

Carmondean Primary School Newsletter 3

January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and that you had a great holiday and good start to 2019. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the many Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes I received just before the holiday. They were all greatly appreciated.

I hope we can now look forward to the new term and that all staff and children remain in good health through the weeks ahead as we have many events and activities to look forward to.

Norovirus Outbreaks

A number of schools across West Lothian have reported an increase in pupils with vomiting and/or diarrhoea. The symptoms are suggestive of viral gastroenteritis (also known as norovirus, a winter vomiting disease) which is known to be currently circulating in the community. It is usually a short lived self-limiting illness from which children and adults recover quickly.

Further information about norovirus and its prevention can be found at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/norovirus>

To minimise the likelihood of developing norovirus NHS recommend:

- If your child develops vomiting and/or diarrhoea please ensure they remain off school until they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours. This advice applies at all times. So for instance if your child becomes unwell over the weekend they should not attend school on Monday even if by then they feel well.
- Ensure that all members of your family wash their hands frequently using warm water and liquid soap, especially after using the toilet and before eating or preparing food.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas in school is always a very special time and last year was no exception. Nursery and Primary 1 put on a great performance of The Nativity. I am always amazed that children of such a young age can remember so many words, sing songs and perform in front of a packed house. The children in Primaries 2 and 3 also gave a fantastic performance of Behind the Stable Door alongside the brass group and choir. Everyone worked very hard demonstrating just how confident, successful and responsible our children are. Well done to all staff who did an amazing job of preparing the children for their performances. This takes time and imagination which, I am sure you will agree, was on display at each performance.

Christmas Fair

The staff would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fair last term. As usual, the turnout was fantastic and we raised a massive £2366 for the school. So far this has enabled us to pay for the pantomimes before Christmas and the cost of the Christmas parties. We have yet to decide what the rest of the money will be spent on.

Scottish Concert Band Festival

On Sunday 9 December, the Deans Cluster Brass Ensemble, which is made up of pupils from Deans Community High School and the feeder Primary Schools, took to the stage and were awarded GOLD! A fantastic result and congratulations to Leila Buchan P6, Jack Brown P6 and Louis Murphy P6. The Band now progress to The Scottish Concert Band Festival National Final in Perth this March. Fingers crossed for another success.

West Lothian Gymnastics Competition

At the end of November last year we entered 4 teams into the West Lothian Gymnastics Competition at Craigswood Sports Centre. We were delighted with the achievement of each team. Level 1 Team (Eva Aston, Rosie White, Anya Turner and Dorka Toth) were awarded Team Gold. Rosie White was awarded an individual Bronze medal for her performance at Level 1. Level 3 Team (Carla Jansen, Karly Cowan, Zak Swift and Amber Lawson) were also awarded a Gold medal for their team. Zak Swift won an individual Silver medal for his performance at Level 3. Worthy of a mention for their great performances but with no medals are Level 1 team (Aimee Murie, Alicia Chaziwa, Lexi MacLeod and Madison McCulloch) and Level 2 team (Julia Majercakova, Iona Mitchell, Isla Barrie and Olivia Park). Well done to everyone and the good news is that the two winning teams progress to the next level of the competition, which takes place in Perth in March.

Children in Need

As usual, we took part in fundraising for Children in Need. Primary 5 took overall responsibility for running the event, which was extremely successful. The grand total raised was £670.64. A huge thank you for supporting this fundraising event.

P 6-7 School Show

A provisional date of Thursday 4 April 2019 has been set for the Primary 6-7 school show. This year the show will be called Let the Games Begin. More details to follow nearer the time. Primaries 4 and 5 will also perform a show and this will be held in the final term.

Blog

As part of our many methods of communicating with you I would like to continue to draw your attention to the class Blogs. Each week the staff update their Blog and give you the latest news from their class. The staff and children would appreciate it if you could spend a little time each week reading your child's/children's class Blog. In addition to the class teachers, the Senior Management Team has a Tag called Management News and Views and the Office has a tab called School Office. Please take a look and keep up to date with all things Carmondean. If you are a 'Twitter' user, our posts are 'tweeted at' "@carmondean_ps". Why not follow us and keep up to date?

Carmondean Primary School Website

A reminder that Carmondean Primary School website can be accessed at: <http://www.carmondeanprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

The website has lots of easily accessible information on the school and its business as well as direct feeds from our school Blog and our school Twitter account.

Why not have a look and bookmark our website on all of your devices? It's the first port of call for information about Carmondean Primary School.

Winter Ready

In the event of severe weather and the school has to close for whatever reason, the best place for your children to continue with their learning is through the School Blog. Our older children are able to do this independently, but our younger pupils will need some adult help.

Closing a school or cancelling after school clubs or events is something we do not do lightly and we do everything possible to avoid such an event. However, if a closure is deemed necessary we will ensure that you are fully informed of the procedures that are put in place to allow you to organise child care.

Please ensure that all contact details are up to date especially if you got a new phone over the Christmas period as we use Group Call to notify parents of closures etc. Please note we can only Group Call or email the main contact of each family.

Attendance

Attendance at school by children and young people is essential so that they receive the education to which they are entitled. Absence from school, whatever the cause, disrupts learning and will impact negatively on the life chances of our children and young people, and therefore, our community.

West Lothian Council recognises the need for all children 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 and a positive partnership with parents through a staged intervention approach.

The first stage of a three stage process is where a child's attendance has fallen below 90% in the previous month and no good reason for such an absence is supplied by the parent/carer. A letter will be sent to inform the parent/carer that this absence is unacceptable and needs to improve. These letters are generic in nature and are written by officers of West Lothian Council.

As an employee of West Lothian Council my job requires me to regularly monitor attendance. I would appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school unless there is illness or some other excuse that can be explained. Unfortunately, taking your child out of school during term time for a holiday will be marked as unauthorised. If you decide to go on holiday, the absence will trigger the 90% target fairly quickly and you will likely receive a first stage letter.

Please remember to contact the School Office if your child is off unwell or is going to be late into school due to an appointment. You can phone 01506 432492 to either speak to the Office Staff or leave a message on the answering machine. Alternatively, you can text us on 07860 049699.

Please bear in mind that lunches require to be ordered by 9.45am. If your child is going to be late please let the office staff know so that a meal can be ordered.

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. Please also ensure that all items of clothing need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Footwear

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

We keep a supply of spare items of clothing in school in case any child needs to be changed for whatever reason. Before Christmas a number of the children needed spare clothing because they fell over in the playground. If your child came home with a change of clothing please ensure it is sent back to school to maintain the stock.

Drinking Water

Last term there was a slight increase in the number of children bringing diluted juice and flavoured water to school to drink through the course of the day. We are a health promoting school and encourage the children to bring plain water only to drink. Your support with this would be appreciated by all staff.

Healthy Tuck Shop

Our Healthy Fruit Tuck Shop at P1-3 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.

Breakfast Club

Ms Mercado, Ms McLaughlin 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 8.15am where entrance to the building is guaranteed. However, some children start arriving much earlier than 8.15am 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 8.15am as possible. Entry to Breakfast Club is through the P6-7 entrance. On mornings when the weather is inclement the children will remain in the Hall where they will be supervised before they are directed to their classrooms.

Parking

From time to time we receive phone calls from our immediate neighbours complaining about inconsiderate parking by some of our parents at the beginning and end of the day. As a school we pride ourselves as being part of the community and when cars are parked across driveways which block residents in their houses we lose our good reputation in the community. We understand that parking around the school can be problematic but with a little thought and consideration our good reputation will continue to be strong within the Carmondean Community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Millar
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

January

- 14 After School Clubs resume
- 16 Parent Council meeting 6.30pm
- 17 P1 Families Connect coffee morning
- 28 Scots Afternoon for local Senior Citizens

February

- 12 P2A parent assembly, 9.15am
- 13 Parent Consultations for school and nursery 5.00pm-7.30pm
- 14 Parent Consultations for school and nursery 4.00pm-6.30pm
- 18-19 February holiday/Staff In-Service day
- 20 All resume school
- 20 Dalguise and Lendrick Muir Residential meeting for parents 6.00pm
- 28 PSA Spring Disco

March

- 1 P5 parent assembly, 9.15am
- 4-7 Last week of After School Clubs
- 6 Parent Council meeting 6.30pm
- 12 P2B parent assembly, 9.15am
P5 outing to Bannockburn
- 13-15 P5 residential to Lendrick Muir
- 18-22 P6 residential to Dalguise
- 20 P5 Basketball Festival, Deans Community High School
P3 outing to Edinburgh Castle
- 22 P4 parent assembly, 9.15am
- 26 P3 parent assembly, 9.15am
- 27 France, LowPort and Auchengillan Residential meeting for parents 6.00pm

April

- 1 P2 outing to Edinburgh Zoo
- 4 P6/7 School Show, 1.30pm and 6.30pm
- 5 Last day of term
- 23 All resume school