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – safe in the knowledge that the technology uses the highest internet security available. Please contact the School Office to receive your unique iPayimpact Account activation details.

Simply Play After School Care

SimplyPlay @ Deans operates We are a provision that offers affordable out of school We provide a friendly, fun, challenging environment for programmes are chosen by the



from Deans Community High School. high quality, accessible and childcare throughout West Lothian. stimulating, safe and healthy, children in our care. Varied children that aim to broaden their experiences and to develop their skills, including arts and crafts, outdoor play, drama, sport, project work and outings. Activities are designed to be challenging, with an element of supported and managed risk. We offer a reliable, good value, professional and consistent service for children and parents.

Our service operates in term-time and during the school holiday/ in-service days. During term time our times are Mondays to Fridays in which staff collect children from their local school and the club is open until 6pm. During school holidays/in-service days the club is open for children to be dropped off from 8am and remains open to 6pm.

For further information please contact the club manager Gillian on the following:

Telephone 07753471948

Email: gillian@simplyplay.org

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Gillian Millar
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

April

- 16 PSA meeting, 3.30pm
- 18 Parent/Carer residential meeting for France, 6.00pm
- 17 P2/3 Parent Assembly, 9.15am
- 19 PSA Spring Disco P4-7, 6.00-8.00pm
- 20 P6 Parent Assembly, 9.15
- 21 Scottish Schools Cross Country Competition
- 24 P2/1 Parent Assembly, 9.15am
P5 Basketball Festival
- 25 Tesco Bank Football Festival for P3, 10.00-11.30am
- 26 Primary 3 to Low Port Centre, depart 9.15am
- 27 Primary 3 return from Low Port Centre, return 2pm
Selected pupils from P6 and P7 to a Handball final, Motherwell
- 30 Primary 6 to Dalguise, depart 9.15am
ECO Week

May

- 1 Spring Clean Day
P2M Parent Assembly, 9.15am
- 2 Parent Council Meeting, 6.30pm
- 7 May Day Holiday
- 8 Staff in-service day
- 12 Gymnastics Competition, Perth
- 13 Primary 7 to France
- 15 P6 Transition morning to Deans Community High School
- 16 Nursery Grandparents Day 10.00am and 2.15pm
- 18 Primary 7 return from France
- 21 Victoria Day Holiday
- 22 All resume school
- 31 P4 to Auchengillan, 10.00am depart

June

- 1 P4 return from Auchengillan, 3.00pm return
- 4 P1 Induction

- 4-8 Primary 7 transition days to Deans Community High School
- 7 Nursery Sports Day 10.00am and 2.00pm
- 9 PSA Fun Day at 11.00am
- 12 P1C and P1OH Parent Assembly, 9.15am
- 13 Primary 4 and 5 School Show, 1.30 and 6.30pm. Details to follow
- 19 P1-3 and P7 Beach Trip
P1 shared lunch for new parents
- 20 School Sports Day P4-7 am and P1-3 pm
- 21 Nursery Summer Outing, Edinburgh Zoo
- 22 Nursery Open Day, 12.30-1.15pm and 1.30-2.15pm
- 27 Primary 7 leavers assembly 1.30pm School Hall
- 28 Nursery Leavers Assemblies 10.00am and 2.00pm
Primary 7 Prom 6.30pm at Deer Park Country Club
- 29 End of session

August

- 20 Staff in-service day
- 21 All pupils resume school

September

- 14 All break
- 17 September holiday
- 18 Staff in-service day
- 19 Pupils resume school