



Date : 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
Ref : KJM NEWSLETTER 001

TO: ALL PARENTS

### PUPIL ANNUAL DATA CHECK

Pupils will today be issued with Annual Data Check Forms that list the personal and contact information we hold about your child. It is very important that the school holds up-to-date information, especially in relation to medical details, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and emergency contacts.

If you do not have an e-mail address registered with us, we would encourage you to provide one to allow us to circulate school correspondence directly to you by e-mail.

If your circumstances or any personal details change at any point during the school session, you are obliged to notify the school office at your earliest convenience.

Annual Pupil Data Check Forms should be returned to the school office by **Friday 25th August 2017**.

### ABSENCES

We would ask parents whose children are absent from school, due to ill health to ensure that they **notify the school each morning of their child's absence by 9:30am**. Other absences e.g. medical appointments should be notified to the school in writing or by telephone prior to the appointment day. I would also ask parents to ensure that **at least one week before an absence** has been planned for, they **request a "Notification of Short Term Withdrawal of Children from School"** form from the school office. This greatly aids teaching staff in ensuring they can plan appropriately for children being off.

### CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNAL DAY

Following discussion with teaching and no-teaching staff last session, it was decided to make changes to the internal day of the school and to implement these this session. The purpose of this was to provide more balance across the school day, to be able to better timetable subject areas across the week and to ensure that breaks were not too close together. The structure of the day in Tolsta Primary School is now as follows:

School Starts	9:05am
Morning Break	10.45am – 11.05am
Lunch	12.30pm – 1.35pm
School Closes	3:30pm

### ROOKIE ROCKSTARS

Staff and pupils were absolutely delighted with the success of "Rookie Rockstars" during the last week of Session 2016-17. Pupils remained motivated and enthusiastic throughout the last week of session whilst learning about important Anti-Bullying messages. I would also like to thank those parents who supported their children by attending the joint concert which was put on by Rookie Rockstars with the children of both schools at Sgoil a' Bhac.





### **TOLSTA SCHOOL NURSERY**

As a result of very low numbers in Tolsta Nursery, Mr Bernard Chisholm met with nursery parents on two occasions last term to discuss nursery provision within Tolsta. A consultation which was undertaken via Survey Monkey with parents of children in the nursery and including parents of children aged 2 years and over who were living in the community, was carried out and a decision was arrived at. Tolsta Nursery would remain open one day a week with the majority of children who could attend being able to do so on that day. The language of the Nursery would also be changed from English to Gaidhlig. Mrs Anne Ramsay would remain as the Play Leader in Tolsta Nursery and would also take over as the Play Leader in Sgoil Àraich Loch a Tuath, based in Sgoil a' Bhac. We are delighted that the nursery in Tolsta did not completely close its doors and look forward to nursery children continuing to attend each Monday.

### **SUPPORT FOR LEARNING ARRANGEMENTS**

Last term I informed parents that Mrs Diane Smithyman would be joining the Tolsta Primary School staff this session as our Support for Learning teacher. Due to staff shortages across the Local Authority Mrs Smithyman has now been given responsibility for those pupils with Complex needs based in Sandwickhill School. In her place Mrs Emma Fall has agreed to undertake the Support for Learning role this session. Mrs Fall will fulfil her Support for Learning duties on a Monday morning.

### **TOLSTA PRIMARY SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM**

As a result of the falling roll within the school, the decision was made last session to reduce the number of Houses in the school from four to three. Children will therefore be allocated to new houses from the start of this session as the numbers of pupils in the current houses are somewhat unbalanced. We hope to intimate new houses to pupils at Assembly on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.

### **NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY**

As in previous years we will continue the practice of there being a non-school uniform day on the last Friday of each month in order to help raise funds for the Parent Council. The first of these will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Pupils are encouraged to donate £1.00 each for the privilege of not wearing their uniform on that day.

### **BIKE ABILITY**

We would ask that only those pupils who have completed Bike Ability Training should cycle to school. I would encourage parents to ensure that children who do cycle to school wear appropriate safety equipment, particularly their cycling helmets. I would also remind parents that children are not allowed to ride their bikes in the playground of the school as this poses a danger to other children. I would ask parents to discuss these matters with their children so that pupils are clear about what is/is not allowed. I am hopeful that we may be able to organise Bikeability Training for our current P6's earlier in the session.

Leis gach durachd

**Kirsteen J. Maclean**  
Head Teacher



