



Banton Primary School

November 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

REMINDER - CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHS TUESDAY 8.11.16 9.00AM



A text message was sent out to inform you of the date when a member of our Parent Council would be coming into school to take a Christmas-themed picture of your child to create a Christmas Card or Calendar to sell at the Christmas Fayre. If you have younger children and would like a Christmas family photograph, please come in from 9am. As this is a Christmas photograph and your child has a Christmas jumper (as mentioned in the October New Update), they can bring it to school for this photograph. Other festive props will be available.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Parent Council Meeting on Monday 14.11.16 at 7pm. New members are welcome, even if you just want to come along and find out what it is all about.

OPEN EVENING EVENT FOR OUR 50 YEARS CELEBRATION



There was a great turn-out for our Harvest and 50th Celebration on Friday 4.11.16. Thank you very much for coming along to support pupils and the school for this special occasion. It really made the hard work of the children and staff, worthwhile. The school will be opened from 6-7pm on Monday 14.11.16 for previous pupils and staff to come along and take a walk down memory lane. Members of the community are also welcome to attend. If your child had a role at the Harvest/Celebration event last Friday, I would like them to attend on this evening too, if possible. The Open Event will not include the Harvest element or pupil presentation.

INSET DAY MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER



School will closed to pupils on Monday 21.11.16 as this is an In-Service Day. School will re-open on Tuesday 22.11.16.

LUNCH-TIME CLUBS

CONTRIBUTIONS

Lunch-time clubs can have costs associated with them, such as paying for a coach, the hiring of the hall, or purchasing materials. We are therefore asking parents/carers to pay a contribution of 50p per week towards these costs. You may receive a text message if you forget.

FUNDAMENTALS FESTIVAL P1-3

We are delighted that 15 of our P1-3 pupils can take part in the Fundamentals Festival on Thursday 1 December from 9am-12.00 at the Tryst in Cumbernauld. The coach will take a lunch-time club on Monday, (starting 7.11 as per text) and for a further 3 Mondays. All P1-3 pupils can attend bringing their PE Kit and a contribution of 50p.

BADMINTON -THURSDAYS

Mr Lawrie is giving his time again to take our pupils for Badminton down at the Banton Community Centre. We ask for a contribution of 50p to help towards costs for the hall.

OTHER CLUBS

As you are aware, we no longer have a full-time Janitor which can presents some staffing issues for us. We are hoping to offer another club this term.

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents/Carers should not enter the school and go to the classroom to speak with the teacher. Please wait at the reception office and speak with a member of the support staff to see if someone is available. Teachers are preparing lessons before school starts each morning.

HOME-TIME ROUTINES

Please remind your children that if no one is there to collect them at home-time, or any time, that they should return to the school office. I do remind pupils of this on a regular basis during assemblies. On Friday, I checked both gates and noticed the gate at the back of the school is clearly visible from the playground without needing to be standing at the gate. We do check that no one is left standing at the gates but we do not go beyond this to any parked cars or car park zones such as down at the garages at the bottom of Lammerknowes Road. It is the parent/carers responsibility to be on time to collect their child. There can be occasions when parents have been delayed, and a phone call to the school will alert us to this fact. Thank you.

PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION RESULTS

We asked you about our pupils participating in the Daily Mile and about Homework. Here are the results.

- We received a return of 13/23 families.
- 11/13 returns thought the Daily Mile was a good idea with suggested options of when to do this, ranging from during PE, Breaks or doing the Mile for 2-3 times per week.
- 4/13 thought the homework grid was a good idea with 5/13 disagreeing that it was a good idea. 8/13 people would prefer homework to be more traditional with specific tasks to do while 2/13 people thought homework should offer variety.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

As a staff, we have discussed these results within the context of the purpose of homework which is to

- *reinforce learning that has been taught in the classroom;
- provide extension to learning in the classroom;
- help to keep parents/carers informed about what children are learning at school;
- promote good study habits;
- motivate pupils to learn.

**Reinforcing learning will usually not be the work that children have completed in class that same day. It may be a unit of work that has just been taught and we are providing reinforcement of that learning. I would not be advocating sending home new learning and causing a child to be stressed because they have not fully understood the work or been taught the work.*

FORMAT OF HOMEWORK

It is very difficult to motivate pupils to do homework if there is no choice or variety in tasks for completion, however in response to the consultation, both classes will give:

- reading Homework;
- a set Literacy task;
- a set Numeracy task
- an optional choice of activities in the format of the grid, should your child or the parent/carer wish additional homework, or more variety and choice. Or use the grid instead of set tasks.

HOMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

As homework is a partnership between home and school there is an expectation that parents/carers look at the standard and quality of the homework being produced and sign it to say they have seen the homework. This is particularly important with reading homework. Some pupils are being asked to read the novels that are being worked on in classroom and as a result of not doing this, they cannot complete their classwork. A Reading Table/Sheet will be provided to record what has been read and this should be signed by an adult.

Generally we would expect the date and title of the homework written neatly and underlined and a good standard of handwriting. I have asked the teachers to give an example of how homework should be laid out and would request that you encourage your child to produce work at this standard. We will of course, take account of the ability of each pupil.

THE DAILY MILE

The Scottish Government is advocating the roll out of the Daily Mile for all their schools based on the benefits to health and wellbeing.

We will use a common-sense approach in terms of the level of activity each day. For example, P1-3 can take part in a lunch-time club on Monday which will involve 30 minutes of exercise. They would not need to do the daily mile in addition to this. On a Thursday, some pupils from P4-7 will be at a lunch-time Badminton Club therefore they will be having additional exercise so other members of the class would walk their mile.

We will look for different times and opportunities to do our daily mile but I am sure you will appreciate there may be occasions when there is no time available. Perhaps a homework activity then could be to go out for a family walk for a mile.

If you would like to discuss any items in this news letter please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ht@banton.n-lanark.sch.uk

Kind Regards

Siobhan McLeod
& Banton Team