

# Viewlands News...

ISSUE 1

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**Viewlands Primary School**  
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## Welcome to the new session ...

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Welcome to the first newsletter for this session. It has been a fantastic start to the session.

All classes have settled really well and are getting used to their new routines.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new families to the Viewlands Community. It is lovely to have you and your families with us and hope that where ever you are in the educational journey with your children that you find working with us supportive.

It has been especially lovely to see how well our new P1s have settled into their new routines and have showed us all how independent they can be. Well done P1s!

P4 classes have already been

away to Rosemount Farm for their first taster of farming life. All came back with wonderful homemade pizzas which looked and smelt delicious.

We welcomed Mr Prater, Miss O'Shea and Mrs Gellata to our staff this month and they have settled well into their new roles.

Some exciting news!!

Parent Council this session are selling **Peel2Save** booklets—they are £10 each and they can make savings of £500 for you by using the vouchers. Letters will be lurking at the bottom of school bags!

We have launched our Scotia Book Challenge for this session and we are looking forward to seeing all the differ-

ent books the children are reading. The last time we did this challenge we raised over **£3000** towards books—this will be fantastic to further develop our resources for Accelerated Reader if we can reach this!

Another piece of news from our parent Council is that from feedback from the Parent Body, the PC are planning to host a fabulous Christmas Fayre (similar to the BBQ) again this year and are concentrating their efforts into the planning of this. They going to have a rest from the annual BBQ and spend time planning alternative events. If you wish to be part of this fantastic group and help with the social side please of school please drop me a line and I will pass your details onto the group.

## School Routines ...

Most of our routines are remaining the same:-

**Soft Start** bell will still be ringing at **8:55am** - this allows all classes to come in and get themselves organised in a relaxed manner. A wee reminder to the classes that enter by the middle door, please stay away from the door before the **8:55am** bell

rings to allow for there to be space for a safe entry into school.

Children entering by the upper door will be directed by a member of staff to ensure a calm and organised entry into school.

**Crumbs Café** has re-opened on a Wednesday and Thurs-

day. Items still remain at 30p with a maximum of 2 items to be purchased.

It has been lovely to see almost all the children return to school in the full school uniform. We are very proud of our uniform and with photographs coming up soon it would be nice to see the continued effort of children being encouraged to wear it in full.



## Physical Education for session 2013–2014

As part of a Scottish Government directive schools across Scotland are being asked to deliver **2 ½ hours** of Physical Education within the school week.

For us at Viewlands this can sometimes be a challenge due to the space we have available and also the weather.

In order to attempt to meet this directive we are planning to use our outdoor spaces more regularly. We have some great spaces on our doorstep, including Perth Academy plying fields and also the local reservoir.

We would therefore like to encourage all children to have an outdoor PE kit at school. This can be made up from a warm pair of tracksuit bottoms, warm top, and trainers that you don't mind getting dirty and remaining in school.



Some of the activities the children might be involved in could be: Orienteering; Cross country; Team Skills; Running; Athletics.

Staff may plan activities to reflect **interdisciplinary learning**. For example the use of stopwatches during athletics ties in an aspect of numeracy.

Staff are having a training opportunity this term to look at what is feasible within the spaces we have and then with the support of the PE department look at an appropriate curriculum.

It is a great opportunity for us to encourage physical fitness especially when national statistics state that Scotland has the 2nd highest obesity rates!

## Curriculum Information 2013–2014

This session we are taking a slightly different approach to how we will be communicating the curriculum that your child will be following.

Normally at this point in the session we would be hosting our annual **Curriculum Evening**. Last session we had extremely low numbers that attended and felt that this was disappointing. Through consultation and discussion with our Parent Council and it was suggested that the information discussed at this evening could be sent to parents in the form of a Class Newsletter early in the session and more focused events planned for throughout the year. This is the format we will trial for this session.

All families should now have received their child's class Newsletter. Hopefully

the information contained within it is useful and informative.

You should also have received your child's **Learning Tree**. This will explain in more detail the learning that will take place for this term. It will also highlight where you can support at home.

We are really keen for parents to support their child's learning. It would be really helpful if some of the core skills of learning could be built on at home:

- ◆ Number processes - (+ - X ÷)
- ◆ Times Tables (depending on stage)
- ◆ Telling the time –digital & analogue

- ◆ Using money and understanding its value
- ◆ Reading –being read to or independent reading
- ◆ Spelling patterns / phonic blends

These are all core skills that support future learning. They are also skills for learning, life and work.

Opportunities to practise these in a fun way will benefit all children.

We have some super links on our website to child friendly sites that can support learning.

## Main Priorities for session 13–14 ...

This session we have **3** main priorities that we will be focusing on as developments for the school.

Each of these priorities will have a measured impact on the learning that is planned for all children.

**Priority 1:-** focused look at the skills framework to ensure all children will have the skills for learning, life and work.

**Priority 2:-** Pupil involvement in the planning of the curriculum, knowing and understanding their next steps and setting clear targets for learning

**Priority 3:-** Curriculum design - ensuring appropriateness and that it meets the 7 principles of its design. It will offer depth, breadth, challenge & enjoyment, personalisation & choice, progression, coherence and relevance.

These priorities will underpin all the developmental work that the school will undertake this session. We will measure impact of this work through discussions with the children and yourselves and monitor progress in attainment and attitude to learning.

Our Parent Council will support this development work and will be used as a sounding board for developments as they evolve.