

St. Andrew's Primary School



Parents as Partners



Dear Parents/Guardian,

As we begin the new term, we hope to build on the success of the many parent partnership activities that took place last year. There will be a whole host of opportunities for you to get involved with your child's learning and to support various initiatives that will be taking place. We are always keen to hear your views, so if you have any ideas or comments that you think would further improve our parent partnerships, please let us know.

Mrs Lambie

Principal Teacher



Attendance

All research shows that there is a clear link between attendance and attainment. Last year, we worked hard to improve the awareness of parents and pupils about the impact of poor attendance on attainment and we will continue to prioritise improvement in this area. Our school target for attendance is 95% or above. This amounts to no more than 10 days absence per year. Our attendance figures for last year are as follows:

95% or above	90-95%	80-90%	Below 80%
51 % of pupils	28% or pupils	18% of pupils	3% of pupils

The Effect of Absence on School Progress

A whole year has 365 days

A school year has 190 days.

This leaves 175 days for family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

No absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
Very Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start.		Worrying Less chance of success. Harder for your child to make progress.		Serious Concern Your child will find it very difficult to make progress. May result in court action.	

While we are concerned that just over half of our pupils had attendance of 95% or above, we have had a great start to the year and are optimistic that – with your support- we can make significant improvements.

If you are having any difficulty getting your child to school, please contact Mrs Lambie, who will be happy to offer support and guidance.

Please take some time to read over our School Attendance information leaflet.

School Matters!



Outdoor Learning

Last year, our children benefitted enormously from outdoor learning in our local green space – ‘The Moss’. This experience led to many opportunities for learning across the curriculum as well as the physical, emotional and mental health benefits of working outdoors. This would not have been possible without the help of our volunteer parents and we are extremely grateful to them for their time and support.

We are keen to get our outdoor learning calendar up and running for 2018/19 as soon as possible, and once again, we are hoping to have an army of volunteers that can help us with this. If you can afford an hour or two on a Friday, at least once per month, please reply to a text message that will be sent to all families today.

Also, we have been selected to become involved in a national initiative ‘Learning in Local Greenspaces’, and have been awarded £250 to help support our work in ‘The Moss’. We are also hoping to secure funding that will allow us to work on a biodiversity project with an outside agency, later in the year. We will keep you up to date on any progress.

We plan to use the £250 to buy ‘Wellies’ in a selection of sizes for use during outdoor learning sessions.



Big Litter Pick

Following on from the positive feedback we received, we have decided to hold another ‘Big Litter Pick’. This will take place on **28th September 2018**. Again, we would love to have the support of as many parents and members of the community as possible. A text message will be sent nearer the time for you to reply. We hope you will be able to manage to come along for a short while to support your child as they take an active role as responsible citizens in their local community.



School App

Over the coming weeks, we are hoping to launch our own school app, which parents will be able to download to their own devices. This will become our main form of communication and will replace traditional newsletters (like this one). Feedback from both parents and staff in other schools that are using an app, is very positive. You will hear more about this in due course.



