



Castle Douglas Primary School

Keep up to date with news and events on our website - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/>
Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/cdpschool> and School app isa4.me/castledouglasps

Newsletter – August 2019

Dear Parents and Pupils

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to the start of the new session and an additional welcome to our new pupils and their families.

Diary Dates.

Dates of events and holidays can also be found on the School App and website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/> - click on the CD Diary link.

Further information about class activities will be sent home by teachers once dates and times have been organised.

September	
2 nd – 6 th	P7 pupils at Kingswood Activity Centre, Hexham
3 rd	P1 Information Evening 6 – 7pm
9 th	Parent Council AGM – 6:30 pm – all parents are very welcome to attend.
17 th	PTA Meeting (AGM) - 6:30pm - all parents are very welcome to attend
23 rd – 27 th	Walk to School Week
26 th	PTA Autumn Disco P1-3 6-7pm P4-7 7:15 – 8:30pm
October	
Sat 12 th – Sun 27 th	October Holidays
30 th	Pupil Flu Immunisations
November	
21 st	Open Evening 5:30 – 7:30pm
December	
Sat 21 st – Tues 7 th Jan	Christmas Holidays (staff return 6 th and 7 th – Pupils return 8 th).

Home / School Communication

We will continue to share our learning and activities with the School Community through our Weekly Class Updates - news collected by our pupils which will be posted on our Facebook page, Website and App on a Friday. Two of our classes are exploring sharing learning through Twitter posts.

We will also send home termly newsletters and, to help with costs and time needed for the copying of newsletters, it would be very helpful if families were able to receive these electronically i.e. from our website, Facebook page, School App and / or email. It is appreciated that not every family may not have regular access to the Internet and paper copies will always be made available.

Please do let us know of any new or changes to email addresses.

Please do let us know about achievements that your child(ren) have outside school.

Our School App is free to download on both Apple and Android platforms. Search for School App for Parents and once the app has loaded search for Castle Douglas Primary. The App has a diary tab which also lists the daily meal menu as well as school activities and holiday dates and a news tab which links to our school website and Twitter accounts. There is also a Message tab but it is not planned to use this at this time as we have the Groupcall Text Service.

School texts are sent out using Groupcall and parents are asked to keep the School Office informed of any changes to mobile numbers – thank you.

Staff Information – We have welcomed new teaching staff to the school – Mrs McCulloch (P5) and Mrs Campbell (P6/7). We also had the lovely news that Mrs Milligan had a baby boy, Rhuben, during the holidays.

School and Nursery Inspection Report

The School and Nursery were inspected in May and the report is to be published on 27th August. Families will receive a short summary and, for more information about how well the school is doing, please go to the



Please do let us know of any Wider Achievement stories (events and activities children take part in out of school) and also any community news that we can share.



Education Scotland website for a more detailed report <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5915422>

The report reflects the positive learning ethos we have in our School and Nursery. The Inspection Team have commented on areas of strength, some of which are being shared as 'national examples of good practice', and guidance on how we can continue to improve and meet the needs of our learners.

Class Organisation during the Session.

Classes are organised by age with a maximum of 25 children in P1, up to 30 in P2 and 3 and 33 in P4-7. Composite classes have a maximum of 25 pupils. Once again we are almost full with only a few spaces at P1 stage. To comply with Council policy, it may be necessary to make changes to class compositions if there are any **enrolments during the session** which increase class numbers over the permitted maximum. It is hoped that any mid-session enrolments will not cause undue disruption but it is as well to be aware that changes may have to be made depending on circumstances.

Parent Voice

PTA

We have a very supportive Parent Teacher Association which helps organise social and fundraising activities during the session. The date for the PTA Annual General Meeting is the 17th September at 6:30pm.

Meetings are informal and we would like as many Parents / Carers to come along. It is a good way to meet people in the school and we are always looking for new, fun ideas for social events for children and parents that may also raise some funds for the school.

Parent Council

We also have a busy Parent Council which is a forum to share ideas and developments between home and school as well as giving a Parent Voice with the local Authority. All parents are very welcome to join the Parent Council and the first meeting of the new session is on Monday 9th September at 7pm. It would be great to see new parents coming along and your support and interest is much appreciated.

You will be very welcome to either the PTA and Parent Council – please do think about coming along.

Medicines

If your child requires medication during school hours e.g. asthma then please ensure that you **complete a medical permission form** which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the School Website (Admin – Forms link). <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/admin-forms/>

School Uniform.

The school encourages the wearing of school uniform. **Please** ensure that all clothing brought to school **is marked with your child's name.** This is particularly important for sweatshirts/t-shirts and coats which are often muddled up - thank you.

For health reasons children need a change of clothing for PE/Drama activities. A separate top, shorts and shoes should be in school throughout the week. (A change of shoes for playground / indoors is also preferred).

A reminder that football strips or related clothing, fashion clothing, make up or large jewellery items such as dangly earrings should not be worn or brought to school please.

Outdoor Learning – Classes use our MUGA (Outdoor Sports area) and take part in Outdoor learning activities throughout the year. Pupils should please bring a coat to school so that we can access our outdoor areas at all times.

Spare Clothing - The school would be pleased to accept any used sweatshirts and poloshirts which we can keep in a nearly new box and these will be available for a small donation to school funds. Coats would also be welcome so we have a supply for outdoor use in case a child forgets theirs.



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Pupil Absence and Punctuality

A reminder that parents are asked to please contact the school office if your child is going to be absent from school. An early call is much appreciated.

Pupils should please come to school in time for a 9am start. If a pupil is late then they should report to the School Office so that registers can be updated and school meal ordered– thank you for your help with this.

School Meals.

Primary 1-3 pupils are entitled to a free school meal. For other pupils a reminder that school meals cost £1.90 daily or £9.50 per week and this is collected on a Monday morning or several weeks can be paid in advance. Cheques should please be made payable to **Dumfries and Galloway Council** and not the school. Please note that children will not be given a meal unless it has been paid for or the child(ren) is/are entitled to receive free school meals. Please contact the school if you have any queries regarding free meal entitlement. Children may also bring their own packed lunch if preferred.

School Handbook - Annual Information

Attached to the newsletter are updated pages 1-3 from the School Handbook. The pages contain annual information including holiday dates for the session and a summary of the Nursery and School Development targets for the session ahead.

Allergies

Please do keep the school informed of any allergies your child may have. A separate letter, where food allergies are already known, will be sent home soon from the School Meals Department seeking information from parents. A reminder please that we are a **Nut Free School** due to severe reaction some of pupils have to nut products.

Family Helpers – Classes / Playground / After-School Activities

Family Helpers (parents, grandparents, etc) are welcome at the school either on a regular basis e.g. school library or for occasional activities such as class trips. Due to the redeployment of staff we no longer have classroom assistants who helped teachers with photocopying and preparing class resources, changing displays, working with small groups of children, etc

It would be great if more families were able to help out with tasks such as reading stories, art and craft, general help around the classroom, photocopying, Library, CAPER books, Golden Time activities and educational visits. Help with After-School activities would also be much appreciated. Please do let class teacher or myself know if you would be able to help.

A Disclosure Scotland check must be completed for all parent helpers who wish to help **on a regular basis** – please do let the school know if you would like to help as soon as possible as the Disclosure checks can take a few weeks – thank you. (Disclosure checks are current for three years – so previous ‘disclosed’ parent helpers may not need to go through this process).

Weekly help in the School Library is much appreciated e.g. 30 minutes once a week to help check the shelves and books.

Breaktime Tuckshop – Health Promoting School

Primary 7 pupils run a Healthy Tuckshop where fruit and healthy biscuits are on sale at morning interval.

Home Learning

We have a series of maths activities, for all ages, on our school website for family Home Learning opportunities. Older pupils (P3-7) are welcome and encouraged to log in to their Accelerated Reading and Sumdog accounts to support and share their learning at home.

Accelerated Reading P3-7

Primary 3-7 pupils will start their Accelerated Reading books very soon. Parents can check what books have been read and how well their child has answered quiz questions on the book by going to <https://ukhosted15.renlearn.co.uk/1896282/Homeconnect/login.aspx> and logging in using their child's username and password.



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Traffic Management Scheme

Like most schools the school car park is not large enough for the volume of traffic which could potentially use the car park particularly on wet days. Following a Health and Safety audit the Council have marked double yellow lines and erected signs advising parents that there should be no parking within the staff car park and to use the drop off zone appropriately.

Parents are asked not to park in the Disabled Parking Bays please as these should be kept clear for vehicles bringing pupils with Additional Support Needs to the school.

Parking space is limited and families are encouraged to use the Market Hill Car Park and then walk down Jenny's Loaning if at all possible. Your co-operation in supporting the above is appreciated.

Bicycle Rack

We have a covered cycle rack in school and pupils are welcome to cycle to school. Pupils should wear a helmet and are asked not to cycle in the school grounds for safety reasons – please dismount and push your bicycle in through the pedestrian gates access.

Council Policy – Smoking and Dogs

A reminder please that the school and school grounds is a No Smoking area and parents are asked not to smoke in the playground when dropping off or collecting pupils. Dogs are also not permitted in school grounds – thank you.

Arrival and Home Times – Poor Weather

Arrangements for dropping off and collecting children when the weather is poor.

a) Morning

When the weather is very wet pupils can come to the front door which will be open from 8:45 am instead of having to go all the way round the school. Parents are asked to drop their child off at the front door and allow them to then make their own way to class.

b) Afternoon

Very wet and High Wind Days

Due to the design of the building on very windy days we do not use the external classroom doors. On these days downstairs classes (P2-7) use a main door downstairs and pupils then leave by the usual route through the playground and up to the 'green gate'.

Upstairs rooms (P1, P1/2 and P2a) can be particularly affected on windy days. On these days P1a, P1b and P2 parents/carers will be able to come to the inside class corridor door, via the Main Entrance, after the 3pm bell, to collect their children. To help avoid confusion on whether the day 'is windy or not' we have put a poster in the Janitor's room window.

Red Symbol = P1, P1b and P2 parents/carers please use the Main Front Entrance and collect children from inside corridor door.

Following a Health and Safety Review the school has been instructed that it is not safe to have the main entrance area congested with adults waiting to come in. When wet, parents are very welcome to use the Waiting Shelter and the covered area at the Nursery entrance to keep out of the weather until the 3pm bell rings. The covered area downstairs is also available for anyone wishing to pick their child up from the bottom playground. Please do not come in to the main entrance area before 3pm.

Water Bottles

Pupils are encouraged to bring water bottles to school and we have chilled water fountains throughout the school. Bottles can also be bought from the School Office for £1.50.



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and finally ...

There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work at Parents' Evenings during the session. This session we will be having two Open Evenings (one in November and one in June) and a mid-session Private Interview Meeting early in the new year to review learning and share next steps.

However staff will be pleased to meet you throughout the year to discuss any concerns or thoughts you have about your child or the school. Parents are respectfully asked to make an appointment to ensure that staff will be free to speak with you.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

David Tyson

Headteacher

Holiday Dates for Session 2019 – 2020

<u>Staff return</u>	Monday 19 th August
<u>Pupils return</u>	Wednesday 21 st August
<u>Term 1</u>	Monday 19 th August - Friday 11 th October
<u>Autumn Holiday</u>	Monday 14 th October - Friday 25 th October
<u>Term 2</u>	Monday 28 th October – Friday 20 th December
<u>Christmas Holiday</u>	Monday 23 rd December – Tuesday 7 th January (Staff Training days – 6 th and 7 th January)
<u>Term 3</u>	Wednesday 8 th January – Friday 3 rd April
<u>Mid-Term Holiday</u>	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February (Staff Training Days – 20 th and 21 st February)
<u>Spring Holiday</u>	Monday 6 th April – Friday 17 th April
<u>Term 4</u>	Monday 20 th April – Thursday 2 nd July
<u>May Day Holiday</u>	Monday 4 th May
<u>Pupil Holiday</u>	Friday 29 th May (Staff Training Day)
<u>Summer Holiday</u>	Friday 3 rd July – Wednesday 19 th August
<u>2020 - 21</u>	
Staff return	Tuesday 18 th August 2021
<u>Pupils return</u>	Thursday 20th August 2020



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Contact Information

Castle Douglas Primary	Jenny's Loaning, Castle Douglas, DG7 1JA	01556 502071
School Telephone	01556 502071	
School Email	gw08officecastle@ea.dumgal.sch.uk	
School Website	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/cdps/	
Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/cdpschool	
School App	School App for Parents (Apple and Android downloads)	
Council Website	www.dumgal.gov.uk	
Education Office	Headquarters, 122-124 Irish Street, Dumfries DG1 2PB	01387 260432
School Nurse	Garden Hill Health Centre	01556 505712

School Development Priorities 2019 - 2020

Priority	Outcomes for learners
Modern Languages	All pupils will further develop French (Year 4 of school programme) and P5-7 pupils will also be introduced to a second Spanish topic this session. Aim is to continue to develop confidence and understanding of communicating in a multilingual world.
Technology Skills and Understanding	To improve the quality and depth of Technology learning and teaching which will have a positive impact on both learning opportunities for pupils and their Technology knowledge, understanding and skills.
Raising Attainment and Pupil Equity Fund.	a) Continue to build on the Literacy and Numeracy developments from session 18/19. b) Mathematics – continue with Mental Maths priority and also target interventions to increase pupil confidence in all areas of mathematics and numeracy. c) Continue to raise attainment in all aspects of numeracy and mathematics.
ELC (Nursery)	There are also specific Nursery Development priorities. a) National Health and Social Care Standards – link with current Care Plans to assess and plan next steps for child learning. b) Further develop Outdoor Play provision to provide more opportunities for creative, challenging and stimulating play. c) Preparation for introduction of 1140 hours full time sessions from August 2020



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