

**Term 2 Newsletter**  
**November – December 2024**



Dear Parents, Carers & Families

I hope everyone had a relaxing October break and that this finds you all well.

I am thoroughly enjoying being back in our school full time, although still adjusting to the new routine. I have already managed to take a wrong turn at the end of my street, finding myself on the road to Methilhill!

This term is always a busy one in school and at home as we adjust to the dark nights and for those who celebrate it, prepare for **that** time of year **yet again!** It feels as though this year has passed in the blink of an eye!

This time of year, is expensive and we are all acutely aware of the financial challenges faced by many of our families so in keeping with previous years there will be no charge for Christmas parties.

Christmas Jumper day will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please do not go out and buy a Christmas Jumper especially for the event, we have some in school and you would be amazed at what my fabulous team can upcycle with a wee bit tinsel and a bauble – everyone who would like to join in will look festive, even if your child chooses to wear their jammies!



My Staff Team have once again asked that I let know that they would prefer that you did not buy them Christmas gifts this year. Whilst your kindness is always appreciated, we know that there will be many more expenses that are far more important.

I have put together some information that I feel is relevant and diary dates to keep you informed of any up and coming events.

If you require any further information on any of these items or wish to discuss any aspect of school with me then please do not hesitate to contact me on 01334 659420, or by email at [jil.simpson@fife.gov.uk](mailto:jil.simpson@fife.gov.uk)

### **Severe Weather**

In the event that we need to close our school as a result of severe weather or in an emergency, one of the methods that we will use to inform parents and carers is our Groupcall texting system.



If you change your mobile number can you please let the school office know so that we can update our records?

Information for parents and carers about school closures can be found on [www.fifedirect.org.uk/closures](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/closures).

It is also important that we have up to date contact details just in case we need to contact you in an emergency, or in the event that your child is ill. Thank you.

### **Place of Safety**

Every term we have a fire drill and carry out a full evacuation of our building. Many of you will know that we gather on the Astro, which is our identified area in the event of a fire, where we would wait until the fire service arrived.

However, I also have to make contingency plans to keep children and staff safe in the event of a fire, or any other emergency, if we cannot get back into our building.

Our place of safety is St Kenneth's Parish Church, Cupar Road, Kennoway. The Church Office phone number is 01333 351372.

### **Open Session**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open Session on 1<sup>st</sup> October. In all classes, most parents/carers who requested a half hour slot attended. The sessions were not as busy as I would have hoped, which may have been as a result of some of our families being on holiday.



However, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

### **Lost Property**

Our lost property container is already overflowing with lovely coats, jackets, sweatshirts, jumpers...so many items that have no names on them.

Please make sure that items are clearly named, as it makes it easy for us to return it. If you would like to have a look through our lost property pile please pop in.

### **Staffing Update**

Sadly, Miss Hope leaves us on 15<sup>th</sup> November to take up a new post much closer to home. Miss Hope has been a member of our Team since 2019 and whilst we will miss her tremendously, we wish her every success as she joins Midlothian Council.



Miss Kelly will take up post in P2A, along with Mrs McConnell until the post is filled.

Mrs Incesu (Nursery) and Mrs Livingston will both be leaving us temporarily in November and December to rest up and relax before they welcome their new babies.



### **Attendance & Lateness**

Fife Council has given us our new attendance target for 2024-25. It is 89.8%.

In August we reached 96.35% and in September our figure was 90.82%

Whilst I appreciate that our children catch bugs and colds and sometimes need to be at home, I am hopeful that we will reach or even exceed our stretch target this year!

We continue to monitor attendances across the school and we will keep in touch with families. I do ask that if your child is absent please contact the school office or use the Absence Groupcall Text number – **07860 003771** to let us know why your child is not in school otherwise they will be recorded as an unauthorised absence.



I also ask that everyone makes a big effort to get to school on time.

We sometimes have a never-ending stream of latecomer's and whilst I know lateness can be unavoidable at times, I worry that in some cases lateness has become a habit.

Coming in through the front door in the morning is not a short cut and children should be encouraged to get around to their class lines by bell time.

### **Diary Dates**

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00am P7 Community Remembrance Service
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	5.45pm – Friends of Kennoway Meeting
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	IN-SERVICE Day
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	5.45pm Parent Council Meeting
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	1.45pm P1 Parent/Carer Numeracy Workshop 2.15pm – P1-3 Stay & Play
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	3.00pm Friends of Kennoway Christmas Fair
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	AM - School Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am - P3-7 Christmas Concert 1.45pm - P1 & P2 Singalong/Nativity
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm - Nursery Singalong
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper/ Jammies Day.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	PM - P5 & P6 Party 5.00pm - P7 Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	PM - P3 & P4 Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning - P4 and P6 Pantomime PM - P1 & P2 Party
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Parties



**School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December for the holidays & opens again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Together we Succeed!

Kind regards

Jil Simpson

Headteacher



*Merry*  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
*New Year*

