



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the 2024-2025 academic year. Both staff and pupils are delighted to be back to school and excited to see what the new term brings.

Mrs Reid, Principal Teacher, was successful in securing a permanent part-time contract with us at the end of last term. We are delighted to share that we have now appointed Lauren Grant as our new Principal Teacher. She will share the role with Mrs Reid. We have also appointed Samantha Kinsella to our Personal Support Assistant role. We look forward to welcoming them both to our team.

As part of our School Improvement Planning this year, we are promoting and extending opportunities for Outdoor Learning. Classes will be encouraged to wrap up and learn outdoors, regardless of inclement weather. Pupils are keen to utilise all learning spaces, including the embankment, and will be actively involved in lessons including den building, fire lighting and outdoor cooking. We anticipate that pupils may get dirty in the process. Whilst we continue to develop a provision of outdoor clothing to support this, we ask that parents provide suitable outdoor clothing (ideally, waterproof) and footwear such as outdoor boots or wellies, where possible. If these could be kept in school, pupils will be able to access outdoor spaces across the week.



Pupils also engage in both indoor and outdoor P.E lessons across the week and are permitted to wear P.E kit to school on these days. However, a reminder that, if wearing P.E kit to school for the day, this should be unbranded and the wearing of hooded sweatshirts is not permitted for health and safety reasons. P.E kit for use solely within P.E lessons can be branded and separate indoor shoes should be provided for Gym Hall sessions.

In line with the timings of our school day here at West Kilbride Primary School, all pupils are entitled to a one hour break across the day, with 15 minutes allocated to morning break and 45 minutes allocated for lunch time. At present, Infant pupils in P1-3 begin their lunch at 12.15pm in order to ensure that all classes can be through during our meal service, ending their break at 1.15pm alongside upper school pupils. As a result, pupils from P1-P3 are missing 1hr 15minutes class time weekly. To rectify this, Infant lunch times will formally move to 12.15- 1.00pm on Tuesday 24th September, following the September bank holiday. This will have no impact on pupils or our catering team but will impact staff breaks and support staff timetabling.



Parking continues to be an issue on the main roadways near the school, particularly at drop-off and collection times, with many parents/carers parking illegally. We ask that parents consider safety as their main priority when accessing parking.

We are implementing a new House system this term to foster an ethos of community, respect and collegiality amongst our pupils. Each pupil will be allocated to one of four Houses, with siblings being grouped in the same House. Individual tokens will be awarded to pupils who work hard, display our school values and demonstrate respect towards the school environment and to others. These will culminate in an end of term celebration for our winning House. Pupils have voted to name the new Houses after local islands and so our new houses will be Bute, Cumbrae, Arran and Ailsa.

The support of parents/carers is vital to the success of our school and as always, we are keen to bring in parent helpers to work with our pupils across the week. If you could spare an hour or two to help, we ask that you contact the school office. Your support is very much appreciated.



Kind Regards,

Gemma Carson

Head Teacher