



Struthers Primary School



Newsletter

August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to a new session at Struthers Primary School! Whether you have children who have been with us for years, or you are a new family joining our school, we look forward to working in partnership with you. We are more than happy to discuss any questions you may have about your child's experience in our school.

Needless to say, the past year has been challenging in all aspects, but we know our children are the ones who have been most affected. At Struthers, our first priority will be pupil health and wellbeing and we will strive to make this an excellent year for everyone. We look forward to the lifting of many restrictions which have impacted school life and look forward to getting back to some sense of normality once again.

STAFFING

A new session inevitably brings changes in staffing and this year is no different. We welcome Mrs Nicola McNally, Miss Natalie McKay, Miss Rebecca Brown and Ms Emma McClintick to our teaching staff. Mrs McNally will be teaching P2, Miss McKay will be working across P1 – P3 delivery French and Miss Brown is covering Mrs McGuigan's absence, teaching in our EYC and across P1 and P2. Miss McClintick will be with us on a Tuesday and Wednesday working in P3/4 and supporting individual children and groups of pupils across the school. This session, Mrs Brearley will be supporting the teaching of writing for pupils in P5, 6 and 7.

We also welcome Mr Craig Harnett as a new school assistant and Mrs Brenda Cowan as our new catering supervisor. You may also notice a new face in our front office as Mrs Kirsty Allan joins our clerical team. We are delighted, as always, to welcome new staff to our ever-expanding team!

COMMUNICATION

A school newsletter will be issued monthly and this will provide an update of what has been happening in school and let you know of any upcoming events. The newsletters will also be made available on the school website - struthers.sayr.sch.uk. All letters from the school will also be available on the school website so please use this to check for details if you misplace an original letter. In cases where we need to send out important reminders, parents will receive an email from the school office.

We enjoy sharing daily school news via our twitter account @StruthersSchool. This is a closed account, so you must request to follow us before you will be able to see any information. It is a great way to share pupil achievements and photos of the daily life of the school.

Class teachers will communicate with parents via Seesaw, our online digital platform. You will shortly receive information to allow you to join your child's Seesaw account and then you will receive all updates from the class teacher.

HOMEWORK

Homework will be issued on a weekly basis and this will be via Seesaw. Whilst homework is not compulsory, we strongly advise pupils to complete their homework tasks to reinforce the learning taking place in the classroom. Further information will follow next week from your child's teacher. You will also receive a class newsletter which will detail the class topic and areas of literacy and numeracy being taught this term.

P.E.

All P.E. lessons can now take place indoors. P.E. kit can be brought in a clearly labelled bag and left in class or older pupils may wish to bring their kit in on their set P.E. days. P.E. kits should consist of shorts and a pair of gym shoes/indoor trainers. It is helpful if younger pupils wear polo shirts on P.E. days rather than a shirt and tie. Pupils in P1-3 will change in the classroom whilst pupils in P4-7 will make use of the changing rooms outside the gym hall. Class P.E. lessons are on the following days:

P1D	Wednesday and Friday
P1K	Monday and Friday
P2L	Monday and Wednesday
P2M	Monday and Wednesday
P3	Tuesday and Friday
P3/4	Wednesday and Thursday
P4	Tuesday and Friday
P5/4	Monday and Thursday
P5	Monday and Wednesday
P6	Monday and Thursday
P7/6	Tuesday and Friday
P7	Wednesday and Friday

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 Miss Eilidh McBean, Depute Head Teacher.

ALLERGIES

All staff have received training on Anaphylaxis. If your child has any known allergies, please make sure the school are aware of this. As a school we have to take steps to prevent any allergic reactions and as such, would remind parents that pupils **should not bring nut based products to school**, including peanut butter.

SCHOOL KITCHEN

As previously indicated, all P1-4 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. These do not require to be pre-ordered and pupils should indicate to their teacher each morning if they are a school dinner or packed lunch. Pupils having a school dinner will be made aware of the choices that day and asked what they would prefer. It would be helpful if families discussed the options available the night before so pupils are aware of the options and this doesn't take up valuable teaching time each morning! I have included the weekly menu options and next week we start with the **WEEK 1** menu. All pupils will eat lunches in the school dinner hall.

WELCOME

In Covid free times, we would normally invite you all in to school one evening to meet the staff and have a look around your child's classroom. Unfortunately we are not able to offer that this year. Instead, we will create a 'Welcome Video', which will introduce members of staff and show you some of our learning spaces in the school. I understand this is by no means a replacement for a face-to-face meeting but we hope it allows you to put faces to names and to see where your child is learning on a daily basis. The link for our welcome video will be sent out on **Friday 3rd September**.

ABSENCE POLICY/LATE COMINGS

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.

Please be aware that in line with the authority's 'Maximising Attendance' procedures, a letter will automatically be issued to parents/carers, when a child's unauthorised **absence falls below 90%**. Although you may think this figure is high, **an attendance of 90% over a whole school year equates to missing 4 weeks of education.**

You will find more information on council policy and procedures at: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/absence.aspx>

FAMILY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

We will not normally give you permission to take your child out of school for holidays during term-time. This means that if your child is off school because you are away on holiday the school will record this as an unauthorised absence.

Only in exceptional and very limited circumstances will the school authorise a family holiday during term time. Such circumstances may include:

- A family holiday judged to be important to the well-being and cohesion of the family following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events; and
- Where a parent's employment is of a nature where school holiday leave cannot be accommodated (e.g. armed services).

Please speak to the school prior to making arrangements or taking any absence. No school work will be provided for the period of absence although we will be happy to give you information about what will be covered during the time.

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours are 9am – 3pm with a staggered start between 8:55 and 9:05am. P1 and P2 pupils finish at 2:55pm. We have a 15 minute break either between 10:30 and 10:45am (P1, 2, 6 and 7 pupils) or from 10:45-11am (P3, 4 and 5 pupils). Lunch is from 12:15-1pm for P1, 2, 6 and 7, and from 12:40 – 1:25 for P3, 4 and 5 pupils. Our staggered breaks and lunches allow pupils more space in the playground and allow staff to socially distance in the staff room. We also have a Morning Club which opens at 8am every morning and an after-school service is provided by Muirhead Activity Centre. Please contact the office for any additional information on these services.

In the mornings, our playgrounds are supervised from 8:55am by our school assistants and senior leadership team. We encourage pupils to enter the school independently and self-register at their classroom. Pupils enter class to a health and wellbeing 'soft 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. A member of the senior management team will always be present in the front playground to meet and greet pupils as they enter school in the morning.

CLASS STRUCTURES

Please see below our class structures and full school staffing information:

Management Team:

Head Teacher: Mrs McKellar
Depute Head Teacher: Ms McBean
Principal Teacher: Mrs Lockie

EYC Staff

EYC Depute Manager: Mrs Galloway
Senior EYP: Miss Gass
Teacher: Mrs McGuigan

Early Years Practitioners: Ms MacKenzie
Miss Paterson
Mrs Rodger
Miss Rossi

Miss Campbell
Miss Little
Mrs Kerr

Teaching Staff

P1D Mrs Devlin (Acting Principal Teacher)
P1K Mr Kerr
P2M Mrs McFadyen/Mrs McGuigan
P2L Mrs McNally
P3 Mr Haniford (Acting Principal Teacher)
P3/4 Mrs Hayes
P4 Mrs Bloomer
P5/4 Miss Alexander
P5 Mrs Love
P6 Mr Cole
P7/6 Miss Wyllie
P7 Miss Leck

Pupil Support: Mrs Joana Blackwood (Wednesday)

Additional teaching staff: Mrs Brearley
Miss McKay
Miss Brown
Ms McClintick

Clerical:

Mrs Maley
Mrs Smith
Mrs Allan

Pupil Support Assistants:

Mrs Boyd
Mrs Brown
Mrs Moore
Mrs Caldwell
Miss Cameron
Mrs Baird
Mr Harnett

Janitor:

Mr Dunn

I am looking forward with confidence to a busy and successful school year. All the staff look forward to meeting you in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Gail McKellar
Head Teacher