

# Dysart Primary School

## Newsletter Jan-March 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have had a busy start to 2024 with our annual Scots Afternoon. It was a great afternoon with a special panel of judges – David Torrance MSP, Elizabeth from Fife Libraries, Mrs Mooney who previously worked in our school office and Mrs Taylor who was a teacher here for many years.

The judges were very complimentary on how well the children performed and behaved, which is always lovely to hear. Your child should have sent home a special achievement certificate in recognition of learning a poem. Some of our children visited a local care home to entertain the residents with their poem recitals and our P7s attended a cluster ceilidh with children from local primary schools.

In addition to our visitors on Scots Afternoon, we also had a visit from The Fife Flyers Ice Hockey Team and started weekly visits from Fischy Music who will be delivering music sessions on a Tuesday to each class in the school.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries. We look forward to seeing you in school this term.

Warm Wishes

*Mrs J Thompson*  
Headteacher

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

To ensure our pupils achieve the best possible outcomes we are currently striving to improve the level of attendance and punctuality at school.

**Our target for this session is 90% and this session's current pupil attendance is 90.19**

Unbroken attendance at school is important for learning and progress. At times absence is unavoidable especially when children are unwell. If your child is unwell and needs to be absent please contact the school office by telephone, Groupcall text (07860 003737) or Parent Portal. Where attendance falls below expected levels we will inform parents via letter and offer supports. Please let us know if we can support your child's attendance in any way

### **Parent Support Group**

On the last Thursday of every month we are holding a support group in the Community room for parents/carers of children with additional support needs. Local supports and agencies are invited along to share information on what is available to support parents/carers of children with additional support needs.

### **Seesaw**

Children's Learning Targets are posted on their Seesaw Learning journal by the end of week three every term. At least three examples of learning will be posted to show your child's progress towards their targets. It is much appreciated when parents like the post by clicking on the heart ♥ or comment on your child's work.

### **Healthy Tuck Shop**

Our pupils on our Pupil Council group have shared their thoughts on snacks and drinks at school and would like to promote more healthy eating by starting a Healthy Tuck Shop. They are currently planning the menu for the tuck shop by carrying out surveys with all of the classes. The tuck shop will start around mid-February and run on Mondays-Thursdays. On a similar note, a reminder that children should not be bringing energy drinks or fizzy drinks to school.

### **Uniform**

It is expected that all children will wear full school uniform to school. Children should always bring a warm and waterproof coat. \*Please label and mark all clothing & belongings with child's initials or name and class\* We have a large collection of lost property at the front office. Please feel free to check this.

### **Gym days**

P1/2 - Wednesday  
P2/3 - Wednesday  
P3/4 - Monday  
P5/6 - Tuesday & Thursday  
P6/7 - Tuesday  
P7 - Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

### **Breakfast Café**

Breakfast café will continue to provide a free breakfast to pupils, from 8.30am in the dining room. We gently encourage children to try and come before 8.50am so they can eat their breakfast with others before going to class.

### **Water Bottles**

We ask that children bring a water bottle each day. Children have regular opportunities to be active in school so need to be well hydrated.

### **Soft Finish**

All parents/carers are invited to join their child in their class for a soft finish on **either** Tuesday 5th March **or** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March from 2.20pm - 3.00pm. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to spend some time in the class with their child sharing their learning. We are offering two dates in the week to provide a bit of flexibility around parents who have commitments and to avoid classrooms becoming too busy.

### **After School Clubs**

Currently we have the following After School Clubs available. If you wish your child to take part, please contact the office staff.

- |                   |        |                     |                     |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • <b>Ballet</b>   | Monday | 3.05pm - 4pm (P1-3) | 4.05pm - 5pm (P4-7) |
| • <b>Football</b> | Friday | 3.05pm - 4pm (P1-3) | 4.05pm - 5pm (P4-7) |

### **Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy**

Thank you for your feedback on our positive behaviour and relationships policy sent via email last term. Please see examples of parents' feedback below:

*"I feel that the school offers a variety of strategies to promote positive behaviour. My children both talk of ways in which success has been celebrated and also of strategies that have been used to help de-escalate situations."*

*“Fully support the positive approach and celebrating successes. I think the restorative approach can be very effective when done consistently. Thank you for sharing.”*

- 92% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that our Behaviour and Relationships Policy clearly explains the approaches we use at Dysart Primary School.
- 84% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that Seesaw is an effective tool in sharing their child/children’s achievements in school. A minority of parents felt it was not as well used for their child’s class. We discussed this as a staff to ensure this is more consistent across all classes.

### **Learning Partnership Success**

Last term, the nursery and school had a learning partnership whereby 5 Headteachers from Fife and other Local Authorities visited our school and nurseries to quality assure the work of the school and nursery. I am delighted to say this was very positive and highlighted key strengths such as:

- Children felt staff knew them very well and would notice quickly if they were sad or in need of support. Children felt confident staff would help them to feel better. Children could talk confidently about the ways to get support in school – fix it folder, calm corner, buddy bench, teacher box.
- Children were able to use the language of learning and could talk about what they were learning and how to be successful. The Dysart Primary Four Part Lesson Model was displayed in all classes and referred to throughout the learning.
- Children could talk confidently about the school’s values of ready, respectful, safe and the learning powers of being resilient, reflective, responsive and resourceful.
- Most children engage very well in learning. Learning is meeting the needs of most children and a range of supports are in place in nursery playrooms and classrooms.
- Approaches such as pre-teaching in numeracy and 1:1 reading are supporting children who benefit from support to make progress.
- The leadership team and staff engage well with partners (Enable, YMCA, Cottage Therapeutic Service, Family Wellbeing Team and Community Social Work) to develop plans and strategies to support individual children.
- There is evidence that staff professional learning is having a positive impact on learning, teaching and assessment.

Next steps were also identified as:

- Further develop the use of digital technology to support learning.
- Feedback could be developed further across the curriculum to ensure children know how to take their learning forward.

### **Communication with the school**

We would encourage you to get in touch if you have any questions, feedback or concerns. You can get in touch via a range of communication methods.

- **Seesaw** – you can message your child’s keyworker or teacher on Seesaw with anything non-urgent. The keyworkers and class teachers check these messages regularly. The class teachers will often post class information on here, for example, gym times, changes to timetables, trip information, etc. Class Teachers check these messages between 3 and 5pm normally so if you wish to pass on urgent information this is best done via the office.
- **School Office** – please contact the school office if you would like to discuss anything with your child’s keyworker, class teacher or Principal Teacher/Headteacher, this can be done via phone (01592 583426) or at the school reception.
- **Email** – email the office directly at [dysartps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:dysartps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)
- **Groupcall** – the school office sends regular communications through Groupcall. This will come to your mobile phone as a text message or your email address. Please keep these details up to date with the office.

### **Term 3 Dates**

12 <sup>th</sup> January	Fife Flyers Ice Hockey Team Visit P1-7
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns Afternoon – Poetry Finalists will perform as part of the celebration
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	P7 Ceilidh In Viewforth High School
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Parents Support Group in Community Room at 9.15am
26 <sup>th</sup> January	P6/7 Athletics competition – Michael Woods Centre
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Scots Afternoon in school for pupils
6 <sup>th</sup> February	All classes from P1-7 will have Music Sessions from Fischy Music every Tuesday from 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Speak out Stay Safe Assembly for all pupils P1-7
14 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day – School is closed to pupils
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School Holidays – School is closed to pupils
29 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Support Group in the Community Room at 9.15am
5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Soft Finish from P1-7 2.20pm-3.00pm (more info in newsletter)
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Visit from Fire and Rescue Service for pupils
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Creative Dance Show P7. P6/7, P5/6, P2/3 and P1/2 parents invited to attend in school
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Night 3.30-5.30
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Night 3.30-5.30
21 <sup>st</sup> March	P4-7 Pupils performing in Cluster Fischy Music Concert (more information to follow for parents)
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Ballet Club performing at Fife 5,6,7,8 Dance Festival @Lochgelly Centre (PM)