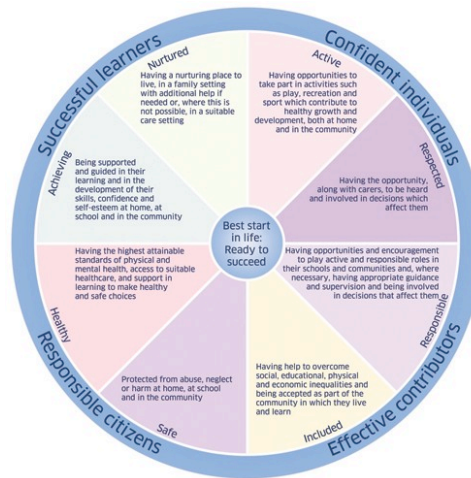




Banton Primary School



February Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our February newsletter.

We use our newsletters to communicate events that are happening in the school, so please take time to read this. You are your child's first educator and we want to build on that and further develop that partnership. This newsletter has a response sheet within it for you to give your feedback and share your views.

Future fundraising events from our Parent Council have also been included.

Kind Regards

Siobhan McLeod
Head Teacher &
Banton Team

Health and Wellbeing

The Health and Wellbeing Wheel at the front of this newsletter is what all services use to achieve the best outcomes for your child. Working in partnership with you, health services and businesses will ensure this. This month we are looking at Active and how this contributes to the development of your child. A child who experiences success and improves upon their last attempts, feels more positive.



Every child has the right to be active. Having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community. As well as sports, we have been looking at ways to increase our activity ensuring we are active for 60 minutes a day. We are walking, jogging and running a daily mile in school. Sometimes the weather may stop us from doing things at home that we normally enjoy such as walking and running. When this happens, encourage your child to set a timer and jump on the spot for 3 minutes, skip for 3 minutes, run up and down the stairs for 3 minutes. It soon builds up!

Wellbeing Survey

All schools have been asked to administer a survey to pupils in P5-7 to help plan ahead for children's services in the future. You will have received a leaflet explaining the purpose of this and notification that you had ten days to contact the school if you did not want your child to take part in this.

Pupil House Groups

We have started to develop House Groups at Banton Primary to add an element of competition with a points system. We will have three groups who will receive individual points and group points. These will be counted each week and the winning house will earn an extra playtime. The house who wins the most points throughout the term will get an additional reward.

Mrs Rae has been working with pupils to agree house names. We are looking for something that is about Banton and the local area. Pupils have come up with the names of flowers because we plant these and support the Banton Flower Show. We have also been asking visitors and members of the community what they think. Have you any ideas? Please share these with us.

Pupil Leadership Groups

All pupils had the opportunity to opt into one of our Pupil Leadership Groups/Committees. Here are our groups and the adults who are working with them:

- Eco group - Mrs Rae;
- Fundraising and Charities group - Mrs Cheape;
- Health & JRSO group - Mrs Inglis;
- Citizenship group - Mr Johnston;

Each group have designed their own badge and are working to create an action plan. They will also present their progress to the school so everyone knows what is happening.

The Fundraising and Charities Pupil Leadership Group has already been very successful. They decided to raise money for the SSPCA and began this with 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar?' followed by a dress-down/crazy hair day. **They presented over £55.00 to the SSPCA on Friday 24th Feb** when they visited the school to run some workshops for our pupils. Congratulations to everyone in the Fundraising and Charities group and thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraising activities.

Active Schools Events

Mrs Rae co-ordinates Active Schools Events which offers a number of our pupils the opportunity to participate and compete in festivals.

Football Festival - 1st Feb

We created a fantastic team along with Chapelgreen Primary and did our school proud by winning a number of games. Well done to everyone for their great behaviour and thank you to Mrs Abercrombie for accompanying our pupils along with Mr de Bleick from Chapelgreen PS who lead this event.

Cross Country - 17th Feb

A number of pupils from P5-7 took part in this event at Ravenswood. Despite the weather, our pupils all completed their route. Well done everyone. A special mention goes to Luke Kane, P7 who came in 13th place and has earned himself a place in the finals. Congratulations! I would also like to mention a pupil who was recognised for stopping to help others and encouraging them to keep going. Well done to Alexander Walker, P7.

Thank you

Mr and Mrs Carter worked with Primaries 1-4 last week exploring the properties of soil as well as investigating which one is the best for growing. There were a lot of hands on activities which included them digging up some soil, filtering soil, adding water and creating clay. A number of pupils had a great time trying to make clay models from the earth. Thank you very much Mr and Mrs Carter. 😊

Mr Lawrie made it through the snow fall to take our pupils to their lunch-time Badminton Club. Thank you for the time you give to our pupils. 😊

Banton Parent Council News

Fundraising put to good use!

Previous fundraising by the Parent Council has resulted in the bus being paid for the Pantomime. They also have asked the school how they could help to develop our playground while continuing to support Natural Play by purchasing new den building equipment. We have also been looking for soil to fill our raised beds for growing vegetables. Could you help?

Contact Details

If your child is unwell, we need to be able to contact you immediately. Please help us by keeping your contact details up-to-date.

Text Messages

It costs 4p for every text message we send because we are charged by the number of mobiles we send to. You can help us to reduce our costs by holding onto your newsletter for details of events, checking our glow blog: Search for 'Banton Primary Glow Blog' and signing up to follow us on twitter.

Appointments/Absence

Please remember if your child is going to be absent from school to contact us. This should be followed up with a note on your child's return. If your child is attending an appointment, please bring or send in the letter with the details of this. This will be recorded to ensure that all absences are authorised. Thank you.

Looking Ahead To March

World Book Day - 2nd March

The school will be participating in a number of literacy activities on World Book Day. You will receive further communication about this.

Junior Sport Leaders - 2nd March

Our Active Schools Co-ordinator will be training some of our pupils to be Leaders in Junior Sports. This will take place in the gym hall and last for 1 hour over three weeks.

Parent Council Meeting - 6th March at 7pm

Our next Parent Council Meeting will take place at Banton PS at 7pm. Part of the meeting will involve arrangements for fundraising, particularly the Parent Council Duck Race. Please come along and help this be a successful event.

Parent/Carer Information Evening 23rd March 2017

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood

I am delighted to be able to invite you to an information evening at Chapelgreen Primary School for a presentation on this area of the curriculum and in particular, the sensitive lessons about changes in the body. Mrs Cornwell will be attending. She worked with NHS Lanarkshire to develop these lessons and will be able to share some of the resources that are used to teach these and answer any questions or concerns you may have. The presentation will begin at 6.30pm.

School Reports - 24th March

Your child's school report will be issued on this date. Please remember to check your child's bag.

Easter Church Service - 29th March

As is tradition, pupils will take part in the service at Banton Parish Church. As a number of our pupils go home with family after the service, I propose that we start the service at 2pm. This will be confirmed at a later date.

Parent Council Duck Race - 30th March

The Parent Council are hosting another Duck Race. Pupils and parents can sponsor a duck or two and then come along and watch the race at the local burn. More details will follow.

Severe Weather

I was impressed by how many pupils and staff made it to school during the snow last week. Thank you to Mr Johnston and support staff for 'holding the fort' while others arrived. A parent helper even stayed to help out. Thank you. Mrs Bowe, our part-time janitor/cleaner worked really hard to clear a pathway from the front door of the school to the car park gates as she was trying to provide a safe path for pupils alighting from the bus or a taxi. The shortest pathway is from the school door to the pedestrian gate and in future this will be the only pathway that is cleared as per our Severe Weather Arrangements Newsletter. We will be asking taxis/bus to collect pupils from this gate during severe weather. I have also instructed Mrs Bowe not to open the back gate as per Severe Weather Newsletter. This is to prevent any risk that can be associated with a pathway not being cleared. I apologise for any inconvenience caused on Friday by the shortest pathway not being cleared.

What do you think?

Staff and pupils will be talking about how well we are doing as a school. We would like to hear your views and ask what you think we should be working on next. A main focus will be to raise attainment, helping children to improve their Literacy and Numeracy skills and their Health and Wellbeing. Partnership between home and school is also one of the most important factors in improving your child's success. What would you like to happen to improve our partnership? Please take time to give us some written feedback on the consultation slip, or email me at ht@bant.n-lanark.sch.uk, speak to me in person or phone the school.

Share your views Feb 2017

- *What do we do well?*
- *How could we improve partnerships between home and school?*

We would be delighted to have some feedback about what you think.

*If you had to choose 4 qualities that you would like Banton Primary School to nurture in your child, what would these be?
For example, Honesty, Kindness, Empathy, Tolerance, Confidence, Courageous, Fairness, Respectful, Creativity etc.*

4 Qualities