St Clement’s R.C. Primary School

Balgarthno Place

Dundee

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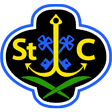
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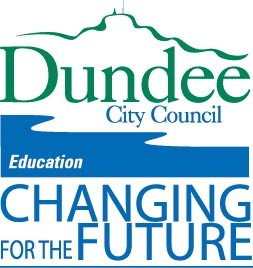
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Head Teacher

A. Macgregor

Director of Education

M.Wood

19th August 2011

**St Clement’s News**

**Session 11-12 Number 1**

**Welcome**

A big welcome back to all of our pupils, families and staff members as we start the new school year. A special welcome goes as always to our new Primary 1s and the other children and staff who have joined us across the school. Our staff team is, as always, full of enthusiasm, refreshed by the summer break and very committed to the children in our care and I’m sure that this will be matched by the children as they settle back in to the routine. There are lots of changes this year, not least to the building and grounds, but I’m sure that the St Clement’s learning community will once again have a successful year. This is just a quick note with some important information – lots more will come in the next week or two.

**Staff Changes**

Mrs Thomson (the third person of that name now on the staff!) and Mr Malone (yes, another one!) have joined the permanent teaching staff and Miss Gray has joined us on a temporary basis until our class teacher vacancy is filled. Mrs Burns is covering Miss Wares’ two year leave of absence in Support for Learning and Miss Moonie has come back to cover our other Support for Learning post (working with our Enable Group) until a permanent appointment is made. We welcome them all to our school community.

**Whole School Focus**

Again this year, a primary focus in school is on developing and maintaining **respect** for everyone, self and others. From this will flow the positive atmosphere and relationships which we all need in order to learn successfully and to work well together. This underpins our school’s main purpose, which is to help our children to be confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens and effective contributors to the modern world. Restorative approaches to problems are a big part of this. Please help us with this by modeling respect at home and in your dealings with school and by insisting that your child tries to show respect. Lots of activities in school, including our new House system which will be launched in September, will be based around this idea. More on this, and our other main school priorities, soon.

Safe, positive behaviour is expected throughout the school - respecting others' rights to learn, to be safe and to respect is key. We will continue to take a strong line with those who refuse to respect others' needs/rights. We will do all we can to protect the children from bullying and to deal with any instances - please let us know of any problems. Our playgrounds are very well supervised if your child needs any help at intervals. Please insist that your child shows respect to these supervisors, who are there to help. Please encourage your child to behave well then on the way to/from school, too, and let me know if there are any problems at these times.

**Parking/Transport**

As always, please use the roads around the school sensibly and with regard to others – think safety! My impression from the first couple of days is that the new entry points into the playground are working well. The new gate at the north east end has been particularly well received by parents and has alleviated the difficulties caused by the closure of the Craigowan Road gate.

**Playgrounds**

I’m pleased with the way that the new playground layout has come out. Because the space is much bigger than expected we have not made any changes to playtimes or lunchtimes as yet. We’ll keep this under review for the next wee while. As always, we rely on the children playing in a safe and responsible manner; those who can’t do this may need to be removed from the playground.

**Head Lice**

Please remain vigilant by checking your child's head regularly for signs of head lice now that school has restarted.

**Attendance/Latecoming**

The school year has started well on this front; please remember to telephone us by 10am on the first morning of absence so that we know that your child is safe if he/she is not at school. Please also follow this up with a note on the child's return to school. As you know, the evidence is clear that being at school and being on time make a real difference to progress in school. Latecoming was a big issue last session – let’s work together to cut this and have as many children as we can here on time for the start of school.

**School Meals**

In advance of the new school set-up, St Clement’s is now a Dining Centre and most of our meals will be provided each day from Menzieshill HS. The pre-order system continues (it worked well last year) and it is even more important now that meals are not prepared on site that order numbers are accurate. If your child is to be late for any reason, please make sure that when you call us you state which menu choice your child wishes (including if you are leaving an answerphone message). Children arriving after 10am cannot be guaranteed their choice of food unless this is done. The current menu is the same as in June and the cost of a school remains £2.

***Important Note* -** *only children who are going home for lunch are permitted to leave the playground at lunchtimes. This is an important issue upon which I really value your support. I cannot guarantee the safety of any child who leaves the playground to wander the area or to go to local shops, nor can I supervise their behaviour in these areas. There have been incidents and issues in the past.*

**Breakfast Club / After School Club**

The Breakfast Club and Out of School Care Clubs continue in school. These are both really good to have and I would urge you to use these facilities if you can. Places are available at both – contact the school for further details.

**No Smoking**

Please remember that smoking is *illegal* on school property - this includes any part of the school grounds.

**Safety/Security**

Please remember to use the Visitors’ Entrance if you need to visit the school for any reason.All visitors must sign in at the School Office. Please do not attempt to have long conversations with class teachers when they are bringing in lines. A brief word is fine, but if you need to discuss anything fully, please make an appointment via the school office. Please also stay well back from classrooms and doors when collecting your child at the end of the day. It’s a bit offputting for teachers and children to have adults or small children peering through the windows! Finally, please come to the school office if you need to speak with your child during the school day rather than just coming into the playground and approaching them. This can cause alarm to others who don’t know you! *Finally,* p*lease do not bring pets into the school playground. Some children are scared of dogs, even those on a lead.*

**Mobile Phones**

In line with Education Department policy, mobile phones, if they have to be brought to school, *must* be switched off and handed into the school office during the school day. Please don’t ask your child to call you during the day (eg by nipping into the toilets!) – our office staff are very approachable and good at passing on messages both ways.

**Behaviour**

**Dates for your Diary**

A full list of holiday dates for the session is in the children’s Diaries and a calendar of school events for August to December will be issued soon. Please also make sure that you have returned the contact details form sent out already.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or any matter to discuss. The home-school partnership is very important to your child and to us and we really appreciate all that you do to support your child's learning. More news soon – watch the school bags, our Blog and Twitter (addresses at the top).

Yours sincerely



Head Teacher