

29<sup>th</sup> October 2013



## St Clement's News - Session 13-14 Number 3

Dear Parent / Carer,

We're back into it for the new term, so, as per my promise at the end of last term, here is some news in the first of more regular updates. Our Blog and Twitter accounts are active again (although 'tweeting on the move' is proving more difficult in the new building because the mobile phone signal is poor!) and all classes will have their blogs up and running by the end of next week.

### **Parent Drop In and Open Afternoon**

The successful Wednesday 9 - 9.30 Drop-Ins restart this week, so please feel free to visit your child's class on any Wednesday, first thing, to get a flavour of what's going on. Obviously, teachers can't get involved in long discussions about progress or issues at these times, but remember that if you do need an in-depth conversation we're happy to make an appointment if you contact the school office. Our first Open Afternoon of the session will be, as is now traditional, for St Andrew's Day and will be on 29<sup>th</sup> November this year. More detail soon. Thanks, by the way, for all your efforts with home learning tasks last term. Your involvement is so important to your child's learning.

### **Pupil Council and Monitors**

Elections of the Council took place last week, and elected to the Council were Liam Tugam, P6, Milli Morrison, P5, Hannah Robertson, P4, Kady Reilly, P3, Kyle Walker, P2, Nicole Ireland P1S and Alicia Getty, P1F. They now join our House Captains to form the new Council, which this year will be led by Miss Mullan. Miss Mullan has also worked with Camperdown PS staff to draw up a list of duties for P7 children so that they all have a position of responsibility.

### **Dundee Rep Visit**

Instead of an in-school pantomime, this year we're going to the Rep Theatre to see the BFG on 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a great experience of live theatre for the children. A letter will go out this week asking for payment, because we've had to pay up front to secure a discount.

### **Fundraising**

All the trip subsidies over the past wee while have taken their toll on our school fund and so we will be carrying out some fundraisers in the near future so that we can continue to offer these great experiences to the children. Our Christmas Fair will be on a Wednesday this year, 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please look at your unwanted bric-a-brac or anything else you think we could sell, and send it in.

### **Trip Charges**

As you know, I believe that visits out of school play an important role in children's learning. There is, however, a cost for these (eg coach hire is not cheap!) and this is not covered by our basic school budget. That's why we fundraise, and why we charge for trips, always keeping this charge as low as we can. It's really important that everyone makes their contribution. We are having to chase up lots of non-payers which takes time and is so unfair on those who do contribute on time. If this continues, I may have to stop some children going on trips unless their payment is made in advance, which would be a great shame. We may also have to look at reducing the number of trips, which I really want to avoid. Just a little reminder to either pay trip money directly to the school office or give your child full payment in an envelope marked clearly with their name, class and what the trip is. Please try to avoid giving cash to teachers

in the line or at the door at the start or end of the day.

### **Building Update**

The new car park and field are taking shape, and we're still hopeful that these should be complete by the end of November, weather permitting. We've had additional bike hoops installed (at the request of the children via the Pupil Council) and plans are in place to better contain the bark around the trim trail area. Picnic Benches are now located around the playground and the children are enjoying using these, despite the colder weather. Successful fire drills have been held - the building empties very quickly, and the children's adherence to drill procedures was excellent. Many of the snagging issues, eg with heating and ventilation, are being sorted, and the whole place feels very much like ours now. I've not had much feedback re keeping the playground gates locked during the day, so I'm assuming that this is meeting with understanding and agreement from most if not all of you. I appreciate that using the main entrance can be a bit of a pain for some at lunchtime, but I believe it's worth it to maintain security and safety.

### **Public Art**

The public artwork (a Book Room sculpture) is rapidly taking shape in the playground, and will be unveiled by the artists to P6 pupils next Monday at 11am. These children will then cascade the information to the others. It's a really interactive idea which will be well used over the days, months and years to come.

### **Hallowe'en Parties**

These take place on Thursday and the children are welcome to come to school in Fancy Dress all day (no charge!) if they wish, even the ones going to the DCA in the morning.

### **Clubs**

Mr Malone will issue a list of all the clubs available, including lunchtime, after school and evening clubs, in the next wee while. Please encourage your child to take part in something.

### **Film Festival and Science Festival (Techfest)**

All classes will be visiting the film festival at the DCA and an event in the Science Festival over the next few weeks. These are really valuable learning experiences, and are well worth attending, despite the cost.

### **Playgrounds**

Please continue to reinforce the importance of safe play and showing respect to all outside. We're also having a big push on using bins for litter so please help with this, too.

### **Latecoming**

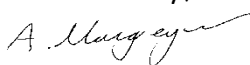
.....is starting to be a bit of an issue again. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our joint Breakfast Club is going very well, and is very popular. All spaces are currently taken, with a fair distribution between St Clement's and Camperdown, and we have a waiting list. If your child is registered for the club and has a place, please use it regularly or you will lose the place and it will be offered to someone else. Apologies if you find you have a short-term need and are not registered, this just isn't possible.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Head Teacher