



Struthers Primary School



Newsletter

August 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to Struthers Primary School for session 2018-19! If you are already part of our family here, welcome back! If you are new to Struthers Primary, we look forward to building a positive relationship with you. It was wonderful to see our pupils return this week looking well-rested and healthy after the summer holiday. I would like to say how smart the boys and girls are looking this week in their school uniform. We will be encouraging this high standard throughout the year. I know we say this constantly, but please ensure all clothing is labelled with your child's name! A 'Lost Property' box will be located at the janitor's room for any items that become separated from their owner.

COMMUNICATION

Newsletters will be sent home on a monthly basis in children's bags and will contain an all-important list of dates for your diary. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and on occasion, dates may have to change. Class teachers have prepared curriculum flyers to let you know what will be happening in each class throughout the year. These will be sent home and will also be available on the school website. Classes will also have homework diaries as a means of communication.

On a weekly basis, please check our twitter page @StruthersSchool for up to date photos, videos and news of what's going on in.

Our school website www.struthers.sayr.sch.uk also has essential information and copies of letters which are uploaded on a regular basis. Alternatively, please phone the school office on 01292 690073 and we will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

PUPIL SAFETY

We hold the safety and security of pupils as highest priority. To this end, please could we ask that parents/carers notify the school office immediately if a pupil is going to be absent from school and on each day of their absence. Failure to do so will result in our clerical staff sending a text message asking you to contact the school. Pupils who arrive

late to school must report to the main office before heading to class. Our car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school only. Parents must not access the school car park to drop off or pick pupils up before 9am and 3pm unless an arrangement has been agreed with the school. We would also like to remind all children walking home and who cross at Deveron Road to do so with our Crossing Patrol Supervisor, Mrs Helliwell.

STAFFING

We warmly welcome back all members of staff to our school and Early Years Centre. I would also like to welcome Miss Ashley Pryde to P2, Miss Rachel Alexander to P4 and Mrs Kimberley Bloomer to P7. Mrs Lee-anne Campbell, Ms Nadine Little and Miss Courtney Patterson also join our team as Early Years Practitioners. We are delighted to have new staff members and you are invited to come along and meet them at our 'Welcome Evening' in school on Thursday 13th September.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours are 9am – 3pm with a short break from 10:40-10:55am. Lunch is from 12:30-1:15pm. We also have a Breakfast Club which opens at 8:10am every morning and an after-school service is provided by Muirhead Activity Centre. Please contact the office for any additional information on these services. Our Early Years session runs two sessions. One from 8:40am until 11:50am and the afternoon session from 12:30pm until 3:40pm. We are also able to accommodate some pupils for full day sessions.

In the mornings, our playgrounds are supervised from 8:45am by Mr Hood, Mrs Boyd and Mrs Power. Doors remain open during this time, but pupils should only enter when the bell goes at 9am. The only exception to this rule is on a wet morning when pupils are allowed to enter the school from 8:45am to get out of the rain. We encourage pupils to enter the school independently and self-register at their classroom. Pupils enter class to an 'active start task' which helps focus them on a piece of work straight away. This, of course, will vary throughout the school dependent on the age and stage of the pupils. Miss McBean and I, will, when possible, be in the front playground to meet and greet pupils as they enter school in the morning.

WELCOME EVENING

Please come along to our 'Welcome Evening' on Thursday 13th September from 6-7pm in the school hall. We will introduce our teaching and Early Years staff members and provide a brief overview of the school improvement plan for this session. You will then

get the chance to visit classes and find out a bit more about what happens in your child's class. P1 parents will receive a more formal introduction to the P1 curriculum and should remain in the hall. We look forward to seeing you all there!

CHILD PROTECTION

All staff have received up to date training in Child Protection procedures this week. Please note that the Child Protection co-ordinator for the school is Mrs Gail McKellar, Head Teacher.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Many of our P1 pupils appear to be enjoying their school lunches this week and are trying lots of different meals! Our P1-3 pupils eat together first and go straight to the lunch hall when the lunchtime bell rings. They go out to play on the sound of the second bell. Our P4-7 pupils go out to play first, and on the ringing of the second bell, come in to the lunch hall to eat. In warmer, sunnier weather, pupils from P4-7 having a packed lunch are allowed to eat outside. To try and avoid any problems with litter, we will be setting up a 'litter pick' rota to encourage classes to be responsible for their school playground throughout the session. If you have any queries regarding school lunches, please contact the school or visit South Ayrshire's website:

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/primary.aspx

WATER BOTTLES

It is important that pupils keep hydrated throughout the day as the school can get very warm. We would ask that water bottles have a sports lid to try and avoid any spillages! Pupils are allowed to refill their water bottles if required at appropriate times during the day using the water cooler.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We always have lots to celebrate at Struthers as we have such amazing pupils! We love to celebrate not only their school success but also their achievements out-with school. Pupils are encouraged to share their achievements with Mrs McKellar or Miss McBean who will use Twitter to communicate their success. Our twitter feed is shown at weekly assemblies to celebrate success with all our pupils. Pupil birthdays are will also be celebrated at our weekly assemblies on a Friday.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We are very fortunate at Struthers to have extremely supportive parents who ensure we work together for the benefit of all pupils. Our Parent Council and Fundraising Group are very proactive and we are always looking for new members to join and help make Struthers the best school it can be. The first meeting will be in our Community Hub (date will be confirmed via text next week). Please come along and join us if you can.

I am looking forward with confidence to another busy and successful school year. All the staff look forward to meeting you at our Welcome Evening on the 13th September.

Yours sincerely,

Gail McKellar
Head Teacher

DIARY DATES 2018-19

September 2018

- 13th – Welcome Evening 6-7pm in the hall
- 21st – Local Holiday
- 24th – Local Holiday
- 28th – McMillan Coffee Morning

October 2018

- 8th – P7 to Inverclyde
- 12th – School closes 3pm for holidays
- 22nd – In-service day
- 23rd – Pupils return at 9am

November 2018

- 7th – Parent's Appointments 6:30 – 8:30pm

8th – Parent's Appointments 3:30 – 5:30pm

12th – Finance fortnight begins in school

30th – Christmas Fayre

December 2018

7th December – Pantomime in School by M&M Productions

11th – P1 and P2 Nativity evening performance

12th – P1 and P2 daytime performance

14th – EYC nativity

17th – EYC Party

18th – P3 and P4 Party

19th – P5,6,7 Party

20th – P1 and P2 Party

21st – Church Service

21st – School closes at 2.30pm for holidays

January 2019

7th – School re-opens at 9am

7th – Start of 'Scots Fortnight'

25th – Scots Poetry Competition

February 2019

11th – Local Holiday

12th – In-service day

13th – School re-opens at 9am

March 2019

20th – Parent's Appointments 6:30 – 8:30pm

21st – Parent's Appointments 3:30 – 5:30pm

29th – Easter Service

29th – School Closes at 2.30pm for holidays

April 2019

15th – School Re-opens at 9am

19th – Local Holiday

May 2019

6th – Holiday

24th – Sports Day and Bounce-a-thon

27th – Holiday

28th – In-service Day

29th – School re-opens at 9am

June 2019

7th – Football Summer Cup

14th – ‘Bump-Up’

25th – P7 Leaver’s Service

27th – Church Summer Service

28th – School closes at 1pm for the holidays