



Woodlands School News



Angus Council

September 2020

It's great to be back!

It remains an unpredictable time for all of us however we feel very grateful to be back in school with our pupils and were delighted by how well they have managed lockdown. Whilst some are finding the changes COVID has brought restrictive, with your support we feel the children have an understanding of the need for their class bubbles and staggered playtimes, and lunches and handwashing/sanitising is becoming part of our new routines. I must thank all of you for your patience and understanding. I am sure you will all join me in also thanking our staff who have returned with enthusiasm and positivity and continue to work hard to ensure our school remains as welcoming as possible and our children have been supported in their return.

A huge thank you also to our Parent Council who have been remarkable—they have not only started fundraising to support our school improvement plans already but have also started creating book packs for each child to support their return and enhance and promote literacy skills.

*Unfortunately, you will notice our 'dates for the diary' section is quite sparse as a result of the restrictions, however we remain hopeful that as the year progresses we are able to plan more events and will keep you informed as this happens. *Suzanne Smith**

Pupil Equity Fund

Based on our quality assurance last session and this, we identified that purchasing chrome-books and charging stations would provide all children with the opportunity to gain from digital literacy. In addition, children shared that accessing some of the online resources such as Sumdog proved motivational and engaged them in their learning and therefore we also invested in subscriptions for older children. Further feedback in May informed us whilst children felt these resources enhanced their learning, access remained limited; we still required more to ensure all children have the opportunity to benefit from these approaches. In response, we have identified a need to continue to invest in technology and teacher training/sharing expertise to ensure all children benefit and therefore are allocating PEF monies to this area, purchasing 44 more chromebooks and charging stations (£9714.88) already.

School Fund

Raising money over the past three years through activities/events such as Christmas Fayre has enabled us to purchase 12 I-pads, cases and charging boxes at a total cost of £4834.08 When added to the 11 we have in school already, This will provide us with a class set for most class sizes.

Whilst it remains unlikely we will be able to hold any form of Christmas Fayre this year, we really do appreciate your support with our events—your donations and support enable us to purchase these additional resources that further enhance learning and ensure our pupils enjoy their learning experiences!

Absence Can you please ensure you inform the school if your child is going to be absent before 9.45am on the day of absence. Advice is that your child would return to school 48 hours after any sickness/diarrhoea has stopped.

Holidays Please try to arrange family holidays to take place during school holidays. Whilst I am aware there can be exceptional circumstances, avoiding term time prevents any potential for a negative impact on children's learning.

Car Park Please continue to support our health and safety approaches by continuing to refrain from accessing our car park—thank you for your support and understanding with this matter.

Parent Council

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, our Parent Council have been holding virtual meetings since May. They have provided our school with feedback about our improvements, PEF spending and reporting format including discussing how to report to parents this term as well as discussing our plans for return. In addition, during these discussions, they identified they would like to further support our school by raising funds to purchase more chromebooks. Raising over £3,825 will enable us to buy another 20 which will, when added to what we have purchased along with some additional spending from school monies, mean we have enough chromebooks for almost half our school.

As you will be aware, Parent Council have been extremely busy raising these funds already through sweet cups, completing 12 x half marathons and have also looked at how to support children in their return to school by creating book packs for each child to take home (P7 received their packs this week).

Last session our Parent Council supported our improvements in STEM by paying for our robotic equipment—purchasing Lego and Duplo sets that can be programmed—we were one of the first schools in the world to purchase these new products! The classes loved exploring their new resources, developing many digital literacy skills as well as skills for learning, life and work!

We are extremely grateful to our Parent Council for their continued support and enthusiasm for the learning and needs of our pupils!

Flu Immunisations

The Chief Medical Officer has shared with us that it is imperative that we do all we can to reduce the risk of our population from contracting seasonal flu, given the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable in society. It has been highlighted that delivering the childhood flu immunisation programme this winter will help to protect against children contracting flu themselves but also to protect against children transmitting flu to any vulnerable people with whom they come into contact. NHS will therefore visit Woodlands on 23rd November as part of this immunisation programme.

For further information please access the following website:

www.nhsinform.scot/childflu

School Improvement

Our focus this year is to continue to build on our progress with ensuring children know what they are learning, how to achieve and ensuring they can see and talk about their progress and next steps. Our focus context remains Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and we are already working with SSERC to reflect on and learn about approaches in science. Purchasing further resources to support STEM eg chromebooks will also improve our ability to up-skill staff and pupils in digital literacy, including the use of SEESAW and Google Classroom to enhance learning experiences.

Whilst we first started to develop our 'can do' culture whereby mistakes are opportunities to learn over three years ago, we continue to build on this each session. This session, staff are drawing upon the mindfulness techniques implemented by Jane Clarke at the start of this journey three years ago as part of their approaches to support children's health and wellbeing at this challenging time.

Ways to contact us/hear from us ...
Contact class teacher directly: SEESAW
Telephone: 01241 465446
Email: woodlands@angusschools.org.uk
Twitter: @woodlandsprim1
Text: 07860 029270
Website: www.woodlands.angus.sch.uk

Dates for the Diary



September

21-1st Oct Parent evening phone calls

October

2 **End of term 1, normal school finish times**

19 Start of term 2

November

10 Parent Council meeting from 7pm

23 Flu immunisations— in school—information to be sent home

December

2 & 3 **Inset days (staff training; STEM and staff wellbeing) - children not in school**

4 **St. Andrews Day—school closed**

23 **End of term 2 (school finishes at 12pm)**

January

6 **Start of term 3**

19 Parent Council meeting—7pm

February

11 **Inset (training day for staff) —children not in school**

12 & 15 Mid-term holiday—school closed

18 & 23 Parent evenings (might change to take account of COVID-19)

March

2 Curricular afternoon (P4-7) - dependant on COVID-19 restrictions

April

2 **End of term 3**

19 **Start of term 4 (Tuesday)**

27 Parent Council AGM @ 7pm

May

3 **May day holiday (school closed)**

13 Curricular afternoon for parents (P1-3) - dependant on COVID-19 restrictions

24 **Inset day—school closed to pupils**

June

1 Proposed sports day—dependant on COVID-19 restrictions (infants am, P4-7 pm)

8 Back up sports day

24 **End of term 4 (school finishes at 12pm)**