



Abronhill Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers,



As we near the end of term 1, I would like to say a big thank you to all of our families who have supported us in ensuring that our children have had so many positive experiences since returning to school and nursery in August. We cannot believe that we are only two weeks away from the October holidays already! We hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing break!

Communication Apologies and Improvements

I would like to begin this newsletter by apologising for communication from the school not being of the high standard it usually is. I have become aware that information has not been sent to families that should have been, or has been sent last minute, and I wish to ensure you that I am taking measures to rectify this.



I have updated the annual calendar and attached it with this newsletter so that families are aware of events well in advance. If there are any changes to this, you will be informed as soon as possible. There are some other measures I am putting in place and will let you know about these in due course. I will be seeking your views on the communication improvements next term. Apologies again for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

Nursery Class



Our nursery class continues to thrive and there are so many lovely activities and events taking place. The nursery class produces their own newsletters but parents/carers will also receive the whole school one too as there will always be information that is relevant to everyone. I would like to highlight the work that Mrs. Parszewska has been leading on 'Food For Thought' which has involved the children in taking responsibility for planting, growing and harvesting vegetables. They have also been cooking and baking too. There are plans to extend on this and you will continue to be updated by the nursery class staff. Our children have been benefitting from taking part in a range of activities, including a focus on positive mental health and wellbeing by engaging in mindfulness sessions and yoga. Groups of children have also been participating in the 3 Read literacy programme and will soon have opportunities to engage in LanguageLand work. Keyworkers will let you know about the activities your children are participating in. A nursery class version of the school calendar will be available prior to the October holidays to ensure you have plenty of notice of upcoming events too. If there is ever anything you wish to speak about in relation to your child or any aspect of the nursery, please do not hesitate to contact us. Mrs. Deborah Hannah is the Acting Principal Teacher with responsibility for overseeing the nursery. She works Wednesday-Friday and should be your first contact. However, if you wish to speak with someone on Mondays or Tuesdays, please contact the school office and ask for either myself or Miss Kirsty Crawford (Principal Teacher).

Abronhill Baby Fever



We are delighted to update you on the latest Abronhill Primary arrivals! Mrs. McCormack gave birth to a gorgeous baby boy, Miles, at the end of June. Mrs. Black gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Sophia, last week and she was followed three days later by Miss Stewart's gorgeous boy, Max. Miss Hughes will begin her maternity leave at the beginning of November, and we will let you know when her wee bundle arrives. We will also inform parents/carers when we know who the teacher is who will cover Miss Hughes's maternity leave.

Staffing

We have some staffing shortages in the school and nursery at present and we are all working hard as a team to ensure that we can still provide the high standard of service our children and families deserve. Some of the shortages are in the school office and there may be times when there are no clerical staff in the afternoons. Please support us by trying to ensure that arrangements are communicated to children before they come to school to reduce the number of phone calls and messages the office has to deal with. We understand that there will be times when parents/carers need to contact the office and we will try our best to help. If you call and do not get an answer, please leave a message on the answering machine.

Primary 7 Strathclyde Park Outdoor Programme Week

Due to the primary 7 outdoor programme details not being sent to parents/carers prior to the summer holidays we recognised that there was not enough notice for all families to pay for the original date in December.



Miss Rodgers has contacted the organisers and has managed to secure a later date which will also have better weather! The December date was cancelled and the new week will now begin on **Monday 29th April-Friday 3rd May 2024**. The cost of the week is **£120** and there are no discounts available on this price. Some parents/carers queried why this was more expensive than last year's. This is due to last year's class only having a 4-day experience due to a Friday holiday. This year's primary 7 class will have the full 5 days. iPay is open so that families can pay this up in instalments.

If anyone requires help with iPay, please call Miss Rodgers and she will be able to advise you. If anyone has any questions regarding the outdoor week, please ask for Miss Crawford.

Houses



Our primary 7 pupils have been developing their world of work skills by working on application forms for the **House Ambassador** positions. Interviews are taking place this week and we look forward to announcing the eight successful applicants. We asked the children for their feedback on the Houses at the end of last session and one of the things they said was that they felt there were too many people in each House. Therefore, we are adding a fourth House so Miss Crawford will be re-arranging members. We will let you know which Houses your children are in as soon as this exercise is completed. We will have five whole school House meetings this session, and the fifth one will be a family event in the final term when you will all be welcome to attend.

School Captains

This session, we have decided to elect two **School Captains**. Primary 7 pupils are being interviewed this week for these roles. The captains will have a range of responsibilities, including leading pupil voice, participating in school improvement and quality assurance, and will represent the school at a range of events. We will let you know when the positions have been filled.



Priorities 2023-24

We are focussing on progressing our establishment and cluster priorities. We will update you on progress and hope that you will support us by sharing your views and getting involved in taking these forward:

Improvement Plan Summary 2023-24	
Cluster Priority 1:	<u>The Cycle of Wellbeing- Year 1</u> Underpinned by GIRFEC, effective procedures and strategies will be developed to improve emotional and mental health and wellbeing across the cluster. Approaches will take account of the needs of the whole cluster as well as individual establishments, resulting in improvements in wellbeing, attainment and achievement. This will be a cluster priority for 3 years (2023-26)
Cluster Priority 2:	<u>Raising Attainment and Positive Attitudes in Maths and Numeracy</u> Development of knowledge and skills in teaching maths and numeracy using a variety of approaches and resources will improve teacher and learner confidence and attainment. Overall attainment across the cluster will increase by May 2024 (as measured in P1, 4, 7 and S3 ACEL data).
School Priority 1:	<u>Learning Through Play Approaches (whole establishment)- Year 1</u> By May 2024, all children will have opportunities to engage in deeper learning in motivating environments that enable them to practise new skills and knowledge. 80% of children will be able to reference how different approaches and environments support and enrich their learning experiences. TPJ/ACEL will improve by 5% across all stages compared with 2022-23 results.
School Priority 2:	<u>Children's Rights (whole establishment)- Year 1</u> Begin working towards Silver accreditation of UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Award. Children's rights will be central in all areas of school life and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing, attainment and achievement. At least 85% of children will be able to discuss their rights and how these have positively impacted on them.
Nursery Class Priority:	<u>High Quality Experiences:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further develop planning, taking account of NLC progression pathways• Develop effective tracking and monitoring procedures• Develop effective self-evaluation procedures Staff knowledge and skills will be further developed so that provision meets all children's individual needs. By May 2024, all staff will be able to evidence children's strengths, development needs and next steps. 85% of children will be making appropriate progress in literacy and numeracy.

'Our Community Cares' Cluster Event: Wednesday 4th October



Our cluster has organised a community event which will take place on **Wednesday 4th October** in the **Lanternhouse at Cumbernauld Theatre**. Anyone can drop in between **9am** and **3pm**. Please refer to the

leaflet that has already been emailed home and is also attached to this newsletter. It would be great if as many people as possible could attend the event to find out more about supports and organisations available in our community. There will also be refreshments!



Cooking

Our cooking blocks have started and primary 7 have already enjoyed their first session. Each class has four sessions and these are supported by the teacher and support staff to ensure children have safe opportunities to develop food preparation, cooking and hygiene skills. The dates for cooking blocks are on the calendar and each block costs a total of £4 per child. Please pay this money using the iPay accounts. If there are any issues that you need support with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Hallowe'en Celebrations



The calendar shows that our Hallowe'en events will take place on **Thursday 26th October**. There are some changes to how these will proceed this session. We have found that our younger children in primaries 1-3 can sometimes find the evening disco overwhelming, with some children becoming upset. We have taken the decision to have an afternoon party during school hours for primary 1-3, supported by the Parent Council. All children may come to school in costumes on this day.

Primaries 4-7 will have the evening disco as usual, organised by the Parent Council. The discos in May will be for primaries 1-3 and 4-7 as usual.

If any parents/carers have concerns regarding Hallowe'en events, please contact Miss Crawford or Mrs. Hannah for further information. We understand that some families do not wish their children to participate in Hallowe'en and while we will support this and work with families, we cannot guarantee that children won't see Hallowe'en resources or hear information that other children are engaging in.

Learn With Us

We are delighted to announce our new initiative to share our children's learning with our families. We will be organising '**Learn With Us**' days which will take a similar format to the nursery's 'Stay and Play' events. Families will be welcomed into classes to participate in activities with their children. **Primaries 1-4** will have the first 'Learn With Us' day on **Friday 27th October**. More details will follow. Primaries 5-7 will have their 'Learn With Us' day in March.



Target Setting- 'My Story'



Children will continue to bring their **'My Story' target setting books** home. Please take the time to read over their targets and discuss these with them. It would be appreciated if you could write a comment in the family box also. It is really important that these books are returned on the date set because the children and staff need to be able to refer to them. These books provide another opportunity to share children's learning.

Home Learning and Celebrate Learning Days

Our **Home Learning** is available approximately every 6 weeks (dates are on the calendar). Please read these carefully and keep them in a safe place as you will need them to refer to throughout the session. We will have a **'Celebrate Learning' day each term** when children can celebrate the learning that has taken place in school and at home. Last session, we did not have many children bringing learning from home on Celebrate Learning day so we are asking that families focus on developing this during the session. Children may bring any something they have made, photographs of something they have done, or a section of the learning grids coloured in to show what they have done so they can then share this with others. We value the opportunity to share learning in partnership with our families.



Journey Jotters



Each term children will complete all written work in their **'Journey Jotters'**. These jotters will then be sent home the following week so that families may share their children's learning with them. Again, it is important that these are returned to school because the children will use these each term going forward. We intend to use the same jotter each year as it will be lovely for children, staff and families to see the progression throughout the years.

Emergency Contacts

Please ensure that you provide any updated home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of parents/carers and emergency contacts. There are times when we need to make contact **if there is illness or an emergency** so it is important that we are able to quickly reach someone to collect children.



Attendance and Latecomings

As you are aware, the expectation is that children will be in school and on time every day unless they are ill or there are exceptional circumstances. It is the legal responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that children attend school and have the opportunity to engage in education. Holidays during the school term are not encouraged and impact on the learning and teaching experiences for children. Late comings are understood on occasion, but they are a concern when they are frequent as they impact on the individual child's start to the school day and disrupts the whole class. Our attendance procedures have been reviewed and the new policy will be communicated to parents/carers shortly. This session, we will be focussing on improving attendance for children who drop below 90%. In 2022-23, our school's overall average attendance was 91% and the national average was 94%. **Our aim for 2023-24 is to increase our overall attendance figure to 94% by June.**



If anyone requires any support with attendance issues please contact me to discuss this.

School Lunches and Breakfast Club



School lunches and breakfast are provided **free of charge to all primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 children**. If your child would like to attend Breakfast Club it begins at 8:15am. We ask that children arrive by 8:45am for this service so that they have time to finish their breakfast before classes start. **Primaries 6 and 7 are not yet entitled to free school meals.** **If you qualify for free**

school meals, you should apply for these online.

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please ensure they have healthy choices. Also, try not to give them too much as some children struggle to eat everything they bring. If you require any information or support with healthy lunches, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Water Bottles and Snacks

Please ensure your child brings a filled water bottle with them to school. Usually, we would ask for this and would then have children refill their bottles from the water coolers. However, we currently have supply issues so this is difficult at the moment. We will refill bottles if children require it but we need to do this from two taps that are suitable for drinking so it is difficult to manage this for the whole school. Hopefully, this will be sorted soon. Also, children are only allowed to drink water in classrooms so please do not fill bottles with juice.



We encourage healthy snacks in school and would ask that children come with a piece of fruit, vegetables, cheese etc. rather than sweets and chocolate. 10:30am is not the best time to be eating sugary snacks and this can affect children's energy levels and ability to concentrate. Please save sugary snacks for occasional treats.

Parent Council



Parent Council meeting dates and events are on the calendar (coloured pink).

They work hard to support the school and nursery class and represent the views of the parent forum. New parent/carer members are always welcome from nursery through to primary 7, and there are different ways you can support the work of the Parent Council. You may wish to be fully involved in the PC work by attending the meetings and organising events, or you may wish to offer them your support by coming to events like discos to help out. Anything you can do is very much appreciated.

October Holidays

School and nursery close at the usual times on **Friday 13th October**. The holiday is one week long, from **Monday 16th-Friday 20th October**. School and nursery return at their usual times on **Monday 23rd October**.

Further information, compliments or concerns

Should you require further information, wish to give a compliment or raise any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or email enquiries. Please be mindful that while myself, Miss Crawford and Mrs. Hannah aim to speak with parents/carers on the day they call or come in, this is not always possible. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Stocks'.

Jane Stocks
Head Teacher