

# The Pilmuir Post

December 2019



## School Improvement Plan – We belong to Pilmuir Primary School

The school improvement plan has three areas which we are going to concentrate on over the next session.

Priority 1: Engagement and Participation - Shared leadership of learning and developments across our school by key groups to increase pupil, staff and parent participation for improvement.

Priority 2: Safe, Respectful, Supported - All children are supported to be *the best that they can be* in a safe, rights respecting and nurturing school environment supported by adults who know them well.

Priority 3: Ready to learn and achieve - Approaches to learning, teaching, assessment and moderation are collegiately reviewed and strengthened, building appropriate pace and challenge to meet learning needs.

The school is being supported closely by the Authority to drive forward the improvement agenda.

Education Scotland are piloting a new approach to supporting schools in Scotland. In Moray four schools have been invited to participate including Pilmuir. This is an exciting opportunity for the school and we are looking forward to working closely with a number of very experienced people.

## Friends of Pilmuir

The Friends of Pilmuir Annual General Meeting will be held next Thursday September the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm here in the school. It would be great to have a big turn out to show support for the hard work which is completed every year. A committee exists and is the driving force behind all the events which take place. This committee is also the Parent Council for the school and supports the school and helps represents the parent views on the improvement plan.

Please come along and hear more about what it does and how you could help out.

## Staffing

We have had a lot of changes as we start the new session. We have three new teachers. Mrs Franklin teaching P3, Mr Lake who has P6 and Mrs Bywater who teaches P4 three days per week. Mrs McKenzie has also joined us as an Inclusive Project Coordinator. She will organise and provide extra support for a range of pupils to help them be included more effectively in school life.

The Nursery is now managed by Mrs Ashworth and there have been a number of appointments.

## Vision and Values

At the end of last session we carried out a survey of parents/carers, staff and pupils to help us refresh our Vision and Values. These have been collated and we now have a new set of Vision and Values. Our next job is to refresh our displays and the headings we use on all communication. The Vision and Values will provide a focus for way we operate.

We are Team Pilmuir and our values are teamwork, responsibility, respectful, supportive, kind and fun. This means whenever we consider our work these values must be at the fore front of our thinking.

## Homework

We are going to trial a new approach to homework this term. The children will be asked to complete reading at home. This may be a group reader in preparation for work in class, an Accelerated reader or it might be both. In the early years classes there will be phonics work sent home so the children can learn rhymes and songs. The older classes can take home their spellings but there won't be any formal written tasks set for completion at home. All formal work linked to spelling will be completed in class. At the end of the term we will complete a survey to gauge parental opinion and we will then decide the final format which home work will take at Pilmuir.

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will run as normal this session.

The doors open at 8am for the children. They are in the Hall with Ms King until 8.45 when they go out into the playground until the bell rings at 9am. The playground is not supervised at this time. The office is manned so if anyone needs help they can come to the office. The cost is £1.50 for your first child and then 50p for each other child.

## Extra In-Service Days

The school will be closed on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of September. These are extra in-service days to allow time for development of the school. During the days the staff will have input from Education Scotland. They will lead work on our new Vision and Values. This will help the school to move forward with the nurturing approaches identified as being key. Staff will also work on annual planning, progressions and self evaluation.

## Uniforms

We have noticed that fewer pupils are wearing school uniform. At a time we are trying to promote a little more pride in the school, it would be great to get as many pupils in uniform as possible.

If anyone has old sweatshirts they would be happy to donate, please bring them into school and we will put them to good use.

## PE kits

Please ensure that your child has kit for each PE session - a t-shirt, shorts and with a change of gym shoes for indoors.

## Playground

Please keep dogs out of the playground and away from the entrances to the playground as some children are frightened of dogs. Thanks for your understanding.

## Bicycles

Children should push their bicycles through the playground in the morning and after school. The playground is very busy and we have had a few close misses. Please remind your child about this as we want everyone to be safe.

## Car park

The car park is currently restricted to staff and blue badge holders only. This will be in place until the building works are finished. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## Dates for the diary

### December

Tuesday 10	P1-P3 Nativity show 2pm
Wednesday 11	Christmas Jumper Day P1—P3 Nativity show 9.45am Christmas lunch 12 pm
Monday 16	Pantomime Lunch at 11.15 No home lunches