

February
2016

BURNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter Update

A year has almost passed since I began as Head Teacher at Burnside Primary School. We have achieved a significant amount in a short space of time. Our shared development of the school aims has enabled a focus on improving outcomes for your child based on a shared understanding of wellbeing. The school aims flower helps us all to use a common language of learning. Our curriculum around the school aims enables children to make connections between what they are learning and Health and Wellbeing. The children can also take responsibility for setting targets for future learning. Our predicted attainment this year is the highest for several years and this is down to the support you have given your children, the teachers and my leadership team. The whole staff have supported me in translating our shared vision for your children into practice and continuing to improve the work of the school through ensuring the right balance between challenge and support is achieved. At the end of this month our school will undergo a supported review by the Local Authority Quality Improvement Team which will enable us to continue to move forwards. Once again thank you for making this year a special one and enabling me to continue to successfully lead the school towards further achievements.

Nicky Murray—Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—QUICK REMINDERS

12.02.16	Mid Term Holiday—school closed
15.02.16	Mid Term Holiday—school closed
16.02.16	INSET Day—school closed to pupils
03.03.16	World Book Day
07.03.16	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm Staff Room
25.03.16	School closes for Spring Holiday
11.04.16	School resumes for Summer Term
21.04.16	Burnside Parent Council Beetle Drive 6.30 pm
26.04.16	Dalguise Week (Tuesday—Friday)
26.04.16	P7 Activity Week (Tuesday—Friday)
02.05.16	May Day Holiday—school closed
23.05.16	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm Staff Room
30.05.16	INSET Day—school closed to pupils
08.06.16	Sports Day
01.07.16	School closes for Summer Holiday
15.08.16	INSET Day—school closed to pupils
16.08.16	School resumes for Autumn Term

SCHOOL CAR PARK - SAFE USE

As you know, a decision was taken recently to vastly restrict the use of the school car park to the following **ONLY** :

- * Staff, parent volunteers and students.
- * Contract and service vehicles (including contract taxis bringing pupils to and from school).
- * Blue badge holders (to use the accessible spaces) – badges **MUST** be displayed.
- * Other pre-arranged visitor parking, e.g. parent appointment evenings; open sessions; parents picking children up for medical appointments or due to illness; groups taking lets on school premises.

No other users should enter the car park for any reason.

PUPIL ABSENCE - REMINDER

If your child is unable to attend school through illness please telephone the school between 8.30 am and 9.30 am on each day of his/her absence. Tel 01241 803472. Or if you prefer, you could email the school with this information. burnside@burnside.angus.sch.uk. Many thanks.



BURNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTAL SURVEY – NOVEMBER 2015 – RESULTS

111 parents took the time to complete the survey. No-one strongly disagreed with any of the statements.

	% Strongly Agree/ Agree	% Disagree	% Unsure
My child is happy at school.	98	2	0
My child enjoys learning at school.	99	1	0
My child's learning is progressing well.	100	0	0
My child is encouraged to do their best.	99	1	0
My child is treated with respect at school.	97	1	2
I value the ways the school keeps me informed about my child's progress; e.g. homework, wonderful work wallets, parent appointments etc.	94	3	3
My child's achievements are celebrated.	92	1	7
My child is treated fairly at school.	94	2	4
My child is encouraged to take responsibility for his/her own actions.	97	0	3
My child feels safe at school.	98	1	1
I feel welcomed when I visit the school.	100	0	0
My child is encouraged to lead a healthy lifestyle.	100	0	0
I feel my concerns are taken seriously and will be dealt with promptly.	94	2	4
The school asks for my views.	93	4	3
The school is well led.	99	1	0
Overall, I am satisfied with the school.	98	1	1

Many Thanks for your comments - we received a record number of returns this year! Some of the development points in your comments related to a second parents evening, the removal of the home links and the website.

Communication Overview

We have since issued our communication overview and launched the school blog which will feature regular updates of your child's learning. We have also launched our fridge magnets and scripts to support your family in developing a language of learning. This approach has proved very popular and we hope you continue to use this. Please ensure you use our blog at www.tinyurl.com/burnsideps

Home Links

The home links book was a commentary of work across a week however this accounted for approximately 44 hours of agreed professional time, although in reality teachers were spending far longer than this. This meant there was no time for other aspects of building the school's capacity to improve and was unsustainable if we were to improve the schools performance in more measurable areas; the ability of the children to generate well-being outcomes for themselves through use of the school aims and raising attainment against national standards.

These professional hours have been used differently this year in our efforts to raise attainment as identified in our improvement plan and have enabled teachers to meet more frequently to discuss planning, undertake professional learning and develop resources linked to raising attainment for your child.

We have also introduced personalised support chronologies which ensure all children are working to personal targets each term against our new progression pathways and this has proved effective in raising our attainment across the school to currently 83.6 % in literacy and 85% in numeracy. These figures are the highest recorded attainment we have experienced in the last few years. We hope we continue to develop our approaches to communication and ensure we strike the right balance for all teachers, parents and children.

We have also developed our work wallets which go home termly, through a working group. They now include our new approach to progression and show a measure of progress for every child in the school each term with details of the work undertaken. The wallets which go home are exclusively focused on the progression your child is making.

Parents Evening

The formal report card which goes home has a tear off slip for a second parents evening appointment at the bottom of it.

*Please continue to help us improve and **thank you** again for taking the time to return the questionnaires.*