



17th December 2013

St Clement's News – 2013-2014 Number 5

Dear Parent/Carer,

As term draws to a close, a few pieces of information for you.

A Huge Thanks

We do lots of charity fundraising during the year which helps many others throughout the world. Charity also begins at home, so we've again put the monies raised from Christmas activities into our School Fund to spend on subsidising the many school events across the year which enrich our pupils' learning. Can I thank you all so much for your generosity this year, across the Fair, the Shows, and the Choir's Carol Singing, which together have again raised in the region of £2000, which will go such a long way. Without these efforts, the learning opportunities for our children would be less rich. The trip to the BFG was a big success, and one which we'll look to repeat next session. One apology – I didn't think the Christmas Jumper idea through well enough, and I realise now that this cost you more money than it was worth to raise the £1 per head for Save the Children. We'll do this differently next time.

(By the way, I'm still looking for a parent representative on our School Fund committee, which audits and advises on how we spend this money, so if you're up for that wee job, please let me know.)

Final End of Term Events

After the **P1-4 Nativity tomorrow (Wednesday) evening** (there are still tickets left – buy them soon), our final 'open' event of the term is our **Carol Service**, led by P7, on **Thursday, 19th** at 9.30am. Please join us.

Enrolment for Next Year's P1

Enrolment has started and will continue through January and into February. If your child is ready to start in August 2012, please contact the school office to make arrangements for enrolment. Please spread the word, too, amongst family, friends and others, about your hopefully positive experience of our school and its very positive future in our lovely new building.

Inspection

We're still waiting for confirmation of the date of publication of the letter and report regarding Education Scotland's visit in November. It looks as if this will now be into the new year. Having seen a draft, I'm sure that you'll be pleased with the reported outcomes.

Parent Engagement Events - Campus

Now that we are settled into in our new building (phew - the past six months have been a whirlwind!), Mrs Mulholland, Head Teacher at Camperdown Primary, and I have been talking about how we can extend both pupil and parent/carer involvement in discussions about how to move forward and how to tackle any emerging issues. Although we both feel that things have gone well in our shared arrangement so far (a couple of double booking blips apart) we are aware that there are some issues which continue to cause some anxiety to pupils and to parents/carers. The Pupil Councils from the two schools will be working closely together (as they did on tackling the problem of too many children using the play equipment at once) and I'm sure that the children will tell us of other areas where they would like to see change. We'd like to arrange regular 'forum' events for parents where we can get together to look at positives and issues from across the Campus. A solution-focussed approach to these events will allow us to identify actions without getting caught

up too much in 'moans and groans.' We understand that quite a few parents/carers still have worries about the playgrounds, including behaviour, and so we plan to use this as a starter for an Open Voice event in January. At this, we'll explore this issue from a solution-focussed perspective and seek suggestions for answers to problems which emerge. Watch this space for dates.....

Communications

Please keep an eye on our Blog and Twitter feed, addresses above, for other wee snippets of news, some of which don't make the paper based newsletters. Early next term I'll be sending out a short survey of your views on how best we can get news and other information to you. We are looking to improve the current 'schoolbag drop' method of sending information home, for example by emailing items if that's what people would like. At present, all schoolbag items are also posted onto the school blog and we have had very favourable comment on our increased use of texting and tweets to send reminders and short news items. It may be that, without getting too complicated, a combination of methods will serve us best. Watch this space – all ideas gratefully received and considered.

Lost Property

Quite a little hoard of unmarked items has collected again. If you'd like to have a search through for anything your child has lost, please pop in. To cut this stockpile, **please, please, please remember to mark all items with your child's name and class.**

Monies

I promise we won't be collecting as much next term!, but when money is sent in it would be helpful if this was in an envelope with your child's name on it. Even with the older classes, this can be of great assistance to the teachers who have to collect and count monies before getting on with the important job of teaching. It would also be really helpful if you could go over menu choices with your child at home, so that she/he is clear what she/he is choosing. If you've lost your menu, please call the office for a replacement.

Latecoming

Please help your child with a New Year's Resolution to be at school on time every day. House Points are on offer.....If there are specific reasons why getting your child to school on time is an issue for you, please get in touch – we may be able to help.

Holidays

The holidays start at **12 noon on Friday, 20th December** and we're back at 9am on **Monday, 6th January.**

I hope you, your families and friends have a very peaceful and happy festive period and are blessed with all the joy with which Jesus lit up our world.

Yours sincerely,

A. Macgregor
Head Teacher

