



SUNNYSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2018



every day counts
ATTEND TODAY -
ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are almost at the end of the first term and what a busy term it has been! I hope that you have enjoyed keeping up-to-date with what is going on at Sunnyside Primary School through our Twitter link @sunnyside_ps and through our website <http://sunnyside.clacks.sch.uk>

I would like to remind you that the school will close for the October holiday at 3.00pm on Friday 12th October and re-open to all on Monday 22nd October.

Staffing Update:

Nursery:

Miss Melanie Higgins has been appointed as Early Years Worker within our nursery and although we do not have a start date for her as yet, we hope that she will be joining us in the near future once all the employment checks have been completed.



School Staff:

Our vacant Depute Headteacher post will be re-advertised on Friday 5th October. The advert closes on Sunday 21st October.

It is hoped to interview for this post on Thursday 8th November.

Parent Council Questionnaire – Uniform

I understand that it has been quite some time since a consultation regarding school uniform has taken place. With this in mind, therefore the Parent Council are very keen to determine parent/ carer, staff and children's views on this important issue.

Their findings will inform school policy to ensure clarity of expectations for all.

The parent/ carer questionnaire can be found on <https://surveyhero.com/c/09279608>.

Should you wish to fill in a paper copy of the questionnaire, please request one from the school office.

Parent Pay

We are excited to announce that soon parents/ carers will be able to pay for school meals (and in time other school expenses) online 24/7.

This service is being provided through Parent Pay who have been successfully providing this service to parents/ carers of secondary pupils across Clackmannanshire since 2015.

This will reduce the need for pupils to carry money in envelopes in their school bags, however you can still pay in cash if you prefer but we hope that most parents/ carers will find paying online easier, quicker and more secure.

Further detailed information will follow in due course, however you can find out more at <https://www.parentpay.com/>

Car Park

Over the past few weeks, some parents are still continuing to use the carpark as a short-cut into and out of the playground. This is very concerning as it places children in unsafe situations. Please ensure that you use the school entrance gates to ensure that all children remain safe and healthy at all times. Thank you.

International Visitors

On Tuesday 2nd October we were visited by a group of educators from Holland who were visiting Clackmannanshire schools to find out how we support children in developing their readiness for learning.

They were particularly interested to hear about our playground developments and also our learning environments in classrooms.

The visitors could easily see how effective these initiatives have been in supporting children to becoming resilient and effective learners.

Parental Engagement

Over the next session, we aim to engage with parents and carers in a variety of ways. We have already held a **Parent Information Evening (PIE)** where parents and carers were able to come into school to meet their child's class teacher and to find out about what their child will be learning over the session. We have also held the first of our **Open Days** where parents/ carers are invited to 'drop in' to school so that children can share their learning and progress. Although an hour has been set aside for this, we fully expect parents/ carers to come and go within this time.

Our **Class Assemblies** programme will be starting soon with primary 2AG and primary 6CJ next Friday (12th October). Parents/ Carers will be invited to watch their child showcase their learning and then they will be invited back to the classroom to find out more.

We are also hoping to hold **Parent Information and Curriculum Workshops** over this session to support you when talking with your child about their learning at home. These workshops have already started with our **Primary 1 Curriculum Workshops for Literacy and Numeracy**. During these workshops, primary 1 teachers have modelled how we teach literacy and numeracy in school. These have been very well received by all who were able to attend, and the children have loved having their parents in school, showing them what they can do.

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to come along to these workshops and we hope to see many of you in the future.

Thank you also to members of our Parent Council who supported these events by providing tea and coffee.

Loose Parts Play

Now that we have been able to source appropriate secure storage for our loose parts, we have been once again able to stock up on a variety of resources for the children to play with.

With this in mind, therefore Loose Parts Play will once again be available during playtimes and lunchtimes after the October holidays.

As always, should you have any comments, queries or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Penman
Head Teacher