

# NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope that you have managed to have some rest and relaxation during the recent holidays. All children seem to have settled back into school life and are raring to go with this term's learning.

## Staffing

We have some staffing changes across our partnership. Please see below for each school.

### Minnigaff

Miss Collins will soon begin her maternity leave. Interviews have been arranged to cover her position and I will let you know once these have taken place. I am sure that you will join with me to wish her well.

We are also currently in the process of advertising for a Learning Assistant to cover maternity leave.

### Creetown

Mrs Lochhead's position has also been advertised with interviews taking place soon. Please bear with us at the moment in the office. We will endeavor to respond to e-mails and phone messages as quickly as we can. Please contact us via Minnigaff office if there is anything urgent that you would like to discuss.

## Absence

It is incredibly important that we are able to record pupil absences accurately and promptly each day. Please ensure that you have notified the school via phone call prior to 9.30 am.

## Question of the Month

Please look out for a link to a Forms Question survey coming your way soon. I know that this is not a favourite task of anybody's but please take 5 minutes to complete the form. It really does help us to have your views and opinions. Please click the link to take you through to the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQctawUZKeUdHol0OTxFhyLQINJDptpUNEZIQ1A2TTBNOTAyMUw3V0IYOvVKMIIRMC4u>

## Coffee and Cake

Thank you to those who came to help me eat the cake and biscuits last term. I have put another couple of dates in the diary for anyone who would like to come in for coffee and cake this term. It is very informal and is usually just a chat over a cuppa – sometimes we take about school and other times about our interests – conversation topics really are up to you.

Creetown Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm

Minnigaff Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm

## **School Committees**

As part of our progress towards ensuring pupil voice and offering opportunities to lead change and improvement in school, we are relaunching our school committees. Each child will be placed into a committee for this session (we intend to rotate yearly so that pupils have an opportunity to be involved in more than one committee). Each committee will be supported by a class teacher who will guide progress. Committees will meet for an hour once every fortnight. Each committee will produce their own vision statement and action plan to take forwards which we will share with you.

## **Pupil Council**

Pupils have been previously elected and have already had a brief introduction to their role. They will be responsible for taking forwards aspects of evaluation in school and will work with the pupil version of How Good is Our School 4.

## **Digital Leaders**

This committee will be responsible for making progress towards achieving the Bronze Digital Schools Award.

## **Citizenship**

This committee will be responsible for making progress towards achieving the Bronze Rights Respecting Schools award.

## **Go Green/Sustainability**

This committee will be responsible for achieving progress towards Keeping Scotland Beautiful awards.

## **Scots Poems**

All children are busy learning their Scots Poems. Class competitions will be held with the winners moving forwards to the Galloway Music Festival. P7 winners will represent their schools at the Newton Stewart Burns Federation competition in Penninghame Primary.

## **World Book Day/Drop Everything and Read**

This year World Book Day is Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. We will be encouraging pupils to bring their favourite book into school to read and share with others. Everyone can come dressed for snuggling up to read in pyjamas/dressing gowns and slippers if they would like to.

I would like to invite parents and carers into school to share books with the children. Come and read to small groups/talk to children about books you enjoyed as children or types of books you enjoy now. Our Drop everything and read session will be held in both schools on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 at 2pm – we hope to see you there.

## **Assemblies**

The Reverend Lyons will be coming into school to take assemblies from this month onwards.

## **Business Education**

This term, all children will be learning about aspects of business and enterprise. As such, the whole school will be taking part in a jam making and production project as part of their learning. This is

intended to develop and enhance skills for life, learning and work. We are hoping that we can invite members of our community in to share in this project.

Please remember, if you have any questions or queries then please get in touch via the school office. We will be more than happy to hear from you. Take Care.

Joy