20th August 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely first day and I hope that you have too. Your children, as always, are a credit to you and our new staff have been very impressed by their friendliness and by how happy they are to be at school with their friends.

This is just a short newsletter to give you some information that I hope is useful to you. If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please get in touch so that we can work together to ensure that your child has the best possible school experience.

Thank you for your continued support,

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Nuala McElroy

**Staffing**

Our new teachers are Miss Renwick in P3/2 and Miss Strachan in P4. We do not currently have a janitor as Mr Muir has moved to a permanent job outwith the council. Sandra Wallace, our cleaner, is our janitor for this week while recruitment processes take place. I will inform you as soon as I know more.

**PE**

PE with Miss Paul, our new specialist teacher, is on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Children will need their gym kit.

Children in P1 and P2 should wear polo shirts to school on PE days in order to make getting changed quicker and easier. If children cannot tie their shoelaces then Velcro or slip on gym shoes are preferred. It is difficult for a teacher to supervise all children whilst dealing with a queue of wee ones needing help with shirt buttons, shoelaces and ties.

Please label everything. We have already had a mix-up with a packed lunch box today.

**Healthy Snacks**

Due to the allergies that some of our children experience, it is extremely important that **no food containing nuts** is brought into the school. Snacks should be healthy and water is the only drink allowed in class.

**School Meals**

All children in P1-3 can have a school lunch at no cost. However, some of our P1-3 children might be entitled to Free School Meals because of their family income. If a P1-3 child has an income-based entitlement to Free School Meals then they are also entitled to Free Breakfast Club and milk.

**Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club starts at 8.30 and P1 & P2 are supervised until 9am, older children often prefer to go out to play with their friends when they have finished their breakfast. P3 children usually go out to play about 8.45am.

Breakfast Club is free for children whose parents have made a successful application for a clothing grant and free school meals. For all other children, including P1-3, it costs £1.20 each day. If you would like more information on making an application, please contact the office.

**Family Involvement**

There will be Sharing our Learning sessions later in the first term. This is an opportunity to come in and work alongside your child in class. I hope to be able to give you more details next week.

**Mass**

Our school community Masses are very important to us and we would encourage any family members, who are available, to come along and join us. All members of the school community are very welcome. Our first Mass of the term is on Wednesday and we would really appreciate having family members to walk with us.

**Volunteering**

We are always happy to work with parents in the school so if you have time on your hands, please let us know. We’ll put you to good use; reading to children; helping with admin and displays; cooking; craft; being our librarian; helping with structured play; working in our garden; coaching a sport etc whatever skills you have, we will be very grateful for any offers.

**Flu Immunisation**

This is the fourth year of delivering the flu immunisation programme in school. We will be giving out the forms later this week and would appreciate it if you return your form as soon as possible.

**Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle to use throughout the school day. The classes can become warm and, especially after PE, the children can get thirsty. Currently, we do supply plastic cups when we have them but they are an additional cost and are not good for the environment.

**Packed Lunches**

Children will bring home their packed lunch waste in order that you can see how much they have eaten.

**Contact Details**

We will be sending out our data forms in the very near future for you to check and amend if necessary. Please return these forms as soon as possible. You will appreciate that up to date contact details are essential to ensure that we can get in touch if there is ever an emergency.