



1st September 2014

Dear Parent / Carer,

The school year has started really well again. All of our children and staff are already well into routine. The standard of school uniform is really high - thank you all for that, long may it continue.

Welcome to our New Pupils and Families

A very warm welcome to all of our new P1s and to the many children from across the stages who have joined us. Our roll is now up to over 190, its highest for a long while. The P1s have settled in very well, and will be here full time from next Monday, 8th September.

House Captains

Big congratulations to Amy Rennie, Callum Valentine, Liam Tugman and Declan Bayne who have been elected House Captains for this session. This post comes with big responsibilities to which I'm sure these young people will respond positively. As well as in-school duties, they will represent the school at various events throughout the year. Supporting the Captains will be their House Vice-Captains, Shauna Millar, Valerie Thornton-Archibald, Kai Brand and Dominic Mains. The House Captains will be trained to lead our Monday Target Assemblies this session and will help to promote the weekly target and ensure that everyone in the school community is aware of it. All remaining P7 pupils are now prefects and will have various duties to perform including being door and dining hall monitors.

Pupil Voice

As recommended at our inspection last year, we intend to 'beef up' the role of our Pupil and Eco Councils this session and to offer more opportunities across the school for young people to put their views forward. Each class will also have Class Council sessions which will feed into Assemblies. Mrs Kelly will be heading up this area of school life and Council elections will take place when she returns.

Mrs Kelly

Big congratulations to Miss Mullan on her marriage at the start of July. She will be returning soon as Mrs Kelly - unfortunately, not long after the wedding, Mrs Kelly had an accident on stairs at home and badly damaged her knee. She is on the mend, however, and hopes to be back with us soon.

Staffing

We waved goodbye to Mrs D. Thompson at the end of last session, and wish her all the best in her new post at Frances Wright Nursery. Mrs M. Thomson has also decided to give up her Lunchtime Supervisor post after her recent illness and we thank her for her service to the school; she will,

however, be continuing as a cleaner with Tayside Contracts, hopefully in the not-too-distant future. Mrs Fleming is now working four days a week, sharing a class with Mrs Kelly, and so Mrs D. McArtney will not be with us this session - again, our thanks and best wishes go to her.

Communication with Home

We're going to do this differently this session. You'll probably have noticed that we now send text messages much more than paper notes or 'fliers.' Feedback on this from parents has been very positive and so we will continue to communicate in this way when we can. I've also decided to end the wholesale issue of paper copies of newsletters, class letters etc. Very soon, these will be available on the School Blog, will be tweeted, and will be emailed to parents/carers who provide an email address (see enclosed sheet). Paper copies will be available, but only on request to the School Office. This will save paper, cut costs, and hopefully allow us to reach you directly without having to rely so much on the notoriously inefficient schoolbag drop system. Some things will still come in 'hard copy' - we will text if there is anything in your child's bag (eg school reports) for your attention. This is a big change, and will take time to fully implement, but hopefully this will improve your awareness of what is happening in school. Class Blogs will also continue, and teachers have also been asked to use the school's Twitter account to send out relevant information about what's happening in school. Finally, Miss Flight will be looking at getting a new website up and running - this will be more of an online Handbook with day-to-day news, photos and so on being posted on blogs. So.....return the enclosed sheet as soon as you can and watch this electronic space!

School Development Priorities 15-16

As well as the many, many other things we try to do in school every week, these are our big 'new' priorities for this session, based upon the feedback from our Inspection last session.

1. Self Evaluation

Another big priority this session, again following on from our inspection, is to look at how we measure how well we are doing. We will be extending this to involve children, parents/carers and other partners much more.

2. Curriculum

As well as continuing to focus primarily on children's learning in literacy and numeracy, we will be looking to develop programmes in Expressive Arts, Technologies and Relationships & Moral Education this session.

3. Skills for Learning, Life and Work and Profiling of Pupil Achievements

4. Promoting **Health and Wellbeing**, encompassing mental, physical and emotional will remain a constant throughout school life, too.

Flower and Food Festival

P2-7 will be attending the festival this Friday. Unfortunately, due to the P1 Parent Lunch and half day it won't be possible for P1 to go along this year.

School Grounds

The ongoing saga of getting the remaining areas properly landscaped is coming to a conclusion following the topsoil issues. During the October holidays, both the field area and the playground areas should be getting the required attention from contractors, including laying of the football pitch, seeding of grass areas and tree and shrub planting. Hopefully then, by next spring, the whole site should be starting to look much better. Fingers crossed. We will then have lots more opportunities for outdoor learning.

Car Park and ZigZag Lines

Please remember that the clearly marked disabled parking spaces at the school entrance should not be used unless you hold a blue badge. We've also had issues with cars parked on zig zag lines around the site causing obstruction - please feel free to phone the police if you come across this problem.

Crossing Patrols

I do not know whether the Crossing Patrol on Charleston Street, which was removed at the start of term, is to be reinstated. I will continue to try to find this out. In any case, please remember that the Council is not under a legal obligation to provide school crossing patrollers and it is, and always has been, parents' responsibility for ensuring that their child gets to/from school safely. Mrs Thomson is doing lots of work on Safety at present with all classes, and safe road crossing will be covered.

Cycling to School

A quick reminder to check that if your child is cycling to school:

1. be sure that your child is a safe cyclist, and talk regularly to him/her about cycle safety.
2. provide a bike lock of sorts for security
3. ensure that your child wears a helmet for cycling.

The school Bicycle Racks are mostly covered by CCTV but the schools cannot take responsibility for the security of bicycles/scooters brought to the Campus. Please remember that metal hoops outside the lower floor classroom doors are not for bicycles - this causes an obstruction. Also, for the safety of all, bicycles must not be cycled within the school playground - cyclists must dismount at the gates and walk their bike to their chosen rack.

Enquiries

Our school community ethos is based upon *respect* for all and this is shown by the vast majority of our pupils, parents/carers and visitors and is expected of and shown by all staff. I was, however, disappointed last session by a few occasions when school staff were spoken to inappropriately by parents, at classroom doors and at the School Office. This has never been a feature of St Clement's in my time here and I will not accept rude or aggressive approaches to staff of this school or Camperdown P.S. I don't wish to discourage quick queries or exchanges of information, but anything more than that needs to be done properly, by making an appointment through the School Office. All concerns or complaints should come to me in the first instance; I will then gather information and seek a resolution. My promise to you is that action is always taken over concerns, even if it doesn't always work at first. Please remember, too, that some children's (and some adults') perspectives are not always the whole story!

(over)

Support for Pupils and Families

Please let us know of anything which might be causing your child to be 'under the weather' in anyway. We are very good at confidentiality and at support for children and for families. Don't bottle up worries - we're here to help.

Parental Involvement

Taletta Jamieson, the Council's Parental Involvement Officer, will be meeting the current Council Members soon to look at ways of helping parents to become more involved. After this, a Parent Council AGM will be arranged. Taletta also wishes to meet new P1 parents and is planning a meeting for 29th October at 2.45pm. Watch this space for more details.

We're also on the lookout for Parent Helpers for out of school visits. Please contact the school office to offer your services if you think you could help.

Key Dates for this Term

These were issued last week and are now posted on the School Blog.

Admin Reminders

A few wee reminders from the School Office:

1. Please call if your child is to be off for any reason. This helps us to be sure that he/she is safe.
2. Please mark all clothing with your child's name. It's frightening how much clothing goes to Charity Shops from this campus because it can't be identified and is unclaimed.
3. Please return all forms requested as soon as possible.
4. Please keep your contact details up to date. If you change phone number, let us know straight away.
5. Please pay dinner money on time. We now have to send non-payment details to the Council.
6. Latecomers need to come to the School Office to be registered.

As always, please don't hesitate to call if there is anything you wish to suggest, discuss, or have explained. Working together helps to avoid problems and to sort quickly any issues which do arise.

Yours sincerely,

A. Macgregor
Head Teacher