

Struthers Primary



Bulletin 5 21/9/17



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	Our 2 newly appointed Acting Principal Teachers are going to be responsible for this area

Engagement to support all our families.	which will look at developing our new Family and Community room and provide opportunities for Parents to come in and learn with us.
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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

Our Community Hub has been a busy room over the last 2 weeks with many parents and groups using this great space. We will be sending out information about further opportunities to access it and any workshops and groups that would be available.

Twitter has been busy with classes sharing their learning experiences and this is a great way to keep updated on what your child has been learning in class. Please like our tweets and re tweet as children like to see their work being shared and the teachers quite like it too!

We recently had a visit from our Quality Improvement Officer and I am delighted with her feedback about the progress of the school. We are always pleased to get such positive feedback about our attainment and the experiences we are giving our pupils but will still always strive to do even better. It is a good reflection though on the hard working and committed staff, the high expectations we set and our pupils. We will be using this to help complete our Curriculum rationale which we will be launching after the October week.

Just a reminder the school will be closed on Friday 22nd September and Monday 25th September. All holidays for this full year and for next year are available on the school website and South Ayrshire Council website.

Next week

We are going to be a little short staffed next week due to staff absences and commitments so we would ask that you bear with us as we manage this as best we can. Mrs Brearley is still going to be absent after injuring her thumb, Miss McBean has been called for Jury Duty and we will not know how long she will be required. Mr Sturdy remains in P6 for continuity in Mrs Brearley's absence. Miss McCarthy has joined us currently as the absence cover and she is providing all the staff Non Class Contact Time and she is going to be our fulltime maternity cover for Mrs Love after the October holiday. Being able to have her with us as the absence cover has been a great opportunity to let her get to know the school. Due to our school roll increasing we also have a staffing vacancy for 3 days and this is being advertised. In our Early Years Centre Mrs Kerr is still absent and I know we are all sending her our positive thoughts and wishes. This has been covered mainly by Mrs LeRoy and we hope this will continue until we get news from Mrs Kerr. We also have a fulltime permanent vacancy in the centre and this has been advertised too. This is a reflection of our ever expanding school!

Thank you to those who have completed a Health and Wellbeing survey for the authority and these will be sent off this week with the other schools involved to be analysed and we hope to get feedback from the findings of the whole survey to help us focus on aspects for improvement.

Our highlight and main focus though for next week is our MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday 29th September in the morning from 9.30 -11.30 am. Please send in any donations and come along and support P7 pupils raising lots of money for this worthy cause.

Parent Drop In Meetings with School Chaplains

Our 3 school chaplains play a huge role in our school from sharing their knowledge and expertise to supporting our assemblies and services to helping with the football team to providing pastoral support. At a recent meeting they were keen to extend that Pastoral Support to our Parents. Starting on Friday 29th September Mr Woods will be available in the Community Hub to meet with any parent who wishes to pop by. He will be available from 9.15am until 10 am.

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. We have all the returns now and are putting them on a timetable and sending to staff so they can snap you up and then we will get back to anyone we have not spoken to with times that we would appreciate you coming in. Thank you for the huge number of returns.

Digital Expert- THIS IS A REALLY BIG PLEA NOW AS WE ARE JUST ABOUT READY TO PULL OUR RATIONALE TOGETHER. WE WOULD BE THE FIRST SCHOOL TO CREATE OUR RATIONALE IN THIS WAY AND WOULD SHOW OUR INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY WE ARE KNOWN FOR

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!

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. The form is also available on our school website.

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 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!

Mrs Jane Houston

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

Holiday weekend	School closed Friday 22nd Sept and Mon 25th Sept
P7 MacMillan Coffee Morning – Helpers and donations will be required	Fri 29th Sept 9.30-11.30 am
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 6-8 Thursday 16th Nov 3.30-5.30
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
Nursery party	Mon 18th Dec 1.30-3
P3 and P4 party	Tues 19th Dec 1.30-3
P5-7 party	Wed 20th Dec 1.30-3
P1 and P2 party	Thurs 21st Dec 1.30-3
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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Troon
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