

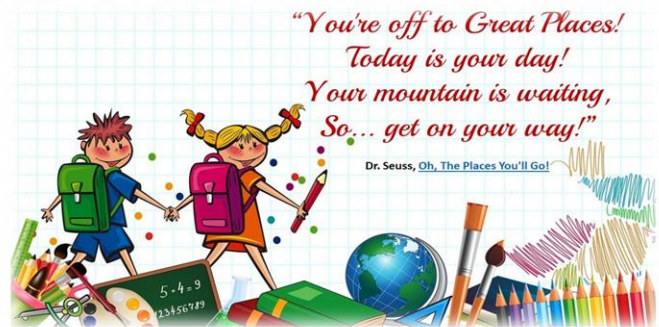
Elderbank Primary School

Newsletter – September 2023



We are all delighted that the first two weeks back have gone very well.

We have welcomed 30 new Primary 1 pupils who are all settling into the routine of school, even although some are a little disappointed that they require to come to school everyday! 😊



We are also welcoming our new Early Years pupils. It is great to see all the new faces and our older children are doing a great job of helping them settle in. We are delighted to have welcomed 10 new pupils into our Supported Learning provision. In the last two weeks we have also welcomed another 6 families to our school and we know they will be made to feel very welcome by everyone at Elderbank.

It has been great to see all children in their school uniform.

We look forward to working with all parents and carers and your child this session at Elderbank. If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the link depute head teacher or myself via the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Robertson

Head Teacher

We have a number of little reminders and information items to share which we thought would be helpful.

Informal Entry

We have an informal entry from 08:50a.m. and the children are supervised by Classroom Assistants while they prepare to be ready to learn at 09:00a.m.

Water Bottles in class

Children are encouraged to keep hydrated throughout the day. Only plain tap water is permitted in water bottles in class.

If your child prefers juice or flavoured water they will be able to access this at break times.



Stationery

The school will provide all pupils with necessary stationery supplies they need in school.

Clothing and Personal Belongings

Please clearly mark all items of clothing with your child's name and class. This is our only way of matching missing items to the correct child.



We continually encourage children to take care of their belongings. For the younger children we are helping them to be more independent and take responsibility for all items. This includes hanging items on their personal peg and bringing items in from the playground.

If your child brings home an item which does not belong to them, please return it to the school the next day so we can reunite it with its owner.

Toys

We have had a number of children bringing a number of toys from home and then being distracted in class by them. Some children then want to take these items into the playground and have been upset if they have been damaged or have been lost. To assist please do not allow your child to bring toys from home.

P.E. Kit



The class teacher will update See-Saw with your child's P.E. day. Please ensure your child has P.E. Kit on these days.

Please remember this includes alternative indoor shoes. However, we do have a supply of plimsoles, your child can borrow, to ensure all children can participate safely and participate during every PE session.

Make-up, Nail Extensions, False Eyelashes

Some of our older pupils appear keen to experiment with make-up and acrylic nails. P.E. can be challenging and a hazard with false nails. Can we please request that these fashion accessories are kept for weekends and holidays. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Parking

Access to the staff car park, is limited to NAC taxi contract vehicles and permit holders only.



There is a pupil drop off facility using the drop off lane from 08:50am. Children must alight from the vehicle promptly to allow the traffic to flow smoothly. No parking is permitted in the drop off lane at this time.

A number of parents and carers have raised the issue of inconsiderate and dangerous parking on St Kilda Bank and the surrounding streets. If you require to park, please park and stride. Parking facilities are provided at the Broomlands shops or in the streets behind the shops where you can safely walk to and from the school. This can be accessed via Lewis Rise.

Please do not park on any pavements as this also causes an obstruction for pedestrians and parents and carers with children in prams. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated as we are all committed to keeping all our children safe.

The car park will be opened at 3p.m. for any blue badge holders who do not have a parking permit.

No Nuts

Elderbank is a nut free school. No products containing nuts should be brought into school. This includes spreads.

If your child is accidentally sent to school with a snack containing nuts this will be removed and returned at the end of the school day. They will be offered an alternative.



We thank you for your co-operation as we must protect all children and staff, especially those with nut allergies.

We thought it may be helpful to provide a reminder of the overview of the class structure

Staffing – New classes

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|---------|
| P1 | Miss Girvan | Base 4 |
| P2/1 | Miss Todd | Base 6 |
| P2 | Mr Gillen | Base 5 |
| P3/2 | Mrs Cook | Base 1 |
| P3 | Mrs McEwan | Base 15 |
| P4/3 | Miss Milliken | Base 16 |
| P4 | Miss Drummond | Base 17 |
| P5/4 | Miss Kirkwood/Mrs Sharp | Base 15 |
| P5 | Mrs Swan/Miss Rose | Base 19 |
| P6/5 | Mrs Morrison | Base 18 |
| P6 | Miss Rankin | Base 22 |
| P7/6 | Miss Neill | Base 23 |

P7H Miss Hercus Base 20

P7M Mrs McRae Base 21

Targeted Support, Mr Caldwell, Mrs McHarg, Mrs McAree.

Pastoral Support Teacher - Mrs Stewart

Nurture Teacher – Mrs Symonds

Link Depute Head Teacher contacts

Miss Auld – Early Years and Primary 1 to Primary 4/3

Mrs Macfarlane – Primary 4 to Primary 7

Supported Learning Staffing

Base 11 Miss Giffney

Base 10 Miss Bembom

Base 9 Mrs McLean

Base 8 Mrs Murray/Mr Strang

Base 7 Mrs Watt

Pioneers Mrs Boyd/Mrs Jarrott

Adventurers Mrs Preiss

Explorers Mrs Ross/Miss Marturano

Link Depute Head for Supported Learning is Mrs Bain

Teachers of the Deaf

Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Quirk

Miss Robertson is the direct leadership team link for all Enhanced Deaf provision pupils and their parents and carers.

Seesaw

All children across the school and early years have a Seesaw account. This is a valuable tool for the school to share important announcement and updates. There is a facility for parents and carers to message. Messages will only be reviewed during staff working hours. We appreciate that people can be expecting an immediate response, but this is not the function of Seesaw. Absences must be reported via the school office and not via Seesaw. We appreciate everyone's support of this system.



Community Behaviour

We have been made aware that some pupils are not behaving appropriately in the community. We encourage all pupils to behave outside school as they are expected to do in school. We have contacted our Police Scotland colleagues who are visiting the school this week to speak to Primary 6 and Primary 7 about good community conduct.



Mobile Phone Reminder



We understand that some children require a mobile phone for safety when travelling to and from school, however they are not required in school. All mobile phones must be switched off and will be stored in a locked cupboard by the teacher. These will be returned at the end of the day. Some children have Smart watches and

Apple watches. All notifications should be turned off during the school day. This is the policy for everyone working and learning at Elderbank.

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council Meeting is at 6:30pm on Wednesday 4th October in the school. The Parent Council are always looking for parents and carers to become involved with their great work. So please pop along if you can. The Parent Council have planned activities for pupils.



These are:

Movie Night – Thursday 26th October

Valentines Disco – Thursday 15th February

Shorts and Shades Disco – Thursday 13th June 2023

The Parent Council are also planning fundraising activities and they will send out more information in the near future.

The Parent Council have responded to parental enquiries and clarified that the Lollipop person should be at the crossing from 08:30 to 09:15 and from 14:45 to 15:30. To ensure the safety of all children crossing, there should be no gathering of children or adults around the lollipop person at the crossing while they are working.

Parent Council Facebook Group

The Parent Council have asked all members who no longer have a child at the school to remove themselves from the group as it is a group for current parents and carers of children attending Elderbank.



Assembly

We are trialling a new format for weekly assemblies in the form of a 'Monday get together'. The classes will be sharing example of great effort or achievements. We will also be encouraging pupils to share wider achievements. Mrs MacFarlane will share more information with

you shortly on how wider achievements will be recognised and shared. Supported Learning will continue to come together and celebrate achievements on a Wednesday, with lots of singing, movement and fun activities.

Tesco Blue Tokens

We would really appreciate it if you could support Elderbank if you shop in Tesco in Irvine and you have Blue Tokens. Please choose Elderbank!



Coffee Morning

We are looking forward to the annual fundraising coffee morning on Friday 29th September. The proceeds from this event will be split equally between 'Macmillan Cancer Support' and 'The Maggie's Centre'. The Coffee Morning will run between 09:30 and 11:30a.m. We will issue a timetable when each class will be coming to the gym hall for juice and a biscuit. Some parents and carers like to come along at a similar time to their child. There is no charge for the coffee morning, but we would be delighted if anyone is able to make a donation on the day for the very worthwhile charities. There will be a raffle, a tombola and other activities with opportunities to win prizes. The coffee morning is open to all parents and carers in the Early Years and across all provisions in the school. This is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers.



Health and Safety

We are keen to work with the Parent Council to revamp the planters at the front of the school. Unfortunately a wasps' nest has been found in one of the planters. This has been treated by the North Ayrshire Council Pest Control Team. Therefore, we request parents and carers ensure they do not sit on these planters or allow their children to play around them.

No dogs in the school grounds



To ensure the wellbeing of all pupils, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds. Dogs should not be tied up at the gates as this can cause distress for some pupils.

Smoke Free School Grounds

Our school grounds are smoke free. There is no smoking or e-cigarettes (vapes) allowed under any circumstances.

This includes smoking within vehicles within the school car park.



Queries or Concerns

The pastoral Depute Head Teacher is the first point of contact for any queries or concerns. They will be happy to speak to you or arrange a meeting if required. All staff have a teaching commitment but they will respond to any calls as soon as they can.