

Term 3 Newsletter

January – April 2025



Hello Team Kennoway!

I hope everyone has had a good start to 2025 despite Storm Eowyn causing disruption to our lives.

As you know in Kennoway HQ we are always busy, and Term 3 is no exception as we continue to focus on teaching and learning to make sure that we get the best possible outcomes for our children.

If you have had the chance to look at our improvement priorities on our school website you will know that we are continuing to work hard on raising attainment in Literacy and Numeracy but we are also focusing on Expressive Arts (Drama, Art & Design, Music and Dance), Technologies and Health & Wellbeing.

We are working together to plan how we assess all of the subjects within our curriculum in the same way we assess and report on Literacy & Numeracy.

We have a new system for tracking our children's attainment and achievements across all 8 subjects and the end of year Curriculum for Excellent Report that you will receive will reflect this work.

On 15th January we welcomed a group of 6 Headteachers and Senior Leaders from other schools to help us to evaluate our work in Expressive Arts and Health & Wellbeing in school and Digital Technologies in our Nursery.

Our guests visited all classes and main Nursery rooms to observe the teaching and learning and play experiences.

They spoke with staff groups and a group of children too.

Our feedback was very positive indeed. Our visitors were very impressed with the positive relationships across our building and with the fact that our Kennoway CARES values were very much reflected in everything we do in Kennoway HQ. The standard of behaviour was high.

In Nursery it was noted that all children were purposefully engaged in play experiences and all children across the 3 rooms were well supported.

In school, our staff were praised for their explanations, questioning and feedback. It was also noted that all of the learning we have done to date as a staff team could be evidenced in our learning spaces.

Our children spoke positively about Outdoor Learning and how they enjoyed working across stages and classes.

Our next steps included continuing to further develop Digital Literacy Family Engagement opportunities in Nursery and continue to plan opportunities for our children in P1-7 to say how they can be successful in their learning tasks.

As you all know, I am always proud of our achievements and of my staff and children, but it is really lovely to hear visitors to our school speak so positively about our school community.

Being the best that we can be is important for all of us. We know what we need to do to help us improve and we are all over it!

Staffing

Sadly, Mrs Ramsay will be leaving Kennoway to take up a permanent teaching position in another Fife school.



Mrs Ramsay has a temporary contract to Kennoway PS and Fife Council are rightly very keen that colleagues who are permanent to Fife Council but temporary in schools have the opportunity to have a permanent school contract when a vacancy arises. Unfortunately, there is no permanent vacancy in Kennoway at present.

Although the timing around this is not what we would have hoped for, I am pleased that Mrs Ramsay has been offered a permanent post in her locality.

Mrs Ramsay's last working day in Kennoway will be Friday 7th February.

Mrs Ramsay has been a member of our Teaching Team for over 5 years. She will be sorely missed by our children, staff and the wider school community.

I have advertised Mrs Ramsay's post and until interviews and an appointment to the post has been made, we will cover the class as consistently as possible, with school staff.

Mrs MacPherson, returns to Nursery following her maternity leave on 3rd February.

Mrs Livingston has welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Iris, into the family and Mrs Incesu is now the proud mummy of gorgeous baby Zak.



Nursery has welcomed Ms Jones as an EYO and school has welcomed Miss Wood to the Teaching Team.

Miss Kilpatrick will be returning to school after half term as Mrs Alick. We wish Miss Kilpatrick and her husband to be all the very best for a wonderful wedding day.



Attendances & Lateness

As a Team we have been carefully monitoring attendances across P1-7 and I have already written to and met with some families to highlight the amount of time children have been absent from school between 21st August 2024 and 17th January 2025.

This year the Council has set us an attendance stretch target of 89.8%.

The amount of days of missed learning in Kennoway is quite astounding and very concerning.

For every child who has not reached the 89.9% stretch target I have calculated the total number of days of learning lost for each class.

The figures are as follows;

P1A – 113.5 days

P1B – 96 days

P1/2- 171 days

P2A – 118 days

P2/3 – 95.5 days

P3A – 76.5 days

P4A – 51.5 days

P4B – 214 days

P5A – 127.5 days

P5B – 183.5 days

P6A – 95.5 days

P6B – 137.5 days

P7A – 237 days

P7B – 82.5 days

P7C – 210.5 days

That gives us a total across P1-7 of 1,920 days of learning lost as a result of absence!

Even falling slightly below that target, 87% attendance for example, is still the equivalent of 11 days absence since August and we are not even half way through the school year yet!

I know children get ill, holidays are planned and unforeseen circumstances at times mean children cannot be in school; however, I am sure that you will understand my concern, especially when we all want our children to achieve their potential in their learning.

Remember “Together we Succeed”!

Relationships & Learning

The Staff Team and Pupil Council have been working to update our Relationships & Learning Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy to reflect our very positive ethos and culture in Kennoway. These documents have been shared with Parent Council but remain in draft form to allow us to give further consideration on how we best support all children, our staff and parents and carers. Once we have completed this work I will share with our wider parent and carer group for further feedback.



Parking

I have been asked again to remind parents, carers and families who travel by car, to be mindful of parking across driveways.



A Hill Road resident has been in touch to express their concern about the fact that they cannot get in and out of their property at the beginning and end of the school day because of cars parked across their driveway.

Whilst I have advised our neighbour to take their complaint to transportation, I do feel a responsibility to remind everyone to be courteous when parking.

Diary Dates



30th January – 9.40am P1-4 Burns Assembly/11am P5-7 Burns Assembly

4.30-7pm – Parent Teacher Interviews

31st January – 1.45pm P6 Burns Supper

4th February – P6 & P7 Brass Players Music Festival 9.15am

Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30pm-6pm

12th February – IN-SERVICE (whole school closed to pupils)

13th/14th February – Half Term Holiday (Early Entrants open)

17th February – P1/2 & P2 – Art Gallery Visit

18th February – Parent Council Meeting 5.45pm

19th - 21st February – Childsmile Fluoride Varnishing

28th February – Lad, Lass & Attendants Voting (PM)

3rd March – Book Week begins/Book Fair arrives

6th March – World Book Day

7th March – World Book Day celebrations

18th March – Rotary Quiz 6.30pm at Levenmouth (P7)

19th March – Big Strum at Rothes Halls (P6)

20th March – 6, 7, 8 Dance Festival at Lochgelly Centre 6pm

4th April – Church Assemblies 9.30am P5-7 / 10.30am P1-4

Our school closes for the Easter break at 3pm on Friday 4th April and reopens on Monday 21st April.

Kindest regards

Mrs Jil Simpson
Headteacher