**Head Teacher Update August 2022**

We extend a very warm welcome back to all our families and are delighted to welcome many new families to our school this August.

The children have settled well into the routine of school again after the long holiday and it is lovely to see everyone in full school uniform. We are delighted that we now have no restrictions in place and will be able to return to a full offering of activities with partners throughout the year.

Our classes this year are as follows;

EYC – Miss Armstrong, Miss Crossan & Miss Harper

P1/2/3 – Mrs Neilson (Mon/ Thurs/ Fri) & Miss Kelso (Tues/ Wed). The P3 group will be taught by Miss McKinnon (Mon/ Tues/ Wed), Ms Kelso on Thursday morning and the whole class will join together on a Thursday afternoon and all day Friday.

P4/5 – Miss Douglas & Miss Kelso (Mon pm & Friday all day)

P6/7 – Mrs Joyce & Ms Kelso (Thur pm)

We encourage children to bring a pair of gym shoes/ trainers and shorts for PE. These can be kept in school. Children receive at least 2 hours of PE a week. PE days are

P1/2/3 – Monday & Tuesday

P4/5 – Wednesday & Friday

P6/7 – Wednesday & Thursday

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school each day which can be refilled at school.

The school day starts at 9am. The playground is supervised by Mr McKinnie and a classroom assistant from 8.50am. Please could you refrain from sending your children to the playground before 8.50am as the playground is not supervised. If it is light rain children would be expected to wait in the shelter. However, if it is pouring then the doors will open at 8.50am to let children in.

**Curriculum**

This year, as well as always striving to meet individual needs and improving attainment we aim to focus on developing community partnerships, digital learning and learning for sustainability.

Ms Kelso will be coordinating digital learning and leading the school towards a digital leaders award.

We will be aiming for our Rights Respecting School Silver Award

Learning for sustainability will be developed through refurbishment of the school garden, re-establishing our community café, continuing to care for the chickens and installation of an outdoor classroom beside the church. This will be in partnership with the Cumbrae Forum.

The children in the EYC will visit the church every week to build partnerships with the Cumbrae Forum and join one another in rhymes, singing and games. The P6/7 class will also be inviting residents to the school for a board games club once a month. Watch out because we have some fantastic Rummikub and Chess players in Cumbrae Primary!

I am delighted to announce that the Handiwives will be working with the P6/7 class on a Friday afternoon developing the children’s talents in traditional crafts.

The Playgroup 0 – 3 years will also be taking place in the parent room on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. All are welcome to this friendly group, giving parents/ grandparents a chance to meet others and for children to socialise. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Kelly Norton or Lisa Miller. We look forward to welcoming any new faces to this group.

Our outdoor learning has always been very strong and much valued in Cumbrae and we will continue to seek ways to promote this throughout the school week. However, in response to our parent and pupil survey last session we recognise that more off island trips and experiences would be welcome. Staff will aim to seek opportunities for this across the year. The Cumbrae Forum have kindly offered to fund an away day for the whole school, for which we are very grateful.

We have also booked our annual pantomime visit to the Beacon Arts Centre on Tuesday 20th December 2022 so we will all look forward to that!

Class newsletters will be distributed at the beginning of September detailing the planned learning for each class this term.

Annual data forms and off site activities permission forms will also be issued this week. Please complete and return to the school by Friday 2nd September. If you could please check all contact information thoroughly and note any changes. Please check that mobile numbers and email addresses are current as this is the only way we can contact you. Please also include as many emergency contacts as possible. Many families only have one contact but we should ideally have at least two or three.

May we wish everyone a very successful, fun and happy year ahead. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

Kind regards

Julie McAleese

Head Teacher

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