

BRYDEKIRK PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2017

Scottish Government Closing the Gap – £120 million Pupil Equity Funding Scheme

Funding is coming from Scottish Government direct to schools and links closely with Free Meal Entitlement. In a recent newsletter, I have restated how a family may qualify for free school meals. Money is granted per pupil entitled to FSM. HTs from our cluster have attended an Education Scotland event in Ayr to find out more about the funding allocation and how to put this to good use. This is funding each year for five years. **Currently, Brydekirk Primary will not receive any funding.** The figures for how much each school will get have been published. If you think you may qualify for free school meals please contact the school. Even if your child is in P1-3 and automatically gets the free school meal you should still make an application. For every child registered for FSM the school will receive £1200 annually. More information here :

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/Raisingeducationalattainment/pupilequityfund/Schoolallocations>

You can claim free school lunches for your children if you are receiving:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

Mr McIntyre's P7 challenge

I have always appreciated how our senior pupils assume additional responsibilities and contribute so effectively to the running of school life. Mr. McIntyre's P7 Challenge has been designed to build on this sense of independence and responsibility by inviting P7s to face some big challenges that will become lasting memories of their time in primary school.

The first P7 Challenge was to climb Criffel. We were joined by Ling, who takes our after school sports club and also by Sandra Proudfoot, Active Schools Coordinator.

The second challenge will be Mountain Biking on Wednesday 19th April in Mabie Forest. Again, Outdoor Education Instructors will lead the session but in preparation for this challenge, Katie Robison, iBike Officer, will lead a couple of skills sessions within school grounds. The school will cover transport costs and children are asked to pay £10 which pays for the instructors.

I am currently trying to organise a day of watersports for June - Challenge 3.

Cycle Friendly School

We aim to participate in this year's Big Pedal as part of our drive to have more children cycling to school. The Big Pedal is a National Event and begins 20th March for two weeks. During this period we will run a number of cycle and scooter related activities.

On Thursday 23rd March, Katie Robison will be back in school to lead a cycle skills session for children in Primaries 3,4 and 5. On this same day, from 3.10pm until 4.30pm Katie will run a session for parents and children known as "Ditch the Stabilisers". This is open to families from St. Columba's and Brydekirk. It will take place in the grounds of Brydekirk Primary.

On Friday 24th March a special skills event will be held for Primary 7 cyclists. This session is leading towards a Mountain Biking session later in April with the Outdoor Education team. Again this forms part of the P7 Challenge.

For those children who come to school with a bike, we will be offering a "cyclist's breakfast" from 8.30am onwards on Tuesday 28th March. Later that same day, children will take part in a puncture repair workshop.

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

Parents and Grandparents are welcome to join us for a Celebration of Learning on Tuesday 28th March 1.45pm in the school hall. Refreshments will be served and the event should finish at 3pm.

FOOTBALL

Football teams performed well in a recent tournament, both our boys and girls teams topping group and making it to quarter finals of the contest. New strips which are neutral but in keeping with school colours looked great.

We have two matches coming up in March. On Thursday 16th March at 3.30pm we will take on Eaglesfield and St. Columba's will host the match. On Wednesday 29th March at 3.30pm we face Cummertrees and this match will be played at Brydekirk. Players will receive separate letters about these games. All children and families are welcome to come along and support the school team.

LOCKERBIE MANOR

Our pupils in primaries 6 and 7 enjoyed a fantastic couple of days at Lockerbie Manor back in February. Everyone was well behaved and gave it their best, achieving new things and meeting new people. I noticed that our children got a lot out of mixing with the pupils from St. Columba's and everyone was very friendly. May I take this opportunity to thank staff who gave up their time unpaid to make this experience possible. Thank you Miss Gilfillan, Mr Archibald, Mrs Keenan and Mr Wilson.

DOG FOULING

Dog Mess in playing field is a problem and community wardens are aware of the issue. Pupils are working on new signage in an attempt to discourage dog owners from littering this valued community space. The Annandale Observer has also been informed and will visit when the children's posters are complete.

Primary 7 Transition Events

Much has happened already to help our P7s ready themselves for the move to secondary.. Annan Academy put on a fabulous Junior Show, Aladdin – to which P7s were invited. Next Annan Academy will host a treasure hunt around their school. This is specifically for children coming from the smaller schools. Over the coming months much more will be happening. Sometimes we tailor bespoke transition activities to meet the needs of individuals. Enhanced transition programmes are also organised by the Academy's Pupil Support team. If any parent wishes to discuss the possibility of their child having a little extra support with the transition, please get in touch. I am always very happy to make special arrangements and ensure a smooth transition for all our children. As Lockerbie and Langholm Academies are not cluster schools for Brydekirk, it is generally expected that their transition work begins after the Easter holiday.

Mr. B McIntyre

Head Teacher