

Chief Executive: Eddie Fraser

## Lainshaw Primary School & Early Childhood Centre

Head Teacher: Mr Jason Johnstone

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Monday, 28 August 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Term 1 Newsletter

What a wonderful first week back at Lainshaw we have had! The children have settled back into the routines of school life incredibly well and are already making progress in their next learning steps. I would like to extend a huge thank you to you all for supporting our school uniform policy; the children look very smart and ready to learn in our school colours. Though the weather did not favour us last Monday morning, our new P1 children and families had a super start joining us in the hall for photos before heading off to begin their Primary School careers; well done to them and to all the family members who supported them and held back those emotional tears as you waved them goodbye. As we head into Term 1 fully, I would like to take the opportunity within this newsletter to share some important information and key dates coming up.

#### **Communication**

Our Safer Schools Scotland App is our primary method of communication and is used by all schools in East Ayrshire. This can be downloaded from your app store. When you have it, search for Lainshaw Primary School; you will then require the code 9690. This is where important updates, letters, questionnaires, lunch menus and much more is shared. East Ayrshire Council promote sustainability and as such, we aim to be a paper-free school. However, if for any reason you require paper or email copies of any communication, please just pop into or call the office and your name can be added to list for the whole year. This first newsletter is being sent out as a paper copy in an aim to reach everyone at first. You can also follow us at @LainshawPS\_Ecc on X (formerly Twitter).

#### **Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

We are delighted to invite parents, carers and pupils along to our first school event of the year. 'Meet the Teacher' is an informal chance to put a face to the name of your child's teacher, find out a little bit about what your child will be learning and experiencing across their school year and spend time in their classroom environment.

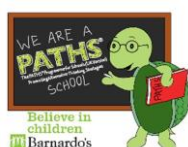
The event will take place from 6-7pm. The hour will be split into three 'Meet the Teacher' sessions; 6-6:20pm, 6:20-6:40pm and 6:40pm-7pm. This enables families with more than one child in the school to meet each of their teachers.

A bell will ring to signal the start of each session and will ring again 5 minutes before the end of the session to allow you time to move to the next class if you are meeting more than one teacher. This is not like Parents' Night with a one to one appointment; there will be many other parents/carers in the classroom at the same time. Teachers will be sharing some of the resources used in the class, plans for learning across the year and will happily answer any of the common questions you may have at the start of a new school year as they chat with all of you.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible!

#### **P1 Learning Information Session**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, parents and carers of our new P1 are invited to join us for an information session aimed at helping you support your child's learning in P1. The event will include information on how we develop early literacy skills and how you can support this at home, as well as an interactive outdoor



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learning session lead by teaching staff. This event runs from 2:30-3:30pm and a crèche will be available for the afterschool portion run by our school support staff. We hope you can join us.

### **Homework**

Following parent/carer consultation last year and Parent Council input, our approach to homework will remain the same this session. Children in P1, P2 and P3 will receive weekly homework supporting literacy and numeracy skills. Children in P4-P7 will receive homework grids in 4-week blocks. The grids will include a variety of literacy, numeracy and other curricular area activities which can be completed at any time over the 4 weeks allowing you to fit homework in when it best suits your family life. Homework will begin for P2-7 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August. As term 1 is shorter, P4-7 will have one **4-week homework grid** beginning on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August and then a **2-week homework task** issued on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Homework will begin for P1 after the P1 Learning Information Session has taken place. If you have any questions about homework, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Superstar Award Focus and House Points**

Lainshaw pupils are wonderful and we are constantly looking to recognise and celebrate the successes of our children in school. Every week, children from all classes are selected to receive 'Superstar' Awards at assembly. Each term we have a new focus for children to work on for this award and this term we are focusing on following our school rules. The children have collaborated on refreshing our school rules which will be shared during our assemblies this week. Additionally, children can also help their House earn House points throughout the year. These are given as purple tokens for all sorts of efforts, achievements and demonstrating our school values of kindness, honesty and respect. All staff will now also carry one 'golden star' token per term which can be given to any pupil at any time for 'going above and beyond' and is worth 100 House points. At the end of every term, the winning House receives a House treat!

### **Parent Consultations**

Every term, we aim to have an opportunity for parents and carers to have contact with teaching staff and be involved in their child's learning and progress. In term 1, we hold 'Meet the Teacher', in terms 2 and 3 we have Parents' Night Appointments and in term 4, we have full written academic reports. Last year, in support of parent/carer views, it was agreed that the first Parents' Night appointments would be face to face and the second would be a telephone appointment. Feedback following this approach suggested that face to face appointments might be preferable for both consultations. To this end, a simple questionnaire will go out as a Glow form on our School App - week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> September to gather parent/carer views again to inform our plan for this session. We will notify parents/carers of the outcome before the September weekend.

### **Mobile Phones**

We understand that many of our pupils bring a mobile phone to school so that they are contactable by parents and carers on the way to and the way home from school. We are happy to support this as long as children switch the phone off immediately before they enter the school grounds and place it safely in their bag. Once they have exited the school grounds at the end of the school day, they can then take their phone out of their bag and turn it on. We have a duty to safeguard all our pupils and we would be unable to supervise the content children are accessing on independent and individual devices hence the need to keep them in school bags until out with the school grounds.

### **PE Kit**

Class PE days will be shared separately on the School App and additionally via Class Newsletters which will come out next week. PE Kit includes shorts, trainers/sand shoes and a t-shirt. This can be stored in a separate gym bag and left in the classroom. Please label everything including insides of shoes. For our younger children, it can be very difficult for them to change into a t-shirt from a shirt. When they know their gym days, it would be helpful if you could send them to school in a polo-shirt. East Ayrshire Council policy is that children cannot participate in PE with jewellery on therefore must remove it, including earrings. We are not permitted to tape over earrings or help your child remove them. If your child has recently had their ears pierced and cannot remove their earrings by themselves, unfortunately they will not be able to take part in PE.

### **Rights Respecting School Award Accreditation**

Over the past year, staff and pupils have been working incredibly hard to promote understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and embed this knowledge into our way of life at Lainshaw Primary. We have already had our work recognised with a bronze award but on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Larman and her RRS Pupil Group will be taking part in an online accreditation interview with the aim of

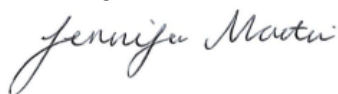
achieving our silver award. I hope you will join me in wishing them the very best of luck but I know all their hard work will speak for itself!

### Term 1 Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Involved
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>6:30 – 8:30pm</b>	<b>Parent Council Meeting (held in school)</b>	<b>All parents/carers welcome</b>
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>6-7pm</b>	<b>Meet the Teacher</b>	<b>All parents/carers and pupils</b>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>2:30-3:30pm</b>	<b>P1 Learning Information Session</b>	<b>P1 parents/carers</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>9:30-10:30am</b>	<b>Parent/Carer School Evaluation Session (further details will be released separately)</b>	<b>Any parent/carers who would like to get involved in school improvement</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>		<b>Holiday Weekend</b>	<b>Full school</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>MacMillan Coffee Morning hosted by P3/4, P4 &amp; P7 (further details will be released separately)</b>	<b>All parents/carers/family/friends welcome</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Dress Down (pupils can come to school in casual clothes)</b>	<b>Full school</b>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>		<b>Last day of term. School closes at 3pm for October break.</b>	<b>Full school</b>

A bumper newsletter for term 1 but we hope this information helps you to plan out the next 7 weeks, enables you to feel fully involved in school life and able to comfortably support your young person. Session 2023-24 is definitely underway!

Kind Regards



**Mrs Jennifer Martin**  
Depute Head Teacher  
Lainshaw Primary School and Early Childhood Centre