

Struthers Primary



Bulletin 4 8/9/17



Letters that have been issued to be returned. If you have lost the letter they are available on the website to complete.

Class/Classes or Whole school	Content of Letter	Return date

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 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 focus on pupils who are not achieving expected outcomes.	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 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 3-7 pupils have been completing GL Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy this week. This is another tool we are using to get extensive data on each child and their key strengths and areas for development. We get detailed reports back from GL and we look at these to confirm what teaching strategies, resources and support we need to use. It also gives us a profile of the whole school to enable us to clearly see if changes we are making to our curriculum are successful and new teaching approaches are having an impact. These are then completed again at the end of the year to show progress.

We had our Live@Troon auditions led by P7 judges and they took their role very seriously which involved having to make very difficult decisions. The talent was of a very high standard with a real variety from dancing to magic to jokes and impressions. We are very proud of everyone who put themselves forward. Congratulations to Lily, Gem, Isla and Rebecca who will be representing the school on Sunday from 1pm – 3 pm in the Concert Hall. Please go and support them!

We had a fantastic Parent Council meeting in our new Community Room even having to go and get more chairs. What an exciting start to the year and what a huge boost this is to our school staff to see Parents so invested in the work we do for your children. We discussed school priorities, new initiatives and had a huge Fundraising plan of events which sounds very exciting. Please see some dates added to the list at the bottom. Come and get involved at the next meeting on Tuesday 7th November.

P7 learned more about the Scottish Parliament this week as part of their Democracy topic and have been putting this in to action in many aspects of their school Leadership. We also welcomed many parents to our Early Years Centre for Stay and Play. On Friday we had a special assembly for pupils to consult fully with them about our new Curriculum rationale and this was led by the House Captains. Again we are sending out a plea for any IT and media gurus who could help us transfer this message in to a short film.

P1-2 completed their Health and Wellbeing questionnaires this week and we have sent all Parents copies home with a covering letter today.

Next week

P3-7 will all be completing their Health and Wellbeing questionnaires this week. We are extending an invitation to all our P2 parents to come and visit our Community room on Tuesday 12th September where they will be looked after by Mrs Lockie and Miss Neil. Please come along at 2.30pm. P1 are having special visitors on Wednesday with the Police Horses coming to see them as part of their topic and on this day our EYC go out for their first Wandering Wednesday. P6 are hopefully continuing their John Muir Award and exploring the Smugglers Trail on Friday and thank you to Parent helpers for enabling them to go.

After School Clubs commence next week, as detailed below. All clubs run from 3-4pm with the exception of Football which finishes at 4.15pm. Letters are available to download on our school website.

MONDAY	P6-7	Athletics	11/9 till 27/11 incl
WEDNESDAY	P5-7	Drama	6/9 (weekly until further notice)
THURSDAY	P3-4	Ball Games	14/9 till 30/11 incl
FRIDAY	P1-2	Dance	15/9 till 24/11 (Please note* this club is now full)
	P6-7	Football	15/9 (weekly, excluding match days)

There will be no bulletin next week on Friday 15th September as I am away for 3 days next week on my final Scottish Improvement Leaders residential course.

Tuck shop and Fairtrade Tuck shop

Please remember this is on every morning from our kitchen and Fairtrade tuck is available every Wednesday and Friday.

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 and look out for more information coming to you as we plan to start this after the October week.

Playground Safety and Car Parking

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 have also received a complaint about inappropriate parking from a resident in Garry Place and would ask our Parents to be respectful about their where they park if you must bring your car.

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.

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.

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.***

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.

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 have sent home Class Curriculum flyers about routines, contact details, yearly plans and homework. Classes 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!

National survey on the expansion of free early learning and childcare in Scotland

As you'll be aware the Scottish Government is planning to nearly double the hours of free early learning and childcare by 2020. Because the views of parents and carers are crucial for the success of this expansion, the Government has commissioned independent researchers to undertake a survey of parents. We have been asked to share this link (www.bit.ly/elc-survey) with parents of 0-5 year old children in our community.

All parents taking part will have the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw and have the chance to win one of 10 x GBP100 cash prizes.

The survey is carried out for the Scottish Government by Craigforth, an independent research company. If you have any questions about this survey please send a message to: survey@craigforth.co.uk

Mrs Jane Houston

Please keep checking the dates as some are being amended and new ones are being added.

P2 Parents Coffee and Chat in our Community room	Tuesday 12th September 2.30pm-3pm
P6 John Muir trip to Smugglers Trail	Friday 15th September
P1 Parents Coffee and Chat in Community Room	Monday 18th Sept 9-9.30 am
Holiday weekend	School closed Friday 22nd Sept and Mon 25th Sept
P7 MacMillan Coffee Morning – Helpers and donations will be required	Fri 29th Sept
Primary 2 parents Coffee and Chat in community Room	Mon 2nd Oct 9-9.30 am
School Disco P1-3 6 pm-7.15pm P4-7 7.30pm- 8.45 pm	Thursday 5th October
P7s to Inverclyde	Mon 9th Oct – Wed 11th Oct
Close for October week	Friday 13th October at 3pm
Staff In service days	Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th October
Children return to school	Wednesday 25th October
Big Scottish Breakfast	Friday 27th October at 8.30am
Hallow'een Afternoon	Friday 27th October
Parents Meetings	Wednesday 15th Nov 6-8pm Thursday 16th Nov 3.30-5.30pm
Advent Christmas Market	Friday 1st December 5.30-7 pm-Change of time
P3-7 Pantomime Trip	Tues 12th Dec am
P1 and P2 Nativity	Tues 12th Dec 6 pm and Wed 13th Dec 2pm
P5 Singing out for Hansel Rivergate Irvine	Thurs 14th Dec @ 11.30
Nursery party	Mon 18th Dec 1.30-3pm
P3 and P4 party	Tues 19th Dec 1.30-3pm
P5-7 party	Wed 20th Dec 1.30-3pm
P1 and P2 party	Thurs 21st Dec 1.30-3pm
Church service	Fri 22nd Dec 10 am at St Meddans
School close and reopens	Fri 22nd Dec at 2.30pm and re opens on Mon 8th January

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

Mrs Jane Houston
Struthers Primary School
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