



Darvel Primary School

Darvel Primary School Newsletter
Term 1 Issue 1
October 2021

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Welcome to our new look monthly school newsletter!

We hope you find the information and news helpful. Please let us know if you would like any other items featured in the newsletter. Remember to check the school app for updates and diary dates and events.

Health & Safety Updates

Jewellery



A reminder that all jewellery should be removed for all PE activities. As staff are unable to remove earrings for pupils can parents or pupils either remove these before school.

Lunches

Currently most pupils eat their lunches in the classrooms. We will be moving to using our lunch hall over the next couple of weeks. Pupils will be kept updated of any changes that impact them. Lunch times will remain the same.

P1 Drop off and Pick Up

We would ask P1 parents to now leave the playground once they have dropped their child off in the morning, thank you. The children are lining up well and they are becoming very independent in doing so. We understand this may still be difficult for a few children, please make staff aware so that we can assist.

Parents can still wait until their child enters school but we ask that you do this by waiting on the pavement opposite the playground on the hill and not in the playground.

Outdoor Class Zones

From Monday 25th October, we will be removing our playground zones as per guidance from East Ayrshire. This means that pupils can now play with pupils from other classes. We will retain our existing rota of two breaks and two lunches. The zones could be used again in the future should there be arise in Covid cases. Pupils will be informed this week of which playground they will be in.

Photographs

Sharing Photographs of Pupils

We are keen to start sharing photographs of pupils taking part in various activities across the school. Unfortunately we are still waiting on photo permissions being returned which is preventing us from sharing photographs. A reminder please to return the photo permission form to the school office as soon as possible if not already done so.

Photographer Visiting the School

We have booked a photographer to take pupil photographs on 16th/17th November. More details to follow.



School Communication

Class newsletters will be posted on class glow blogs on the first of each month. They will be in a tab at the top of class blogs.

A whole school newsletter will be posted on the school blog in the middle of each month. This will provide parents with communication every two weeks. A link to the school blog can be found here -

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/darvelprimary/>

Homework for all classes will begin on Monday 25th October. All homework will be posted on class blogs. P4-7 homework may include links to the their class Team.



Please Vote for Us!

The Discover Darvel Group on Facebook have the following link which allows you to vote for our school. They have £10,000 available through the Darvel Lottery Funding.

Our bid is for £5000 towards the improvement of our playground. Please vote and tell your family and friends to vote for us too!

Thanks to Mrs McGregor for putting our bid in.

<https://discoverdarvel.com/darvel-lottery-voting-winter-2021/>

Maths Week Scotland 27 September—3rd October

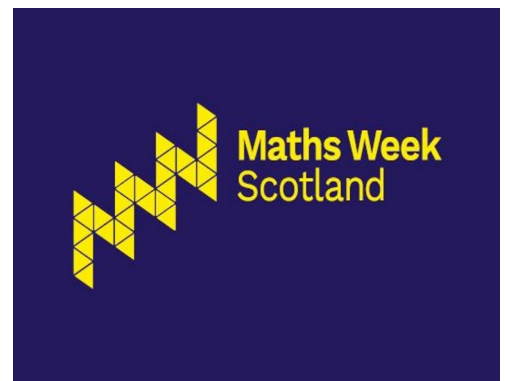
<https://www.mathsweek.scot>

Our pupils had a great time participating in Maths Week Scotland.

Mr Orr has produced a video highlighting our participation in this.

You can find it here -

<https://sway.office.com/KhsRMAfyXPUboLbL?ref=Link&loc=play>





Celebrating Success

Wider Achievement

Each month we would love to share pupil successes and wider achievements in this newsletter.

At Darvel Primary School we aim to recognise and celebrate the achievements of all our pupils both in and out of school. We would, therefore be delighted to hear about your child's achievements, whether that be sporting, musical, volunteering, caring for others or any other special news that makes you proud.

If your child has a success that you would like us to share in this newsletter please click on the link below to complete a form. Please remember to write in a contact number as we may wish to contact you for more details.

By clicking submit you agree and give permission for your child's first name and photograph, if applicable, to appear on our School Newsletter/School App/School Blog/Twitter page/Virtual News & Virtual Assembly.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/darvelprimary/wider-achievement-and-celebrating-success-form/>

Pupils of the Week

We currently celebrate in school pupil success through our pupil of the week slot in our virtual news on a Monday. We will now be sharing this with you on our main school blog each Monday after the pupils have been told.

Virtual News & Virtual Assembly Update from Mr Orr

Supporting our Wellbeing programme in the current climate, we deliver aspects of our school's emotional and mental wellbeing content through two virtual programmes. These programmes are prepared by Mr Orr and feature several sections which the children are familiar with and provide opportunities to engage learners.

We also utilise the opportunity to provide our primary seven pupils with the opportunity to assist with the points awarding and leadership aspects of this - while the assemblies are overseen by our SLT and CAs within the school.

Virtual News provides an opportunity to share with the school community important Information for the week ahead. This includes our weather section which lets pupils know what to expect for the week ahead - and will, often, have a reminder that a jacket will be required. Our travel news - typically reminds pupils about how to move around the school, but also including reminders about safe travel to and from school and 'crossing' information.

Virtual News and Virtual Assembly include the following features—



Further items that appear include :-

Pupil of the Week, is an opportunity to celebrate the success of one pupil, per class, each week, for an aspect of school life that their teacher has recognised as particularly noteworthy.

Class of the Week, provides a means of celebrating class team success, ties in with points given for each of the 3 sections of the day - the reward for this is an additional outdoor learning break time.

Virtual Class of the Week - this is awarded each Thursday and is based on the number of points each class earns for their participation & answers during the VN & VA programmes.

Adult of the Week - this is an opportunity for members of our school community to answer a set of questions so that pupils get to know the staff a little better - particularly since we are not able to have school gatherings at the moment. The questions for our 2021/2022 Adult of the Week participants have been made up by some of our classes!

Zone Talk - this section updates pupils about information linked to the playground.

Danger Zone - this section gets each class to tell their monitors dangers that they can spot from either a picture or video clip. The situations have included at school, in the home, road safety, safety in the countryside. Each Danger Zone reminds the pupils that being able to spot dangers is a means of keeping them safe.

Seated Movement - this has included Brain Gym, Finger Fitness, seated Tai Chi & each week there will also be some seated just dance.

Thinking Thursday - this section is presented by Jerry the Giraffe and gets the pupils to have to think to spot a pattern, answer a question, solve a message from emojis and other such challenges.

Music Time - the focus of the music section is to develop rhythm as singing is still not permitted in classrooms.

Just a Minute - as the title will indicate - Just a Minute is a section where each class is given 'just a minute' to complete a particular task, list as many of a particular thing or a general aspect of competition where they work together against the clock to earn points. This will, in many occasions link to the theme of the month or our school rules.

Where did you go? - this section is aimed at encouraging and developing focus & memory. This can be following the ball and deciding which cup it is under, or finding which object has been removed from a set.

Meditation - each of our Virtual programmes finish with a short meditation to improve the pupils' mindfulness and help settle them for their teacher returning to class.

Our September theme has been Superhero September and the stories that have been included, along with some of the challenges and tasks have related to this.

Our October theme is October Kindness (O.K.).

New for October: Writer's Block - this block/section will take some examples of writing created by our pupils at Darvel Primary and share them with the school.

Hallowe'en

Friday 29th October — Pupils can come to school dressed up if they choose— further details will follow on the school app.



Homework

Teachers will be posting some homework tasks on class blogs from Monday 25th October. We are currently reviewing homework and will be seeking parental views on this soon.

Here is a link to the class blogs.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/darvelprimary/>