



28<sup>th</sup> August 2012

## St Clement's News

### Session 12-13 Number 1

Dear Parent / Carer,

#### Welcome

A big welcome back to everyone for the new school year and a big welcome to St Clement's our new Primary 1s and the other children and staff who have joined us across the school. Everyone is straight back 'into the groove', refreshed and full of enthusiasm for the new session. This is, of course, a big year for us as it marks (hopefully) the final year of this old building and an exciting new future as the new building takes shape alongside us. As a learning community St Clement's is a very special place, with great partnerships across the board sharing our vision of providing the best all round experience we can for our pupils.

#### Staff Changes

Miss Moonie has returned as Mrs Fitzpatrick this session, and we offer her our congratulations and best wishes following her wedding. Mrs Fleming has also been blessed, with a second baby boy, Noah, and will be off on maternity leave until near the end of the session. Miss D. Douglas has joined us to work with P3, supported by Mrs Donnelly, and Mrs D. McCartney will be working with P2/3 on Thursdays and Fridays as Miss Flight's 'other half' in her flexible working. Mrs T. Marlow joined us to work with P3/4 and has made a big impact on the first few weeks of term, but unfortunately will have to leave again at the end of this week to attend to family business. We wish her well. At the time of writing, I don't know who will replace Mrs Marlow but I'm assured by our staffing team at Dundee House that they will sort something out. All other staff are as per last session and make up what I believe to be a very strong staff team

#### Whole School Focus

Our primary focus in school remains on developing and maintaining **respect** for everyone, self and others. From this comes the positive atmosphere and relationships which we all need in order to learn successfully and to work well together. Our restorative approach to problems plays a big part in this, along with our House System (which proved to be big success last session) and weekly whole school target setting. We demand high standards of work and behaviour from our children across the school and support them in trying to achieve this. As always, the support of parents, family members and carers is crucial - please help by modeling respect at home and in your dealings with school and by insisting that your child tries to show respect. Safe, positive behaviour is expected throughout the school and 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. Please also encourage your child to behave well on the way to/from school, too, and let me know if there are any problems.

#### Parking/Transport

Please continue to use the roads around the school sensibly and with regard to others – think safety! I've been impressed with how our families have adapted to all the changes around the school building, with only a small minority causing any problems via inconsiderate parking or dropping off. Please remember that for safety reasons the school driveway and car park should only be used by parents in exceptional circumstances at the start and end of the school day. Please contact me in advance if there are particular reasons for you needing to use this area.

#### Playgrounds

The roadway and electricity substation put in for the new building over the summer has unfortunately resulted in another loss of playground space. I'm hoping that a solution will be found to allow us to remove the temporary fencing which has had to be erected – watch this space. In the meantime, things are going reasonably well outside. 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. Our playgrounds are very well supervised if your child needs any help at intervals.....

.....Please insist that your child shows respect to the playground supervisors, who are there to help. A big focus this term will be on avoiding littering and stopping the use of bad language in the playground. Please help with this in your conversations with your child. Please reinforce this message to the children.

**Annual Reminders:**

- **Head Lice:** please remain vigilant by checking your child's head regularly for signs of head lice now that school has restarted.
- **Attendance/Latecoming:** 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. As you know, the evidence is clear that being at school and being on time make a real difference to progress in school. Latecoming continues to be an issue for some children.
- **School Meals:** St Clement's remains a Dining Centre and most of our meals come each day from Menzieshill HS. With the pre-order system continues it's important that order numbers are accurate. If your child is to be late, please let us know 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 meal remains £2.
- **Lunchtimes – Important:** 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 still available at both.
- **No Smoking:** smoking is *illegal* on school property - this includes any part of the school grounds.
- **No Pets:** please do not bring pets into the school playground. Some children are scared of dogs, even those on a lead.
- **Safety/Security:** please use the Visitors' Entrance and report to the School Office when you visit. Please don't attempt to have long conversations with class teachers outside - 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. 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!

**Theatre Company Visit**

Within our Expressive Arts curriculum, M&M Productions will be visiting us next **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September** to perform 'Oliver Twist' for all classes. Because of the generous fundraising led by our Parent Council last session we can keep the cost of this experience down to only £3 per child. Please send this money to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. As usual, other Live Theatre events are planned for later in the session, including a Christmas Show performed by the pupils.

**School Uniform/Gym Kit**

Please ensure that your child continues to wear the full school uniform – the standard is impressively high at the moment. This helps to share our school identity and to minimize the influence of 'who has got what label'. Please ensure that your child has correct gym kit of t-shirt, shorts (not tracksuit bottoms) and gym shoes (clean and worn only indoors) whenever they need them. Every class has two PE slots each week – please make sure your child has kit on the correct days. P.E. is an important part of the curriculum - it is a real waste of learning time for teachers and children to be searching for kit.

**Please mark all of your child's clothes, coats, gym kit, packed lunch box, etc clearly with her/his name.**

**Dates for your Diary**

A calendar of school events for August to December accompanies this newsletter. More will be added in due course.

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. I'll write again soon with news of curriculum developments and other things – watch the school bags, our Blog and Twitter (addresses at the top).

Yours sincerely



Head Teacher