**Menstrie Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**November 2021**

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| We would like to thank you all for your continued support during these challenging times. As you will be aware we have had a number of positive Covid 19 cases both in our families and our staff. We know that this hasn’t been easy for everyone and have appreciated everyone’s co-operation and understanding.  ***STAFFING***  We are delighted that Mr Furzer has been appointed as Acting Depute Headteacher. Mr Furzer will be supporting me with the running of the school and will also continue to have shared responsibility of his P7 class with Mrs Jones.  We are pleased to welcome Miss Natalie Pert to our school as a part time learning assistant. Natalie will be with us until June and will be supporting classes and children in the playground and lunch hall.  ***INSERVICE DAY***  Please note that the school is closed to pupils on Friday 26th November for an Inservice Day. School will reopen as usual on Monday 29th November.  ***REPORTING***  We will be issuing interim reports to our families on Thursday 25th November. Normally, we send out interim reports in November, have a parent’s evening in February and then send out final reports in June. Covid 19 has disrupted this over the last two years, however we are hoping that we will be able to stick to this plan this year.  ***TRAFFIC***  We have been made aware by a number of parents and local residents that the situation around the school regarding traffic during drop off (8.45 – 9.10) and pick up times (2.50 – 3.10) is becoming increasingly busy. This congestion makes visibility very difficult and can put our children in danger and is also very disruptive for the residents in close proximity of the school. The community police officer has visited the school to monitor this and will be working with us to help us improve the situation and keep our families and community safe.  ***CHILDREN IN NEED***  On Friday 19th November we are raising awareness for Children in Need by having a Crazy Hair Day. Children are also free to wear any Children in Need clothing/merchandise too. If you would like to make a donation to the charity, you can do so by going direct through Children in Need, by using the option available on Parent Pay or by sending a donation in with your child. We will ensure that all donations made are forwarded on appropriately.  ***COVID***  As you may be aware we have recently had increasing numbers of positive Covid 19 cases in school. We continue to ask that If you or your child do develop any **symptoms** of COVID-19, they must not come to school – they should have a test as soon as possible, and your whole household should stay at home until the test result comes back. Please note that PCR tests should be booked where someone is displaying Covid 19 symptoms.  ***NO NUT PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL***  Please can I remind families that nuts and products containing nuts, eg Nutella should NOT be brought to school. We have some children in school who have a significant nut allergy and it is of the upmost importance that we keep them safe. Thank you for your continued support.  ***SCHOOL SNACKS***  Recently a number of children have been bringing lollipops to school as a snack. Due to concerns for the children’s safety, we ask that these are not brought in to school for snack. These can be very dangerous in a playground environment. Thank you.  ***SCHOOL GATES***  Please ensure that all gates are closed and bungee ropes are replaced after entering and leaving the school grounds. Thank you.  ***CHRISTMAS***  It is highly unlikely again that we will be able to invite parents in to school for our annual School Show this year, therefore we will be sharing our school show by video on Google Classroom or by emailing a link. Our Primary 1 pupils have began rehearsing for their Nativity and each other class will be performing a Christmas song. The link for the show will only be sent out to parents and will be saved on a Private space however we fully understand that some parents may not want their child to be on the video. Can you please contact the school if you do not want your child to be on this video? Thank you.  The dates for the Christmas Parties are as follows.  Tuesday 14th December (afternoon) – Primary 5  Wednesday 15th December (afternoon) – Primary 4  Thursday 16th December (afternoon) – Primary 2 & Primary 3  Thursday 16th December (evening) – Primary 7  Friday 17th December (afternoon) – Primary 6  Monday 20th December (afternoon) – Primary 1  **Update from the Parent Council:**  We wanted to start by saying a big thank to everyone who has supported our recent fundraising efforts. All monies raised this term will be going towards outdoor learning and playground equipment and we will of course let you know what is purchased in the New Year. As always, your participation is optional, and we are grateful for all donations no matter how large or small.  **Ragbag** – this fundraiser raised £41.20. Previously this has raised nearer £100 therefore we would be keen to run this again next year but perhaps with a change of season.  **Halloween -** Thank you for all the chocolate and sweetie donations on non-uniform day in October - these were used on the tombola at the Halloween Walk. Along with the Glow Stall, we raised just over £528. I am sure you will agree that the Community Council did a great job organising the walk, the children and adults looked like they were having a great time. On behalf of our school community, a huge thank you to all of those involved and to everyone who volunteered their time on the stalls.  **What’s Next?**  We have the following happening between now and the end of term & would like to thank you in advance for your support.  **Smartie Tube Challenge** - The smartie tubes were sent home in school bags last week and we have received lots of positive feedback about how helpful the children are being at home to complete their challenge. These are due to be returned at the end of next week on **Friday 19th** – don’t forget the children should add their name and class to the tube (inside or out) to be entered into the draw to win a trip to the cinema!  **Christmas Fayre** – We are excited to say we will have a stall at the Menstrie Christmas Fayre taking place on Sunday 28th November, from 10am until 3pm. Please mark the date in your diaries so you can bring the children along. Along with a raffle organized by the staff at the school, we will be running a tombola. We will be looking for **donations** of bottles, cans, sweets, chocolate, beauty products, gifts and games or anything else you would like to donate, even if that is a tin of soup from the cupboard! These can be brought in on **non-uniform day** on Thursday 25th November.  We are also looking for **volunteers** to help us on the day – all slots will be one hour each and we would welcome adult helpers along with any of our P6 and P7 pupils. Due to space, we will limit the stallholders to 2-3 at any one time.  **Christmas Cards** – the children have been very busy designing their cards at school. A sample of these will be heading home within the next couple of weeks (we will advise of the date once we have confirmation). We would ask if you do want to order, you do so promptly so that we can ensure these are with you in time for postal deadlines.  **Next Meeting Date:**  Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th December @ 6.30pm. Once again, this will be a virtual meeting - if you would like to join, then please email us on [menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com) or contact us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Menstrie-Primary-School-Parent-Council-349899045123967>  **Finally**, if anyone would like to get involved in the fundraising or the Parent Council, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. There are lots of tasks that can be done from home if you would prefer to do something behind the scenes. Any help is appreciated. |  | ***SUITABLE CLOTHING***  As we continue to move into the colder months it is essential that pupils always come to school with a warm waterproof jacket and suitable clothing/shoes. We still try to make use of the outdoor space when we can so would appreciate all children being prepared for this.  ***NON UNIFORM DAY***  Normally we would have non uniform day on the last Friday of the month, however with Children in Need and our Inservice Day, this is not possible. We would therefore like to have a non uniform day on Thursday 25th November, where the pupils are free to wear their own clothes to school. As a voluntary donation, we would like to ask that, on this day, the pupils bring in an item for the Parent Council Tombola at the Christmas Fayre which is being held at the Dumyat Centre on Sunday 28th November. This could be an item from the house, such as a can/tin, a jar of sauce, sweets, a bottle of bubble bath etc. Any glass bottles including any alcohol donations should be given to the school office where they will be picked up by the Parent Council.  ***SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS***  Tempest Photography are visiting the school on Wednesday 24th November to take both individual and sibling photographs. (This decision was made due to the results from the school survey sent out.) Please remember that these photos are not obligatory and that we hope to return to our normal photograph dates (September/Early October) next year. Please note that we may need to reschedule this date if Covid absences continue to be high near this time.  ***PEDESTRIAN SAFETY***  It has been brought to my attention that there have been incidents when children have been using Electric Scooters on paths where families are walking home from school/nursery. I have spoken with some of the older classes to remind them of the importance of keeping themselves and others safe however if your child has an electric scooter, I would appreciate it if you could speak with them too about these safety concerns. Thank you.  ***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)  *Tel: 01259 760690 Fax: 01259 769188* *Email:* [*menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk*](mailto:menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk)  ------------------------------------------------------------  ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***  Friday 19th November – Children in Need (Crazy Hair Day)  Wednesday 24th November – Tempest Photography in school  Thursday 25th November – Interim Reports given out.  Thursday 25th November – Non uniform day (Voluntary donation of something for the Parent Council Tombola Stall.)  Friday 26th November – Inservice Day (School closed to pupils)  Thursday 2nd December – P7F visiting Alva Academy for Transition.  Thursday 9th December – P7T visiting Alva Academy for Transition  Thursday 9th December – Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm  Tuesday 21 st  December – Last day of school before holidays. School closes at 1pm.  Wednesday 5th January – Start of new term. |