**Menstrie Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**October 2021**

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| Having finished our first term, I want to wish you all a happy holiday and to thank you all again for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 18th October.  ***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.  ***SUITABLE CLOTHING***  As we are trying to spend more time outdoors it is essential that pupils always come to school with a waterproof jacket and suitable clothing for all weathers. P.E. can now take place inside the school however there will be times when Miss Johnston will use the outdoor space.  ***CAR PARKING***  Can I please remind all parents that the car park **can not** be used for drop offs or pick ups throughout the day. There is a disabled car parking space and this can be used by those who display a disabled badge.  ***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. The Dumyat Centre carpark is ideal for Park and Stride and there are a number of other safe drop off areas which are further back from 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.  ***PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE***  We wanted to say a huge thank you to the Parent Council for all of their support and hard work. Please take the time to read their update at the end of this newsletter for important information and key updates.  ***COVID RESTRICTIONs***  We are currently waiting on updated guidance from Scottish Government regarding what we can and can’t do in school. At present we ask that parents continue to wear face masks while in the school grounds and also to remind parents that only parents for pupils in P1-3 should pick up/drop off pupils in the school playground unless agreed with school staff. As part of our risk assessment and national guidelines, can we please remind you that we cannot welcome many visitors into our school. We ask that parents continue to email the school at [menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk](mailto:menstrie@edu.clacks.gov.uk) if they have any queries or concerns and someone will get back to you.  ***-----------------------------------------------------------------------***  **Update from the Parent Council:**  Thank you to all those who attended our fundraising brainstorm, it was great to see some new faces and share so many ideas. We have agreed to the following before the end of 2021 and thank you in advance for your support.  **Ragbag**  For our first fundraiser, we are pleased to announce that we have organised a clothes & shoe collection with RagBag – a bag will come home with your child shortly. As well as raising vital funds, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill, whilst raising awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.  By getting involved, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided – Rag Bag can accept good quality clean **Men’s, Ladies and Children’s clothing, belts, bags and paired shoes** (tied together).  If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don’t forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well! Please return your bag (or bags!) to the school on either **Wednesday 20th** or **Thursday 21st October** and help us to raise lots of money.  **Christmas**  We are excited to say we will have a stall at the Dumyat Christmas Fayre taking place on Sunday 28th November, please mark the date in your diaries so you can bring the children along.  We have decided to work with Class Fundraising this year so that the children can create their own personalised Christmas Card designs for you to purchase. If you are not sending Christmas cards then they have alternatives too (see our Facebook page for more info). We will be in touch after half term with more information.  Unfortunately, for various reasons, we have had to postpone the class tea towel fundraiser temporarily, however we will look at this again in 2022.  **Smartie Tube Challenge**  We have also agreed the smartie tube challenge however we will be in touch after the holidays to explain more about this. |  | ***TWITTER***  We use twitter frequently to share learning and events/opportunities. We would like to encourage our parents/grandparents to follow us to keep up-to-date with what we are doing. At the moment we are at 977 followers – it would be great to get to 1000!  @MenstriePrimary  ***CONTACT DETAILS***  It continues to be crucial that contact details are up to date.. Please make the school aware of any changes to address, phone number or email address. To help avoid transferring paper etc between home and school, we will be sending most letters home by email. Please let us know if you are not receiving these so we can fix this.  ***HALLOWEEN***  It has been agreed that on Friday 29th October we will have a non uniform day when children can come in to school in fancy dress. We do however ask that the children do not wear masks on this day so as not to frighten our younger children. Instead of a monetary donation, the Parent Council are asking that the children bring in a voluntary chocolate/treat donation which will be used by the Parent Council at the Community Council Halloween event on Saturday 30th October.  ***MEET THE TEACHER***  On Thursday last week, we emailed out details on how to access a short video/presentation about your child’s class/teacher. We hope you enjoyed these. If you have had any problems accessing these, please let us know and we will do what we can to help.  ***P7 TRANSITION***  The transition plans are well and truly under way for the move from Primary School to High School. A letter from Alva Academy has been sent out and further information will be forwarded on soon. As part of the Hillfoots Cluster, we are excited to share with you that we do have plans for a residential visit to an outdoor activity centre for three days. More information will be shared as soon as we can.  ***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)  ***-----------------------------------------------------***  **Halloween**  Unfortunately, we are still unable to host our annual Halloween disco, however the Community Council are arranging an outdoor (covid friendly) Halloween event the last weekend of the month. We are looking for helpers for Saturday 30th between 3.30-6.30pm (45 min slots or longer if you want!) and we would love to hear from our P7s or indeed our leavers who are away at High School as well as any adults who might be free.  We have agreed that we will have a **Halloween themed non-uniform day** on Friday 29th October where the children can dress up if they would like or wear their own clothes. Rather than a financial donation, we would ask the children to bring in a chocolate or sweetie donation please for our tombola stall on Saturday 30th October. This is of course voluntary. In regards to dress up, please be advised, the school have asked that there are NO masks and to avoid any costumes which may be too gruesome for our younger children.  **Next Meeting Date:**  Our next meeting will be held on Friday 22nd October @ 9.15am. 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. |