

## Struthers Primary



### Bulletin 3 1/9/17



The annual data forms are now out to all parents. These must be returned as they give us all contact information and vital information about your child. These are used all through the year for trips. You will get information letters about trips but consent forms come from this data return. It is so important to have up to date medical information and contact details.

Could we ask that any new parents, especially our new P1 parents and Nursery parents provide us with up to date **email addresses** so we can communicate effectively with you. We send out bulletins and communications by email and we want to make sure you can access them and keep informed about our school.

The table below will list all letters which have been issued and when they are to be returned. Copies of letters are on the school website if you lose the copy your child brings home.

Class/Classes or Whole school	Content of Letter	Return date
After school athletics club P6-7	Mondays 11 <sup>th</sup> September	4.9.17
P4 music instruction letter		4.9.17
P4-5 Lunchtime Spanish club	Begins 5 <sup>th</sup> September	4.9.17
P5-7 after school Drama Club	Begins 6 <sup>th</sup> September	4.9.17
Helping hands		8.9.17
After school ball games P3-4		4.9.17
After school Dance club P1-2		4.9.17
P1 Coffee & catch up		N/A

Struthers holds a Level 2 accreditation as a Rights Respecting School and the ethos of this is embedded in our school. We regularly share and discuss the UN Rights of the Child with all our pupils and we work together as a community to achieve these goals. We include our focus rights in the bulletin each week and it is good to talk about these with your child.

**Article 28** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free. Secondary education must be available for every child.

**Article 29** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

**Our School Values are: Inclusion, Respect, Honesty, Loyalty and Responsibility.**

**School Website address is:** [www.struthers.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.struthers.sayr.sch.uk) and phone number is **01292 690073**

Please see below our summary of our School Improvement Plan we create from analysis of school audits which involve pupils, parents and staff and reference local and national guidelines and our own school self- evaluation.

Our overarching theme for Struthers is pupil leadership in their learning and in leading school improvement. We are clear that for children to be successful in later life they must understand how to learn, be confident in approaching problems and challenges, be able to work with others and understand and fulfil their responsibilities. We would ask that at home you can support this as well. This means ensuring pupils take responsibility for sharing communication between home and school e.g. sharing homework tasks which will always have been explained, pass over letters, tell you about school events they hear from assemblies and their class teachers. It is vital for children to be self- motivated and have developed skills to face new challenges to ensure they can achieve their potential and achieve success.

Priority	How we will achieve this?
1. To raise attainment in Literacy with a particular	We will continue to look at our reading strategies and how we can support pupil's comprehension skills. This will be in conjunction with our focus on encouraging reading

focus on pupils who are not achieving expected outcomes.	for pleasure and independent reading. We had a very successful year with Reading for Gold and the development of our new library and this will continue to be developed.
2. To raise attainment in Numeracy with a focus on pupils who are not achieving expected outcomes.	We are going to study all the new approaches to teaching Numeracy and Maths we have recently introduced and look at how the approaches can be brought together in more meaningful lessons. We aim to help children understand more readily how to apply the skills they learn and be able to identify when to use the correct strategies.
3. To measure and track Pupil Health and Wellbeing.	We will be looking at all the Health and wellbeing outcomes for pupils and the benchmarks for their assessment and create a programme for Struthers that will ensure all children meet all outcomes and we will have measures to show this.
4. Develop Parental Engagement to support all our families.	Our 2 newly appointed Acting Principal Teachers are going to be responsible for this area which will look at developing our new Family and Community room and provide opportunities for Parents to come in and learn with us.

If you have any skills or interests in any of these particular areas and you feel you could help us please get in touch.

### **This Week**

Primary 1 are settling in well and have been enjoying their last morning only sessions. I don't know if the children are as tired as the teachers! To celebrate their great start and prepare for the all-day provision they had a Teddy Bears Picnic which was a fantastic afternoon. I hope they are not expecting every lunch time to be like this. I am sure they will enjoy eating in the dinner hall with their buddies next week and encourage you to take advantage of their free school meals. Their buddies will be on hand for them on their first few lunches to show them what to do.

P6 started their Bikeability and a huge thanks to the volunteers who help out with this. It is a big time commitment from Craig and Lucy and we are so grateful. We would just remind everyone that they access bike shelters through the playground and not round side of the building and also if cycling home to not go along Staffin Road but down the path and back up to Noreen, our Crossing Patrol supervisor.

P6 managed to get to the beach this week and the weather was kind. Thank you to Mrs Barclay who gave up her time to escort them and allow us to take undertake the John Muir award.

We had our first Fire Drill practice so well done to everyone for leaving the building in such a sensible manner and getting to your muster points so quickly. Next one will be a surprise!

### **Next week**

P1 are in great demand next week and having their photos taken for the Troon Times on Tuesday at 11.20 and then on Thursday for the Ayrshire Post on Thursday at 11am so we will try and keep them tidy until then which will be a challenge after break.

We have our first Parent Council on Tuesday night at 7 pm in the school. Please come and get involved.

P7 have a visitor from the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday as part of their Democracy topic and this means Assembly will be on Friday afternoon this week.

On Tuesday we extend an invitation to all P1 parents to come and join us at 2.30 pm for a coffee and chat with Miss Neil and Mrs Lockie in our new Community Hub. This will be a chance to get to know each other, find out about our hopes for this space and get any ideas from you. It is very informal!

There will be no Parent Bulletin on week ending Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September as I am on a 3 day Scottish Improvement Leaders Residential course.

Live@Troon auditions will be on Monday afternoon so a huge good luck to everyone and I know it will be a difficult choice selecting our 2 winning acts for the event on 10<sup>th</sup> September at 1 pm.

### **Tuck shop and Fairtrade Tuck shop**

Our morning tuck shop is being reinstated and snacks will be on sale every morning from the school kitchen. Pupils will be able to purchase: Home baking 35p, water and juice 35p, milk 25p, 2 packets of raisins 20p, fruit 25p and lentil waves and crisps will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 50p

We will also have our Fairtrade Tuck shop as an alternative every Wednesday and Friday if children would like to make a choice to buy Fairtrade snacks. This will help us to get our Fairtrade Achievers recognition as part of our *Rights Respecting* school work.

### **HELP! HELP! HELP!**

#### **Helping Hands**

Thank you to those parents who are already coming in to help out in classes. This support is invaluable to staff and makes such a difference to pupils. With dwindling budgets and small support staff hours allocated to us your time is a real bonus to help our pupils progress. Please complete the letter that has been sent home if you are able to help out in any way.

### **Community Room**

We are so pleased with how this space is taking shape and what a valuable resource it will be. We have a little wish though and that would be for donations of an unused Dolls House or Train Track or Farm. If you have one of these your child has outgrown we will gladly give it a good new home.

### **Digital Expert**

The consultation on our Curriculum rationale is almost complete and we were delighted to get so much feedback from our recent Parent Meeting. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We are getting ready to pull all the themes together and write our rationale which defines Struthers. We would really like though for this to be available as a film or in some kind of digital form. We have been researching and found an example we really like using whiteboard animation software. As this is not our area of expertise we wondered if any parent in our community could help us with this. If you are able to could you please contact the school office. I know we have exceptionally talented people out there!

### **Daily Mile project**

We have been looking into research in this project and will be starting a version of the Daily Mile after October. As is always the case at Struthers we want to ensure we fully explore the learning opportunities and plan something a little different. Miss Neil is on the case and watch out for more details soon!

### **Playground Safety.**

Just to remind you parking in our playground is only for Nursery Parents and staff.

Children are not allowed to walk through the car park for safety reasons.

Bikes/scooters must be brought through the playground to be put in the bike shelter. With our growing staff numbers, our Nursery being open and our kitchen hours changing over last few years the car park is becoming a very busy place and we wish to avoid children being near cars or delivery lorries. This is for the children's safety.

We would also encourage children to cycle home along paths and avoid busy roads like Staffin Road.

### **We would also remind all children walking home and requiring to cross Deveron Road that they do so with our Crossing Patrol Supervisor Mrs Helliwell.**

### **Uniform**

It has been encouraging to see our pupils all turning up this morning looking very smart in their uniforms either white/green polo shirts and sweatshirts or school tie and white shirt. P7 only are allowed to wear the black polo shirts and they look very smart in them. **Please can you ensure that all items are named.** We often have a pile of clothing left at the end of the day and to ensure we can return it to the rightful owner quickly clothes must be clearly labelled. If it is not we can't guarantee it will find its way back to you which will be frustrating for everyone. If children have school jackets please attach a personal keyring to the zip to help them be identified easily. Gym bags should be handed in containing gym shoes and shorts and children should wear their polo shirt on gym days for a quick change! Again please label everything especially shoes which can all look the same!

**Thank you** to those kind parents who have already donated old clothing to allow us to change children in the event of an accident. These donations are a huge help to ensure children can go home appropriately dressed if they require to be changed. We are always looking for any old clothes and gym clothing especially unwanted gym shoes as they are a particular help.

### **Outdoor Learning**

As part of our uniform policy we are expected to provide regular opportunities for outdoor learning and this is NOT weather dependent. Please ensure all pupils are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions each day.

### **Could we also ask that gym bags are left in school for children to have access to on the days they need them.**

### **Pupil Health and Wellbeing**

Pupils from P1-P3 must be collected each day by a responsible adult. The class teacher will line the children up and come out to the playground and wave to this person and we ask you wave back to acknowledge you are taking over responsibility for your child. It is important that we also remember it is South Ayrshire policy that dogs are not permitted on school premises. As with all Council properties please do not smoke on school grounds. We also ask that mobile phones are not used by pupils. If a child must bring one to school it will be switched off all day. It can be kept in the office otherwise it is not insured if anything happens to it. If a child does use a mobile phone during school hours it will be taken from them and kept in the office to be collected by an adult.

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school every day to keep hydrated. The school can get very warm. We would remind you that the bottle should only contain water. They can be refilled in school from sinks outside each class.

You will have received your child's **flu vaccination form** today. This must be completed for all pupils and should now all be returned to let the administration team know if your child/children have to receive this in school or not.

### **Entrance Door**

The Council have changed our door entry system and the door is no longer automatic. It will be locked and you will buzz the intercom system. Once a member of staff has verified who it is they will then release the catch and you can pull the door open as it will now not automatically swing open.

### **Medication**

If your child has any medical condition it is vital you let us know. We are updating records currently and would be delighted to hear from you. Please note South Ayrshire Council's policy prevents us administering any form of medication unless prescribed by a doctor. If this is the case you must come to the office to complete required forms.

### **School Hours**

**Our school hours are 9 am until 3.00pm** with a short break from 10.40-10.55 and lunch from 12.30 until 1.15pm. We also have a **Breakfast Club which opens at 8.10am every morning** and there is an after school club run by Meadowgreen Centre and children are collected from the playground and walked there. Contact details for Meadowgreen are 314421. Muirhead Activity Centre also offer the same service. Our Nursery runs 2 sessions. Morning session will be 8.40 am until 11.50 am and then the afternoon session will commence at 12.30pm and end at 3.40pm. We also have some pupils who are with us for full day provision and we have a breakout room for them to have lunch and to play.

### **Attendance/Absence/Latecoming**

Any pupils who arrive after the 9am bell must report to the office and sign the late book. This is monitored regularly and if we have any concerns of regular late arrival we will contact you. It is vital that all children are here for the start of the day as this is when the plans for the day are discussed and key teaching aspects explained. If a child is unwell/going to be absent please contact the school by phone to let us know. If we do not hear from you we will follow necessary procedures. ***Please ensure all contact details are up to date for your child's safety and welfare. It is distressing for everybody if your child takes unwell or has a serious accident and we can't get in touch with you. Being unable to contact anyone does happen regularly.***

### **Parent Groups**

We have amalgamated both our Parent Council and Fundraising Group to ensure we can maximise support without asking parents to commit too much of their time. We meet on the second Tuesday of certain months and are led by Kirsten Gallagher. It is a really proactive and positive team so come along and get involved in helping us make Struthers the best it can be. We will hopefully see you on the 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm and hopefully in our community hub space unless we are overwhelmed with people!

### **Respect at Work**

We along with all other workplaces have a clear respect at work policy and very strong focus on values and rights so we would ask at all times that you communicate with us appropriately. I can assure you that every member of staff at Struthers has the best interests of your child at the centre of all they do. They will work in partnership with you to resolve any issues in a calm, supportive manner where communication is equally respectful.

### **Communication**

We have worked closely with all partners to improve communication. We have a very detailed and regularly updated website. Mrs Maley keeps adding all up to date information on this so if you are unsure of dates/trips etc please take time to visit this.

The address is:

[www.struthers.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.struthers.sayr.sch.uk).

We also tweet events and information so follow us

[Join us on Twitter!](#)

[Download the Twitter App today and follow us @StruthersSchool](#)  
At Struthers Primary and Early Years Centre we aim to use Twitter to:

- ✓ Promote the school
- ✓ Provide information to current and prospective parents and teachers as well as the wider community
- ✓ Act as a one way communication channel outwards (Please continue to contact the school directly with any questions)
- ✓ Showcase examples of pupils' work – in words, pictures, sound or movie clips

Please feel free to contact Miss McBean (Depute Head) on 01292 690073 for more details or for more information on how to download the Twitter app.

I write a weekly bulletin every Friday with information about school priorities, events, dates for your diary and anything you need to know about the life of the school. This can be accessed on website to cut down on paper but if you can't access it this way you can request a hard copy at the office and this will be sent home with your child. Class teachers will also be sending home Class Curriculum flyers about routines, contact details, yearly plans and

homework. Classes will also have Homework Diaries as a means of communication and please note anything you want us to know in there. They will also have Glow Pages too. Any other suggestions let us know!

### **Achievements**

Well done to Mr Woods who is a parent of the school and one of our Chaplains for completing the Great Scottish Swim at Loch Lomond to raise money for Haiti. Fantastic effort!

### **Mrs Jane Houston**

**We will also be sending out most up to date catering information and this will also be available on the school website.**

**Dates for you. These are all we have so far and will be added to as term progresses and I will try to update as early as possible so keep checking. Also dates can change as other events become known to us so we do have to be flexible.**

<b>Parent Council Meeting</b>	<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>
<b>P2 Parents Coffee and Chat in our Community room</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm-3pm</b>
<b>P6 John Muir trip to Smugglers Trail</b>	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>
<b>P1 Parents Coffee and Chat in Community Room</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 9-9.30 am</b>
<b>Holiday weekend</b>	<b>School closed Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept and Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>P7 MacMillan Coffee Morning – Helpers and donations will be required</b>	<b>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>
<b>Primary 2 parents Coffee and Chat in community Room</b>	<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 9-9.30 am</b>
<b>P7s to Inverclyde</b>	<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct – Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>
<b>Close for October week</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm</b>
<b>Staff In service days</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Children return to school</b>	<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Big Scottish Breakfast</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 8.30am</b>
<b>Hallow'een Afternoon</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>
<b>Parents Meetings</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 6-8 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 3.30-5.30</b>
<b>Advent Christmas Market</b>	<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 3.30-5</b>
<b>P3-7 Pantomime Trip</b>	<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec am</b>
<b>P1 and P2 Nativity</b>	<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 6 pm and Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2pm</b>
<b>P5 Singing out for Hansel @ Rivergate</b>	<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 11.30-12.30 am</b>
<b>Nursery party</b>	<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30-3</b>
<b>P3 and P4 party</b>	<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30-3</b>
<b>P5-7 party</b>	<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30-3</b>
<b>P1 and P2 party</b>	<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1.30-3</b>
<b>Church service</b>	<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 10 am at St Meddans</b>
<b>School close and reopens</b>	<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 2.30pm and re opens on Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>

These dates **can be subject to change.**

Mrs Jane Houston  
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