Our Vision and Values

.

|  |
| --- |
| Knowledge  Dear Parents/Carers  As we begin the last term of the year, I’d like to thank you for your continued support throughout this session. Our children have achieved and attained throughout the session and will continue to do so right up until the end of term. Please note changes to Sports Day in the Dates for your Diary Section. |
| **Staffing**  Mrs Laura Dobbie (PSA) will be absent from school for the foreseeable future. We are all missing her and wish her well.  We have appointed a new member of staff within our PSA team, Mrs Vicky Shepherd and also a supply member of staff Mrs Jess Talbot.  Our school continues to be organised over three departments.   * Mrs Tracy Westwater has responsibility for Nursery-P1 * Mr Stuart Thynne has responsibility for P2-P4 * Mrs Lesley Rae has responsibility for P5-7 * Miss Sharren Maxwell Attainmnet Fund Acting DHT   **Appointments**  If you would like to speak to a member of staff please come to the school office, call or email to make an appointment. Also, if you see or hear anything in the playground that is a cause for concern **please do not approach children or parents/carers, please report this to a member of staff.**  **Transition**  Our P7 Transition is already under way, including enhanced transition opportunities. A timetable has been shared with our P7 children and families. This is a great opportunity for children to meet staff from the high school and meet and partake in activities with other children from different schools before they embark on their high school journey.  Our P1 children will soon be starting transitioning activities including a parent information session. Mrs Westwater will share this information as part of the nursery newsletter.  This term we will also have our usual Meet the Teacher days where children have the opportunity to meet their teacher for session August 2024. Information on classes and teachers will be shared in due course. |
| **Improvement Priorities 2023-2024 Progress Update**  Our improvement priorities and Scottish attainment funding priorities are informed by parent/carer feedback, evaluations with teachers and children and our school data. Our school improvement priorities for this academic session are:   1. **A consistent approach to high quality literacy experiences**   **Progress**   * Staff have engaged in professional learning with cluster colleagues in writing * All classes are using whole class rich vocabulary text to teach literacy * We have purchased PM writing resource to support the teaching of writing * Four teachers have observed teaching writing at the stage they are working at. This has then been shared with all teaching staff at the in-set day in November. * All teachers have started the structured planning format to support children’s writing  1. **Develop health and wellbeing approaches to meet the needs of children, families and staff**   **Progress**   * The Cottage Family Centre are working within the school supporting children and families * Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 is being delivered to our P7 children * Emotion works being further developed throughout the school * Kit Bag and Lego Therapy being used more consistently to support children * All staff have completed health and wellbeing audit regarding regulation strategies * All staff have been involved in wellbeing sessions to support their own wellbeing * Pupil voice group have contributed their views to developing health and wellbeing in our school and ELC * All staff attended an input on Regulate, Relate, Reason to support understanding children’s emotions, brain development and strategies to support * Children across the school are being trained in regulation strategies that they are then sharing with their class and at assemblies. * Staff and children have been gathering evidence in order to achieve our Gold Sports Award. We will keep you updated on our journey * Mr Thynne is team teaching with all teachers supporting outdoor learning with a focus on numeracy  1. **Develop the use of digital technology across the curriculum**  * All teaching staff have taken part in digital technology workshops that they identified they’d like to upskill in * A few staff members are attending digital training with colleagues throughout Fife * Pupil Voice Group have contributed their views to developing digital technology in our school and ELC * Two teachers presented at a Headteacher meeting, sharing our good practice in digital technology   Our Scottish Attainment Fund targeted priorities for this session are:   1. **Improve attendance**  * An attendance intervention has been put in place to support children to attend school more * Breakfast club is available free of charge to families who have been contacted  1. **Raise attainment in reading and writing in P4 and P6**  * Targeted interventions are in place for targeted children * We have a Principal Teacher working across the cluster who works with our P4 cohort to raise attainment in writing * Targeted literacy skills intervention is underway with cohorts of children in P4 and P6 * IDL (International Dyslexia Learning) has been used with targeted cohorts of children throughout the school  1. **Raise engagement in learning**  * Staff have been supporting children with a more consistent approach throughout the school * Identified children participating in nurture and wellbeing groups * Outdoor Learning Partnership created that is supporting a targeted group of children with their wellbeing and achievement |
|  |
| Wellbeing and Respect  **School Meals**  A reminder that school meals are now free for all children in P1-5. For all other year groups, the cost of a school lunch is £2.40. Please use the iPayimpact system to order and pay for lunches. If you think your child is entitled to a free school lunch then please apply through the following link for P1-P7  <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants>  **Milk**  Milk is available for all children in school at a cost of 25p per day. This should be paid termly at the end of each term for the following term through iPayimpact. You will be made aware of when the milk fund is open and if you would like your child to have milk this should be paid through iPayimpact. If you are finding iPayimpact difficult to access then please contact the school office.  **Breakfast Club**  Our Breakfast Club is on each day from 8.30am at a cost of 60p per day and is supported by our Dinner Ladies and our Pupil Support Assistants. Please access via side door at the front of the school.  **After School Clubs**  Currently, we have Netball, Twirling, Cross Country, Karate and Football. We also have a Family Time After School Club organised by The Cottage.  Spaces for clubs are communicated to all parents/carers via email and most will have a link to complete and apply. Spaces are limited and therefore we can’t guarantee a space. You will receive a confirmation email when a space is provided.  **Please note that after school clubs do not operate on the last week of term.**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Monday | New Generation Twirlers | P1-3 3.05pm-4.05pm  P4-7 4.05pm-5.05pm | | Tuesday | Active School Football Development | P5-6 3.05pm-4pm | | Thursday | Netball | P7 3.05pm-4.00pm | | Thursday | Cross Country | P5-7 3.05pm-4.00pm | | Friday | Karate | P1-P7 3.05pm-4.00pm |   **Allergies**  In our school community we have some individuals who have nut allergies. Please ensure your child’s snack or lunch is nut free. This includes spreads that contain nuts.  **Online Safety**  Throughout the session, there have been discussions and learning with children regarding online safety. The links below takes you to some useful websites to support parents/carers to support children staying safe online.  <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>  <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/digital-family-basics-setting-new-tech>  <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  **Vision, Values and Aims Refresh and Behaviour and Relationships**  As you know, after consultation and previously shared in Term 3 Newsletter, we have now added **Respect** to our Values and have agreed a set of Aims. We now have Respect, Knowledge, Wellbeing, Perseverance and Success.  As children and parents/carers of our school we expect and appreciate children and parents/carers to follow and support our school values and discuss these with children at home. This supports relationships and behaviour in school and ensures a consistent approach, a positive learning environment and a safe environment throughout the school for all children and staff.  As part of our Relationship and Behaviour Policy (see attachment) staff members may contact parents/carers to discuss incidents and ask for your support.  **Fife Council Violence/Aggression Statement**  I’d like to bring your attention to Fife Council’s Statement on violence and aggression and a reminder that this behaviour is not acceptable in any Fife Council School or establishment. These posters are displayed in Fife Schools. All children and staff should feel and be safe in school/place of work. We expect and appreciate your support with this matter.  **The Cottage Family Centre Partnership**  Please see below activities and dates for this Term     |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Date | Time | Activity | | Every Tuesday | 9.30am-11.30am | Health and Wellbeing Group | | Every Tuesday | 1.30pm-2.30pm | Parent and Child Group (under 3s) | | Every Thursday | 3.15pm-4.30pm | Family Time (all ages welcome) | |
| Successes and Achievements  **Achievements**  Children continue to celebrate achievements through the R, K, W, P and S values and badges and the four capacities from the Curriculum for Excellence. The four capacities achievements are considered by the children based on their own sense of achievement in one of the following capacities: Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Responsible Citizens or Effective Contributor. Class teachers can support children to acknowledge their individual achievements. These are celebrated at assembly and shared in your child’s PLJ each term.  **Achievement Progress**  We are developing the way we record children’s achievements. Please click on the Microsoft form link (below) and complete for any achievements out of school for your child/children. This will remain live for the entire session to allow parents/carers to add achievements throughout the session. This allows us to keep track and celebrate children’s school and wider achievements. Staff in school will record achievements in school. <https://forms.office.com/e/nmNbMwYRLn>  **Basketball**  Our Basketball Team qualified and went on to win the West and Central Fife Schools Clusters Finals. A fantastic achievement!  **Cross Country**  We had two P7 teams compete at the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships. They all tried their best, finished the challenging course, and enjoyed the day! Great Achievement!  **Twirlers**  We have many of our Twirlers receive certificates for successfully passing levels at our New Generation Twirling Class. Brilliant achievements for our Twirlers! Some of our Twirlers will be taking part in a show at Adam Smith Theatre this term too.  **West Factor**  We all thoroughly enjoyed The West Factor organised by P7B. It was a fabulous performance with all of our participants doing a fantastic job. The event raised over £480 towards school funds.  **Dance Festival**  Almost all of our children took part in the Dance Festival at Balwearie High School. Performing on the stage in front of a large audience provided a great experience for all of the children who participated. |
| **Attendance & Punctuality**  **Our overall attendance for the year so far is at 89.26%. This has slipped slightly from my last update. Our stretch target for this academic session is 91.1%. We can do it!**  Regular attendance and arriving at school on time are so important 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. You can contact us to inform us either by Parents Portal free app, phone, text or email. If we have not heard from you then you should expect to receive a text message or call which will alert you that your child is not in school. Please respond to the text by contacting the school to let us know why your child is absent. Attendance and punctuality are monitored and in the event of any cause for concern the school will contact parents and carers. |
|  |
| **Dates for your Diary**  Please see below for a general overview of Term 4. You will be notified of any additional activities throughout the school year. Please note dates are subject to change and you will be notified of any changes as soon as possible.  Please note our Sports Day will be held at Starks Parks on 29th May with a reserve date of 7th June at Starks Park   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **May** | | | 6th May | Holiday | | 9th May | In-Set Day (school closed to children) | | 15th May | Shared Finish (P1-4) 2.15pm-2.45pm | | 16th May | Shared Finish (P5-7) 2.15pm-2.45pm | | 29th May | Sports Day, Raith Rovers, Starks Park Stadium 9.30am-12.30pm (weather permitting) | | 28th May | Parent Council  (staff room, all welcome 6.30pm-7.30pm) | | **June** | | | 3rd June | Holiday | | 5th June | Olympics Day (Whole School) | | 7th June | Reserve Sports Day, Raith Rovers, Starks Park Stadium 9.30am-12.30pm (weather permitting)  parents/carers welcome) | | 11th June | Race for Life (AM) (Whole School) | | 25th June | P7 End of Year Assembly Linktown Parish Church (P7 parents/carers welcome) | | 26th June | P7 Leavers’ Disco 6.30 -8.00pm |   **School Holidays 2023/24**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Break off School** | **Return to School** | | Friday 6th October 3.05pm | Monday 23rd October | | Wednesday 20th December 3.05pm | Thursday 4th January 2024 | | Thursday 28th March 3.05pm | Monday 15th April | | Friday 28th June 3.05pm | Wednesday 21st August |   **Additional Holidays and In-Set Days (School closed to children)**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Monday 6th May | Holiday | | Thursday 9th May | In-Set Day | | Monday 3rd June | Holiday | |
| Once again, thank you for your support. It is important that we work together to get the very best for our children and families here at Kirkcaldy West Primary School. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us by phone on 01592 583432 or email at [kirkcaldywestps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kirkcaldywestps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)  Kind Regards  Elizabeth Thomson  Headteacher |