

Term 1 Newsletter
August – October 2026
Reset. Refocus. Restart.
Our Parents & Carers as Partners



Dear Parents, Carers & Families

Welcome back Team Kennoway!

I hope everyone managed to have a good break over the summer whether spent at home or away.

Thankfully the weather was kind to us, which I feel makes all of the difference!

As you all know, the return to school is a welcome one for me. I am always glad to welcome back our children, our staff Team and parents, carers and families. It amazes me how quickly we get back into the routines of school and before we know it, it is time for the next holiday!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Parent Open Evening on Tuesday 29th September 4-6pm.

Information about this and how you can book a time will be coming your way very soon.

I have put together a few items for your information.

This session Mrs MacDonald will have responsibility for our Nursery, P1 and P2, Mrs Lamb will oversee P3-P4/5 and Mrs McGonagle will be Depute for P5-P7.

Should you wish to get in contact with me directly you can email me on jil.simpson@fife.gov.uk

I continue to be Child Protection Co-ordinator for our school. Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Lamb are Depute Child Protection Coordinators; however, all staff have a safeguarding responsibility for all children.

I am delighted to share that during the summer holidays, Mrs Sharon Hunter, Early Years Lead Office was appointed permanently to Kennoway.



We also welcome Miss Paterson to our PSA Team on a temporary contract. *Welcome*

A New Start

Our P1 children have had a **very** positive start to school and are already confident with some of our routines. They are walking smartly around our building, and have already joined us for 2 Whole School Assemblies. Almost all have coped well with the transition from Nursery and this is due to the great work undertaken by our Early Years Team, my P1 Staff and you as parents and carers. Thank you.



Our new Nursery children have also started and are also managing really well in main Nursery and in Early Entrants. I am feeling very proud indeed!

School Uniform

Although School Uniform is not compulsory, and should never be a financial burden, our children have returned to school looking so smart, with almost all of our children wearing our school colours – it makes me so proud and I really hope that this is something we can sustain throughout the year.



P7 Leavers Hoodies are now available to order.

Attendance & Punctuality

I know that you will agree that regular attendance and arriving at school on time are crucial in establishing and maintaining the routines of school and maximising opportunities to learn.



If your child does need time off school it is important that you let us know the reason why. Please contact us before 9am if possible so that teachers can be made aware and registers can be completed appropriately.

If you do not contact us to inform us either by phone, text or email then you should expect to receive a text message or call from our Office, which will alert you that your child is not in school. I ask that you respond to the text by contacting school to let us know why your child is off.



The number for texting this service is **07860 003771**.

Please note that this number should only be used to inform us of absence.

If your contact details or address have changed over the holidays then please inform the school office so that we can update your contact details on our system.

The Scottish Government advises that all children should attend school for 90% of the time and with this in mind I will regularly monitor attendances and punctuality across the whole school and keep in contact with parents about this. Last session our overall attendance figure was 89.26%.

During the last full week before the summer holiday there were 206 recorded lates over a period of a week, which is totally unacceptable.

Please do your best to get your children to school on time as all of these lost minutes make a BIG impact!

I would also like to remind everyone that the front door should not be routinely used a point of entry into our school, unless this is part of your child's plan and agreed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Children should make their way to their lines even if they are arriving on the bell or just after. There is still time.

Seesaw & Showbie

Almost everyone will be familiar with Seesaw, the platform that we use for sharing learning, information and updates.

In Kennoway, this will be the final year of Seesaw as we move over to a free platform called Showbie.



We will take the time this year to develop our confidence as we get to grips with a new system, and we will also offer our parents and carers the opportunity to hear more about Showbie as the year progresses.

In the meantime, Seesaw remains our main communication platform and I would encourage everyone to sign up!

School Grounds Reminders

I really love dogs, but can I just remind everyone that dogs (even if they are carried or very small) are not permitted in our playground and smoking is not permitted in our school grounds.



This includes the use of electronic cigarettes and vapes.



Our children know that they should not ride their scooters, bikes etc. in the playground at the beginning or end of the school day when it is at its busiest with children, adults, prams etc. I would appreciate it if you could support this.

Headlice

From time to time we have an outbreak of "visitors" in Kennoway, in fact we have already had an outbreak of headlice in our building.



I would encourage all of you to continue your regular checks but should you and your child find yourselves in what can be a distressing situation, then please remember that you can register for minor ailments at your local community pharmacy and receive treatments, combs and bug buster kits for head lice, free of charge.

Medication

If your child requires medication (which must be prescribed by a Doctor or Chemist under minor ailments), that needs to be given in school or nursery, parents/carers must ensure they complete the appropriate paperwork before any of our staff can administer or supervise medication. This includes inhalers.

I would also ask that you ensure that any medication is in date.

Please ask school office for the form.

Breakfast Café

Breakfast Café is open to children and adults, free of charge from 8.15-8.45am.



The menu offers toast, cereal, fruit, milk, and water.

Please be aware that once children have finished their breakfast, they will return to the playground where there is no adult supervision. Children will not be permitted to remain in the hall.

Harvest

Our P3 Team will be organising collection for Levenmouth Foodbank as part of our Harvest celebrations. If you would like to donate anything, your items will be gratefully received by Mrs McKay, Mrs MacKinlay and our P3 children.

Car Park

Those of you who have known me for a while will know that it would not be a newsletter without a moan about the carpark!

Our Car Park is first and foremost for the Staff Team.



We are fortunate enough to have spaces protected for blue badge holders and I can understand frustrations when these spaces are taken by anyone who does not hold the necessary permit. I appreciate that these spaces are handy for access to Nursery or the main door to School but if you are not a blue badge holder you should not be parking your vehicle in these spaces.

I also do get complaints from our neighbours in surrounding houses when cars are parked across their driveways, which is understandable.

I know that parking around our school is a challenge but please park respectfully and safely. We are more fortunate than many other schools.

Improvement Priorities 2026-27

The focus for our new school year continues to be **Reset. Refocus. Restart.**



A new school year is an ideal opportunity to think about “*how we do things around here*” and with this in mind we have a clear plan for moving forward, improving our school and generally being the best that we can be in Kennoway HQ. Our expectations are high and we are, as always, ambitious for our children.

This session we are focussing on how we can improve children’s progress in Reading & Writing.

We hope to further develop and strengthen Outdoor Learning across our school.

Our new P6 Team were issued with their 1:1 device before the summer break and we hope to continue to develop our learning, teaching and assessment processes to make best use of the digital technology that we have available to us. High quality teaching, learning and assessment across all classes in our school is a key feature of our improvement work. We will continue to support all of our children to engage and participate in learning and plan how we can offer some additional strategies for those children who need it most.

The Scottish Government will be launching an update to improve our school curriculum for children and young people aged 3-18. This undoubtedly will impact our direction of travel as we take account of any changes and what that might mean for learning and teaching.

At various points in the year we will be consulting with and gathering views from our children, families, staff and our partners to make sure that our improvements are working and making a difference.

Our school improvement plan and our evaluations from last school session are available on our website.

It is safe to say it is going to be another busy year!

Achievements

Along with the improvement priorities above, we are keen to launch a new reward system in Kennoway HQ. Star Awards and Star Pupil have been around for a long time and we think it's time for a fresh approach!

A group of staff have been working together to come up with ideas.



We are also hoping to develop a system where we can record and track our children's achievements in and out of school. We need your help!

We appreciate that not all children feel confident enough to share an achievement out of school, so we are relying on you to contact us to let us know what your child is involved in out of school.

Lost Property

Last year we collected a "mountain" of lost property that was probably worth hundreds of pounds. Despite my many requests to label children's items, most were not labelled or claimed and ended up being donated to our Nursery Rag Bag Collection.

Please label children's belongings.... everything!



It makes it so much easier to return items to their owner.

This session we are hoping to take a new approach to lost property, to make it easier for children and families to reclaim their items, however any lost property that is not named or claimed by the end of each term will continue to be donated to our Rag Bag Appeal.

Diary Dates

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| 1 st -3 rd September | – Child Smile (P1-7) |
| 8 th September | – Natural Connections Begins (P7) |
| 15 th September | – Tempest Family & Individual Photographs
6pm - Parent Information Evening for P7 Residential (P7s welcome too!) |
| 24 th September | – Cluster League Mixed Football/Netball at Levenmouth (4-5.30pm) |
| 8 th October | – P4 and P5 Mixed Football/Netball at Levenmouth (4-5.30pm) |
| 9 th October | – School Harvest Assembly at 9.30am (Parents & Carers all welcome!) |



Our school closes on Friday 9th October at 3pm and begins again on Monday 26th October.

Together we Succeed!

Kind regards

Mrs Jil Simpson
Headteacher