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**SUNNYSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**JUNE 2019**



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are almost at the end of another school year, and what a busy year it has been. The Primary 7 children have made several visits to Alloa Academy (and the other high schools where appropriate) and have enjoyed the many experiences that they have been offered. They are currently working hard to prepare their leaver’s assembly which will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th June. It would be good to see many of you there to celebrate the children’s many achievements and successes.

Our new primary 1 children have also experienced a range of transition activities in school, ranging from working within the classrooms, meeting staff, having lunch etc and all are really excited to be joining us in August. Our primary 1 induction meeting for parents and carers was due to take place on Wednesday 5th June however due to the norovirus outbreak this has had to be cancelled. We will endeavour to rearrange this meeting as soon as safely possible.

We are always looking for ways to improve our transition therefore I would appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete our questionnaire which we will use when planning next year’s transition.

**Norovirus Outbreak**

As you know over the past few days we have suffered an outbreak of norovirus in school and across the community. Throughout this period of time, I have been liaising with senior officers of the authority and Dr Pempeh, the Health Consultation for Forth Valley, to ensure that we are managing this in the best way.

This has resulted in several school events and meetings being cancelled and we hope to rearrange these before the end of term however this will be dependent on ensuring that it is safe and wise to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and understanding during this difficult time and for ensuring that if you child has symptoms of **sore stomach/ headache, sickness and/or diarrhoea that you keep them off school for 72 hours following the last bout.**

**Extra In-Service Days 2019/20**

We have been informed that the Scottish Government has allocated 2 ‘extra’ in-service days next session. These days will be Tuesday 20th August 2019 and Friday 1st May 2020.

A full draft calendar of events for parents and carers will be issued in the new session.

**Staffing Changes**

Mrs Hunter will be leaving us at the end of this term to have her baby and to begin her maternity leave. We are all so excited for her.

Miss Gordon and Miss Gillon are coming to the end of their probationary period and I am delighted to say that both have been successful in gaining appointments in Clackmannanshire Authority. Miss Gordon will be moving onto pastures new. She will take up post in Deerpark Primary School and Miss Gillon will remain with us at Sunnyside!

I’d like to thank them both for their hard work over the past session.

We will have two new probationer teachers joining us in August, however as yet, I have not been given their names. I will of course advise you of this information as soon as I receive it.

**Class Organisation**

Next session, we will be reducing to 12 classes. Whilst our staffing has not been finalised as yet, I feel that it is important for you to have some indication as to who your child’s class teacher will be. **Please note that this information is subject to change** however any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Primary 1HD – Miss Hannah Duncan

Primary 1EC – Mrs Emma Cuthbert

Primary 2CF – Mr Craig Fergus

Primary 2/3RS – Miss Rebecca Smith

Primary 3 – Probationer Teacher

Primary 3/4NM – Mrs Nicola Muir

Primary 4/5FM – Miss Fiona Mitchell

Primary 5 – Probationer Teacher

Primary 5/6TG – Miss Tamzin Grossert

Primary 6JDW – Mrs Julie Devine-Watt

Primary 7AG – Miss Ashleigh Gillon

Primary 7LS – Miss Louise Stewart

The Pod (Nurture Base) – Miss Debbie Allan

Support for Learning – Mrs Elizabeth Doherty

Miss Alannah Belford and Mrs Linsey Jacobs will release Mrs Cuthbert and Miss Grossert to allow them to complete their principal teacher leadership activities and to cover Mr Fergus on a Friday when he does not work.

As you will see, the introduction of more composite classes will mean that children will move classes and may not be with the same children next session.

Composite classes are common across schools and children are placed in these classes according to age and gender. On occasion, parents worry about their child’s progress should they be placed in a composite class however please be assured that children are individuals and their learning needs are met accordingly.

Letters giving clear details regarding your child’s new class and class teacher will be sent out as soon as we know who our new probationer teachers will be.

**Democracy Fortnight**

Wow!!! What a successful fortnight we had! The staff and children fully engaged in their learning about democracy and the importance of democracy within society.

Children voted for their class representatives for the various pupil groups and are excited to be taking on this challenge in the new session.

**P7 Residential Trip to Dalguise**

Children in primary took part in a residential trip to Dalguise between Friday 17th and Sunday 19th May. After a couple of hiccups relating to the bus, they arrived in plenty of time to take part in the outdoor activities and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. During this weekend, these children showed what it means to be a Sunnyside pupil. They were a credit to our school – polite, well-mannered, challenging themselves and supporting each other throughout the weekend and I am extremely proud of them all.

I would like to thank Miss Smith, Miss Grossert, Mr Mathis and Mr Stevenson for giving up their weekend to accompany these children.

**P7 Mock Court**

After both the P7 classes’ success in the School Mock Court Project at Falkirk Sheriff Court in November, representatives were invited to attend the Finals and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 4th June at Central Hall in Edinburgh. Unfortunately due to the norovirus outbreak we were unable to attend however we are so proud of our pupils winning the Regional Competition.

**Celebrating Success**

Well done and congratulations to all those pupils who participated in the P6/7 Athletics Championships which were held at Lornshill Academy on 22nd May. They were a credit to the school with many observers commenting upon how well behaved and well-mannered our children were.

The following children were prize-winners:

Brooke Gardner – 1st High Jump

Josh Morgan – 1st Javelin & 3rd 100 metres

Halle Gilmartin – 3rd Long Jump

**End of Day Collection of Children**

In order to ensure children are safe at the end of the day, our policy is for children in primaries 1 – 3 to be released to a known adult. Class teachers will not allow a child to go from school unless this adult is present.

Please note that any changes to the adult picking your child up should be communicated either in writing or to the school office.

**Summer Holidays**

The school will close to all pupils at 1.00pm on Friday 28th June. Nursery will close to all pupils at 3.30pm.

I hope you have a lovely summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 21st August.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Penman

Head Teacher