**Menstrie Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**September 2019**

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| I hope that everyone has had a super holiday and an enjoyable rest from school. May I take this opportunity to welcome all our new pupils and families to Menstrie Primary School. I’d also like to welcome all our new staff to the school. I am sure that they will enjoy working here as much as I do.  ***WHITE LINE***  Now that the children are settled into the school routine, please can parents remain behind the white line in the playground when picking up and collecting children from school. As the white line is now very faded, we may use other means to mark this out in the playground. Thank you. PARENT HELPERS In school we have a few parent helpers. Parents/carers can help out in a variety of ways such as helping to take pupils to the Dumyat Centre for gym, helping small groups of children to complete activities and listening to groups of children read. If you would be interested in helping please contact Mr Pennie (Principle Teacher and Volunteer Co-ordinator) through the school office.  ***EMERGENCY CONTACTS***  Please ensure that you update the school with any new emergency contact information. This is essential as we may need to contact you in an emergency.  ***SPORTING EVENTS***  There are a number of sporting events that the school would like to take part in throughout the year. For this to be possible we do seek the help of parents/carers to supervise the pupils at these events. If you would like to help, please contact Miss Johnstone (PE teacher) for more information.  ***WET WEATHER***  Pupils should always come to school with a suitable jacket in case of inclement weather. Some learning activities will be planned to take place outside and if it is wet at break and lunch times they will continue to play outside. If there is very heavy rain or the ground is icy and slippy then the children will remain inside. Pupils will not be able to get into the school building before 8.55am and so on wet days it would be best to ensure that your child does not come to school before this time. BREAKFAST CLUB Breakfast club runs daily and pupils can come along from 8.30pm. The latest time to arrive for breakfast is 8.45am. Breakfast, which is payable daily costs £1.20 (please pay by parentpay), but pupils who are entitled to free school meals are also entitled to a free breakfast. You do not need to sign up for breakfast – just simply come along.  ***SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS***  On Thursday the 24th October, Tempest photography will be in school to take individual/sibling photos. We are unable to take photographs of children who do not attend the school or nursery. PARENT OPEN EVENING EVENT On the evening of Thursday 19th September we will hold a parent information event. There will be an opportunity for you to have a look at your child’s class and the work that they have been doing. However if you have any concerns about your child’s learning it would be best to make an appointment with the class teacher. The Nursery Information night will also take place on Tuesday 10th September from 4.30 – 5.30pm. Mrs Campbell will be giving a short presentation.  ***COFFEE EVENING***  The school coffee evening is always a fun sociable event and this year it is planned to take place on Thursday 10th October from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. We hope that as many parents and friends of the school can come along and support this event. We would hope to have a number of stalls including home baking, bric-a-brac, bottle stall etc. A flyer will be sent out to you nearer the time.  ***INSTRUMENTAL TUITION***  Application forms for instrumental tuition can be downloaded from the Clackmannanshire Council Website. Pupils can get tuition in Brass, Woodwind and Strings. The fees for the year are available on the website.  ***ACTIVE SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS***  Please could I ask that when you sign your child up to an after schools club you;   * put the correct money in an envelope (no change is given at school as Active Schools Clubs are organised by sports development) * the form is completed accurately and enclosed in an envelope with the correct money * if your child decides that they no longer wish to attend the club then it is the parents responsibility to inform the school. A register is taken at the club and if pupils are on the register but not on the list then the coach is required to phone parents etc.   ***TWITTER***  Remember you can follow us on Twitter @Menstrie Primary for updates and information on learning. We are almost reaching 700 followers!  ***UPDATE FROM THE PARENT COUNCIL***  Huge thanks to all parents and carers who attended our AGM on 5th September. A very warm welcome to new members of the parent council and many thanks to those who are continuing their support. We were aiming to have at least one representative per year group and ideally are looking for more parents from P6 & P7. We hope to hold a number of events throughout the year for both children and parents and seek to have a presence (where possible) at key school events. Look out for us and say hello! We will be at the School Open Night on 19th September where you can purchase your 50/50 club membership. This year will be offering the chance to sign up for the full year. We have agreed our meetings for the remainder of 2019 as follows: - Tuesday 22nd October in the Forge Coffee Shop from 6.30pm - Thursday 5th December in the Forget Coffee Shop from 6.30pm All parents and carers of nursery and school children are very welcome to come along to meetings. Please feel free to get in touch with the p |  | CLOTHING The pupils have been looking very smart in their school uniforms. Please can I remind parents/carers to ensure that clothes are labelled as items can be easily misplaced. Already brand new school jumpers have been lost due to the fact that the items have not been labelled. If they are carefully labelled then it is easier for the items to be returned to the owner. If items become lost they will be placed in lost property box which is in the main entrance of the school. This is accessible to parents between 7.45am and 5.45 pm daily. Items left at the end of the term will be put into the recycling unit.  ***CAR PARKING***  Due to the ongoing nursery build, there are no car parking facility within our school. We have one disabled parking bay which must only be used by cars which display a Blue Badge.  ***LUNCH TIMES***  Lunch times this session are:  P5 – P7 12 noon until 12.45pm  P3 and P4 12.15pm – 1.00pm  P1 and P2 12.30pm – 1.15pm  ***NUT ALLERGIES***  As notified in previous communication, we have a number of pupils with nut allergies in our school. To keep our pupils safe, pupils must not bring in nuts or nut products into school. Thank you for your continued co-operation.  ***CLASS ASSEMBLIES***  Throughout the year, each class will plan and perform an assembly in the hall. The parents/carers of the class are warmly invited to attend this assembly and visit their child’s class afterwards to see their learning. Seating is provided for the parents at the back of the hall.  ***WATER BOTTLES***  As per the Schools (Health and Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007 pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the school day. Pupils should have re-usable water bottles with a sports cap top to ensure that any spillage is minor. Whilst pupils might be able to have the water bottles on their desks there are times and situations when this is not possible, eg during times when IT equipment is on tables. Each class establishes their own rules about the management of water bottles but pupils should take them home each night, wash and re-fill in the morning before coming to school. Pupils should not have to fill their water bottle at 9.00am when they come into school. Diluting juice or flavoured water should not be consumed during class times; these should be kept for snack or lunch only. Menstrie Primary Water Bottles are available to buy from the office at a cost of £3.00 per bottle.  ***HOUSE SYSTEM***  The house and vice captains for this year are;   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | House | Captain | Vice Captain | | Ochil |  |  | | Dumyat |  |  | | Wallace |  |  | | Devon |  |  |   We wish the pupils good luck in their new leadership roles.  All pupils within the school will be given a house badge which should be worn to show which house they are in. Replacement badges can be purchased, from Mrs McQueenie at a cost of 50p.  ***FRESH AIR FUN FRIDAYS***  We are hoping to continue our “Fresh Air Fun Friday” on a Friday afternoon. Pupils must come to school prepared with waterproof jackets and suitable footwear incase of inclement weather. We will run “Fresh Air Fun Friday” during terms 1 and 4.  ***CYCLE HELMETS, SCOOTERS AND JACKETS***  Please can I remind everyone that pupils (and parents) should not be on wheels when in the playground. Bikes and scooters should be pushed out of the playground. This helps to keep the playground safer for everyone. If pupils are cycling to and from school then they should wear a cycle helmet. Pupils should also bring a jacket to school in case of inclement weather.  ***NON-UNIFORM DAY***  This year we will again be running non- uniform days. These tend to be the last Friday of the month. The funds raised at these events will go towards helping to subsidise the cost of buses for school trips. The average cost of a bus for a trip is £360 and this, along with admittance fees, can make outings really expensive. Sometimes we may ask for a donation of an item to help with Parent Council fundraising events. The next non-uniform day is Friday 31st August. Pupils are free to wear their own clothes for a donation of any amount. As ever, we ask that pupils do not wear football tops.    ***ABSENCES***  Please ensure that you call the school to notify of your child’s absences. This must be done prior to 9.00am. A message can be left on the absence line. It is vital that if your child has any illness which can be contagious that we are alerted to this as we have some pupils need alerted to this due to health issues. FINALLY If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.  *Mandi Murray*  *Acting Headteacher*  [*www.menstrie.clacks.gov.uk*](http://www.menstrie.clacks.gov.uk) Menstrie Primary School Elmbank Menstrie Clackmannanshire FK11 7AP  Tel: 01259 760690  Fax: 01259 769188 Email: [*menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk*](mailto:menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk)  *Twitter@MenstriePrimary* |