



Annick Primary School

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Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to another year at Annick Primary. A special welcome to all our 'new' pupils and parents joining the school this session (*56 new P1 pupils and 6 new P2-7 pupils*). Our new pupils seem to have settled into the school very well and everyone has been busy getting to know new teachers and classmates. **We start the new session with 373 pupils.**

Listed below are some further items of news/information which may be of interest to you. All pupils have been issued with **paperwork that must be completed and returned to the school by Friday 31st August 2018 at the latest.**

1. (a) **Pupil Administrative Information Update** (*white paper*)

All changes in circumstances should be clearly noted on the Data-check Sheet by parents/guardians. Also, please include postcodes with addresses.

(b) **Parent Consent Form** (*green paper*)

We are using a generic form this session to cover **all** outings, press coverage etc. However you will receive a specific Information Letter for each outing/activity involving your child.

(c) **ICT Consent** (*blue paper*) - *For New Pupils and P4's Only.*

(d) **Text Messaging/Email Address** (*yellow paper*) - *For New Pupils Only*

Please note that we aim to send Newsletters/Correspondence by e-mail again this session, so including an e-mail address would be most helpful.

We will also continue to provide a Text Messaging/Email Service for parents.

(e) **Photography Permission Form** (*white paper*)

This is a new form this session to comply with the new data protection law recently introduced. Please read this and complete the agreement form.

2. **Staffing**

(a) Congratulations to **Mrs E McKinnon** (*formerly known as 'Miss Burns'*) who got married over the summer!

(b) We welcome **Mr D Lynas** to the school: Mr Lynas will be teaching **P3B** with **Mrs Watson** this session.

A welcome too to **Mr D Creighton** who will be with us for two days a week initially (*reducing to one day in the autumn*) working with P2B and **Mrs Mitchell**.

Also joining our staff is **Mrs L Murphy** (*three days per week*) as our **Pupil Support Teacher**.

Mrs Callander is leaving Annick PS at the start of October to work elsewhere.

Just a reminder that I shall be continuing with my 'winding-down' arrangements. This session I'll be in school Monday – Wednesday each week with **Mrs McGregor** taking on the **Acting Headteacher** role each Thursday and Friday.

(c) We are currently compiling our short-list for two Classroom Assistant positions which we are funding through our delegated 'Pupil Equity Fund' monies. Hopefully, we shall have two new classroom assistants in post in the near future.

(d) Unlike the vast majority of session 2017/18, I'm delighted to inform you that we start the session **fully staffed!**

3. School's Texting System - Group Call Messenger 5

Messenger gives schools the ability to send personalised text messages (SMS), Emails, automated Voice Calls, Push Messages and Tweets (*via Twitter*) to the mobile phones and landlines of parents, staff and key contacts.

It allows recipients of messages to respond to the school and provides a full audit trail of all communications. For example, *the line can be very busy in the mornings, you could send us a text to advise your child is off today along with the reason why.* **Contact us on 07860 051356**

Parental App

Groupcall Xpressions App (FREE) is the parental app within Groupcall Messenger. It makes communication between a school and parents easier and more effective.

It's free for parents to download and can be installed on mobile phones and tablets.



It **saves money** as push messages are **FREE of charge** to send (*and can be multi-lingual*).

Download the App today and help support your child's school to save money on texting.

Please go to - <http://parents.groupcall.com/> **OR** go to your Mobile App Store

4. Pupil Medication

A reminder that parents should contact the school and complete the appropriate paperwork ahead of **any** medication being taken in school time. The school can only administer medicines **prescribed by a doctor** and in its original packaging.

5. (a) Uniform

As always we are strongly recommending that all children come to school in **our uniform of red sweatshirts and grey trousers/skirt** (*black jumper/cardigan plus shirt & tie for our P7's*). With the vast majority of pupils wearing the school uniform, the '*peer pressure*' issue should not be a factor and tracksuit bottoms, expensive trainers etc, are very much the exception rather than the rule.

While on this subject, could I ask parents to **mark all items of school dress and shoes** (*plus bags/water bottles etc*) with their child's name/initials. We have a large pile of coats, sweatshirts, polo shirts which were lost last Term. If these items are not reclaimed by next Friday then staff will have to make yet another trip to the charity shop. Our new red jackets are particularly confusing to pupils. It would be most helpful if parents could '**customise**' their child's jacket in some small way **eg.** *coloured wool/reflector/key ring attached to the zip tag.*

Our School Handbook contains the following information on school dress:

"It is the policy of North Ayrshire Council to support the introduction of a reasonable and flexible dress code in each school in its area. The Council believes that establishing a school dress code has many benefits. These include improvements in safety, security, discipline and community spirit and a decrease in bullying and expense for parents.

The Council will support schools in encouraging and helping pupils to conform to the chosen dress code. Some types of clothing will not be allowed at school in any circumstances, for reasons of safety, decency or discipline.

Types of clothing which will not be allowed include: -

- *Clothes which are a health or safety risk.*
- *Clothes which may damage the school building.*
- *Clothes which may provoke other pupils.*
- *Clothes which are offensive or indecent.*
- *Clothes which encourage the use of alcohol or tobacco.*



Further to this, we have noticed a trend towards pupils wearing more and more jewellery to school. Expensive items of jewellery are obviously not a good idea in the school environment (*see above*).

However, it is the **safety** aspect of the wearing of jewellery which concerns me most. All children taking P.E. in the school, or attending after school sports clubs, **must remove all jewellery** before taking part. If a child is unable to remove their earrings, necklaces, rings or bangles then that piece of jewellery should not be worn to school on the day of the P.E./Sport activity.

Serious damage can be caused by jewellery being 'caught' on a piece of equipment or by a hand etc. '**Loop**' or '**dangling**' earrings are a particular problem even in the playground. For our more senior pupils, we would ask that parents ensure that their child's P.E. clothing is 'age appropriate'. A trend towards USA style 'Cheerleading' clothing is not to be encouraged.

Our pupils take part in a variety of outdoor learning experience in the school grounds. Therefore, a pair of **wellington boots** and a **waterproof jacket** are both required.

Parental support in this matter would be appreciated.

(b) Annick 'Uniform Station'

All 'lost and donated' uniform has been freshly laundered and is available for parents to take, free of charge from the school foyer. Any parent who needs a wee help with school uniform is most welcome to take any jumper/cardigan etc. required free of charge (*poly-bags are stored under the trolley*).

We intend having this as a permanent feature therefore anyone who has 'excess' uniform (*too small etc*) can hand this into the school to be reused by others.

Thanks for your support in anticipation.

6. Vehicles In And Around The School



Parents are not allowed to park cars in the school grounds unless they have a 'Disability' badge (*in which case, please ensure that the Disability badge is clearly visible*). Only staff, disability badge holders and NAC contract taxis can be accommodated in our carpark.

Parents are asked to consider the safety of all pupils when dropping off/picking up children. Residents around the school have experienced disruption in the past due to inconsiderable parking by parents (*particularly in Mansfield Way and Maxwell Green*). Please help the school to be good neighbours to local residents.

7. Parent Helpers/Volunteers

As always the school requires the support of parents/friends helping our pupils in their class work or working with our support staff. Anyone who can spare some time during the week should contact the school office. My thanks to the parents who have already offered their time. **Parental help is urgently required this session** - *particularly to support our infant classes in their free play/structured activities.*

8. Pupil First Day Absence Procedures

These procedures came into effect in September 2004 and concern the school receiving information about a child's absence on or before the first morning of the absence.

- I. *If a child is to be absent for some planned reason (eg. doctor's appointment) parents are asked to let the school know well in advance by note or telephone call.*
- II. *If a child is unwell and has to stay off school suddenly then parents are asked to contact the school **by 9.30am** on the first day of absence.*
- III. *If no reason for a child's absence is forthcoming by 9.30am on the first day of absence the school will attempt to contact the parent in order that the child's well-being can be established. This will of course be a very difficult job for the school without the co-operation of parents.*
- IV. *If the school is unable to establish the whereabouts of a child by **10.00am** then the Attendance Officer will establish the safety and whereabouts of the child, confirm that the parents are aware of these procedures and report back to the school as soon as is possible.*
- V. *Parents are asked to contact the school the day before an absent child returns to inform the school of the pupil's return.*

9. Parent Curriculum Information Sheet

A note of the specific work your child(ren) will be tackling within their class over the coming Term will be sent home on **Monday 3rd September**. This information sheet will be provided at the beginning of each Term this session. During September all our classes will be undertaking topics which will have a focus upon 'Social Studies – Place and Society'.



10. Bicycles to School

Only P6 and P7 pupils may bring their bicycles to school unaccompanied. All other children must be accompanied to and from school if cycling. All bikes must have a security chain and children are not allowed to cycle within the school gates.

Of course, any child cycling to school should be wearing a cycle helmet. If a parent of a 'non P6 – P7' pupil wishes their child to cycle to/from school then a letter to this effect should be sent to myself.

11. Non-Smoking

All of the school campus, both internal and external, is now a no smoking zone.



12. P7 Residential Trip to Arran Outdoor Resource

This has yet to be confirmed for this session. Hopefully, we should be able to inform P7's, and parents/carers, soon if this residential visit is possible for 2018/19.

13. 2017/2018 Main Prize Winners



All main prize winners should return their trophies to the school by **Friday 28th September** in order that names can be engraved and the trophies displayed in the school foyer.

14. Water Bottles

We have four water dispensers situated across our Open Areas which the pupils can access at any time. The water is chilled and filtered. Therefore, please send a plastic sports bottle to school with your child(ren).



15. P1 Pupils

- (a) Please send a **small** snack only to school with your child. Several children are bringing more than they can possibly eat/drink in the 20 minute break. Tubs of yogurt, pots of jelly and lollypops can cause quite a mess!
- (b) P1 toileting and hand washing.

Please have a chat with your child about flushing the toilet and washing hands after visiting the toilet.

16. Infant Reading Bags

All our P1 pupils have been provided with a reading bag this session; the intention is that this book-bag is used across P1-3. Please ensure that reading books, homework diaries etc. travel to and from school in these reading bags. No food or drinks should be in the reading bags. If your child's book-bag becomes damaged or is lost, a new one can be purchased for £4.00.

Please note that there is no need for our P1's to bring a 'school-bag' to school each day – a book-bag is all that is required.

17. Annick Primary Web Page

Mr. Cripps is continuing to develop our school web-site this session. We shall be posting all sorts of information covering the running of the school and the activities taking place.

18. (a) Parents in Playground Pre-9.00am

With all exits 'manned' by 8.40am there is no requirement for parents to enter the main playgrounds prior to school starting. This allows enhanced road safety, security and freedom/space for the children to play before the 9.00am bell. Parents of **new P1 pupils** are allowed into part of the infant playground during Term 1.

(b) Parents in Front Playground

Parents are asked to leave a substantial part of the playground 'open' at 3.15pm. This will allow staff to see parents and 'pass-over' P1-3 children safely. From time to time we shall put cones out as guidance.

(c) Parents in Rear Playground

Parents are asked not to come into our rear playground at the end of the day. Children should be met at the side gate or front playground. Staff have found that parents near the building towards 3.15pm have been a distraction to the pupils in their work. Thanks for your help here.

19. Dogs in Playground

Dogs are not allowed in North Ayrshire Council school grounds (*other than guide-dogs*).



20. Playground Supervision

Please note that playground supervision will start at 8.40am each morning. Therefore, children should not arrive at school before this time unless they are attending the Breakfast Club.

21. Breakfast Club/After School Club

Just a wee reminder that our 'After-School Club' is now running our 'Breakfast Club' too. Children can be looked-after from 7.30am each day. Please note the Breakfast Club is based in the gym hall (*access via door next to kitchen window*) and the **After-School Club** is now based in **Stanecastle School**.

You can contact them on 07790 604796.

22. Anaphylaxis (nut allergy)



Please take note that at least one pupil in the school suffers from this condition. In order to minimise the risk here we would ask parents:

- *not to send nuts or nut-related products into school.*
- *discuss with your child that (even though it is kind to share a playtime snack) the sharing of any food or drink must not happen at school.*

Thank you for your on-going support in this most serious matter.

23. Attendance/Latecoming

Both of these issues presented serious problems last session. We try to maximise every pupils potential, but to do this we need our pupils at school and at school on time. Please endeavour to keep absences to an absolute minimum and to ensure that your child is at school for a 9 o'clock start.

Last session we had many children who were late for school on a regular basis. This culture of latecoming has the potential to seriously affect pupil attainment and achievement at school and certainly has a negative impact upon the flow of teaching.

In order to minimise the impact upon pupils we are changing our homework procedures with all homework (*new and 'complete'*) being organised first thing each morning. Children who are late will 'catch-up' on setting-out homework tasks at break/lunchtime.

Absence and punctuality are key factors in pupil attainment and achievement at school.

24. Year Calendar 18/19 & 19/20

Year Calendars for this and next session are attached to this Newsletter; a detailed Term 1 Calendar will be provided in 'Newsletter 2' next week.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Brown
Headteacher