

Struthers Primary



Bulletin 1 1/8/17



Welcome back!

What a quick summer but I am so excited for a new school year at Struthers. We are so proud of our school and what our children achieve through the hard work and dedication of the superb team of teachers and support staff we have. I am sure this year will be even better. We welcome back all our existing families and extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and their families. We have 11 new families starting in the school and 42 children joining us in Primary 1 and a full Early Years Centre. We look forward to getting to know you all.

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 annual data forms will be with you soon to complete with all information regarding your child and their contact details. It is vital we receive this to create and update records.

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

We are currently reviewing these as we write our new Struthers Curriculum rationale. Please come along to our Welcome Night this **Monday 21st August at 6.15 pm** to find out more.

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.

Staffing

We have many new staff joining us this session and we are delighted to welcome them in to our Struthers Community. You will have a chance to meet them at our Welcome Night on Monday night.

Head Teacher- Mrs Houston

Depute- Miss McBean

Early Years Centre- Miss Neil is the Class Teacher /Acting PT and she is supported by Mrs Galloway, Ms Mackenzie and Mrs Kerr.

P1C - Miss Campbell

P1S - Mrs Smith

P2 – Miss Wyllie

P2/3 - Miss Glass our Probationer

P3 – Mr Haniford

P4 – Mr Kerr

P4/5 – Miss McKay

P5 – Mr Cole

P6 - Mrs Brearley

P7 – Mrs Lockie our Acting PT and Mr Sturdy who will be with the class on Mon/Tues.

On a Tuesday P5 will have Mrs Lawrence as Mr Wilson has school and authority development work to do in Mathematics and he will be out of class that day.

On a Thursday Miss Glass will be on her Probationers day and Mr Sturdy will cover P2/3 on this day.

Miss C Nelson will be with us on Wednesday all day for Pupil Support.

Miss T Nelson our vocal coach will work with P5 on Thursdays.

Support Staff are Mrs Boyd, Miss Stokes and Mrs Power. Mrs Maley and Mrs Smith work in the office.

Our janitor is Mr Matt Hood and catering supervisor is Mary Wyllie who is based at Muirhead Primary.

We work together as a very close team to ensure we support and nurture all our pupils meeting their needs and hope you will approach and ask if you have any questions.

Our policy is that if you have any concerns you can contact the Class Teacher in the first instance to discuss the issues and if you feel this does not resolve it our PTs and DHT are available to make an appointment with you.

Playground Safety.

The playground can be a busy place especially in the morning with lots of adults, pupils and younger children. We ask that at all times pupils do not go on bikes and scooters but walk with them and then go on them when they are out the grounds and on paths. We stress that all pupils must stay out of the car park and if walking around the car park side of the building to the back playground they are escorted by an adult. We have had many near misses and we would be devastated if there was an accident so please can you all ensure you **do not walk** through the car park. It is accessible to staff and Nursery parents only.

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! Uniforms are available from Tesco, Emblem in the town and Bridget's in Ayr.

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. 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 be returned by **31st August** to let the administration team know if your child/children have to receive this in school or not.

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 offers 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 are very fortunate at the school to have very supportive parents who are committed to ensuring we work together for the benefit of all pupils.

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 would also be delighted if you would let us know if you would be able to be a helping hand in school this session. If you have any regular available time we would be delighted to welcome you in. If you can help on a more limited basis such as for school trips, events we would also be delighted to have your details. Mrs Maley will be sending a letter out soon.

As you are aware the Scottish Government have now pledged that by 2020 early learning and childcare hours will increase to 1140 hours per year.

We are seeking the views of parents/carers on how we could plan for the future and provide flexible early learning and childcare that meets the needs of children and families in our communities.

Parents and carers can have their say by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PMD77KL>

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!

Achievements

We always have lots to celebrate at Struthers as we have such amazing pupils. We love to celebrate their school success but also things they achieve and are proud of out with school. Miss McBean coordinates this and shares at assemblies and we tweet these special moments.

We are only back a day and we have success to share from the Flower Show competition.

Huge congratulations to Daniel Davidson, Harry Mullan and Lola McMorran who will receive certificates and rosettes and their logos will be on display this weekend. Well done!!

Welcome Night Monday 21st August

We wanted to have this event as soon to the start of the new term as possible. We will be happy to see as many of you as possible from 6.15 for refreshments in the hall. We will introduce you to all staff, share with you our priorities for the year and consult you on our school. You will then have the chance to visit classes to meet your child's teacher informally. P1 parents though will have a more formal presentation about school routines. It will finish at 7.30 pm.

At this night we will be showcasing our new Family Room. This is a space that Parents can access at any time to meet up informally. There are coffee making facilities, plenty of comfy seating and an opportunity to meet other parents. We will have more formal sessions and use it as a space to work with and support parents to help their children progress. Our new Principal Teachers Mrs Lockie and Miss Neil will be taking responsibility for this space.

Just a reminder to Primary 7 Parents that Inverclyde balances must be paid by 25th August and we will soon be notifying you about the Parents Information meeting.

Thank you for taking time to read this bulletin and look out for it on the website each week or as a paper copy if you request that. We aim to make it as informative as possible and also we will keep updating the dates section to give you as much notice as possible of school events so that you can get them in your diary.

Here is to another successful year at Struthers and speaking to the children today and meeting all our new starts I have every confidence it will be.

We all look forward to seeing many of you on Monday Night. Refreshments available from 6.15 pm and meeting starts in hall at 6.30pm. You will go to classes at 7pm and it finishes at 7.30 pm.

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.

New P1 pupils will be with us 9-12.30	Friday 18th August. From Monday 4th September pupils will be in for the whole day
Welcome Night for all parents	Monday 21st August pm
P1 and Parents Teddy Bears Picnic	Friday 1st September at 12.30pm
P6 John Muir Trip to beach	Friday 25th August
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 5th September
P6 John Muir trip to Smugglers Trail	Friday 15th September
Holiday weekend	School closed Friday 22nd Sept and Mon 25th Sept
P7 MacMillan Coffee Morning – Helpers and donations will be required	Fri 29th Sept
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 3.30 – 5pm
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 – 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 2018

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

Mrs Jane Houston
Struthers Primary School
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