

# Viewlands News...

January 2013

## Happy New Year ...

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*The importance of the learning journey...*

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Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for 2013. I hope you all had a lovely time over the festive period and are ready for what 2013 brings!

It has been all systems go since our return to school on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The children have settled extremely well, back into routines and classroom life. Learning plans are already being discussed in almost all classrooms and will be shared in due course with you.

The children's input into how the learning in each of our classrooms unfolds is so valuable. The questions they create shape the learning for that block, so that it is challenging and motivating. It helps ensure that there is minimal duplication or repetition. It makes learning relevant, and offers personalisation & choice. It also motivates the children to engage with the activities that are planned – thus deepening and broadening knowledge and understanding.

An integral part of this process is the recording of the learning journey. Many classes are doing this in the form of a Learning Wall or a Class Reflection book. This supports assessment and guides next steps. Both teacher and learner can see the achievements that have taken place and where there is still work to be done. Your child's Learning Log is also a key part of this process. That is why it is so great when you take the time to make a comment in these. It involves you as the parents in the learning journey.

Many classes are also completing individual Pupil Profiles. There is an expectation that all P7 pupils transitioning into S1 complete an on-line profile through GLOW. This will highlight their key strengths, next steps and some personal statements about their attributes and achievements. Mrs. Gellatly, Miss Oliver and Mrs. Pennycook are supporting our P7 classes to complete these at present. Other classes, mainly in our Early Years, are using the concept of pupil profiles to create folders of key areas of learning. This is something we will be considering developing in the future.

It is going to be a busy term ahead and I look forward to seeing you at many of the school events that are going to take place.

## Property Upgrade



Parent Council met this week with Officers of the Council that represented the Property Department. The process of prioritising was explained and how the decision for the window upgrade was agreed.

It was a very interesting meeting and explained many of the processes / procedures that have to be considered before any major work is carried out on any council property.

Councillor Willie Wilson was also in attendance and shared how the Elected Members prioritise also. It was interesting to see and hear from the Councillors' perspective.

From the meeting it was concluded that we were all in agreement the preservation of Viewlands was of utmost importance and therefore things need to be looked at to ensure it is wind and water tight for hopefully another 70 years!

We are very much looking forward to our new windows and know already how much they will enhance the classrooms – warmth & aesthetically.

### Traffic Control Oakbank Crescent

**During our recent Parent Council Meeting it was brought to our attention about the speed of traffic on Oakbank Crescent. Some residents in the area have been finding that cars have not been calming their speed and the residents are living in fear of a fatality happening. Residents would like the parents of the school to support them in this issue and write to the council in support of their complaint.**

**The residents very kindly presented us with a generic letter (which we will attach to this email) that can be used if you wish to support this campaign. Councillor Willie Wilson was also made aware and is interested in the response that this campaign gets. Please help your local community and keep our roads safe for all.**

## Health Information...



Since our return from the Christmas break we have had several cases of 'Slap Cheek' reported to us. This appears as a red rash on the cheeks and may spread to other areas of the body. If you suspect your child may have 'Slap Cheek' please seek medical advice from your GP.

We are also very cautious of Flu during this season and are encouraging the children to wash their hands carefully, especially before eating. We have had several children sent home with Flu like symptoms. Again if you suspect your child to be unwell please keep them off school and seek advice.

Hopefully most of us will have a virus free winter!

Just a wee reminder to **Check Heads Regularly** – we have had a few cases of Head Lice reported since our return.

## School Related Issues ...

In previous newsletters I think we have mentioned School Protocol for discussing concerns or school related issues. At this time of year it is helpful just to gently remind parents of this protocol.

Your first port of call should always be your child's **class teacher**. This can be done by phone call to arrange an appointment or by email. Sometimes staffs are available at the end of the day but appointments are always preferred. The start of the day is not a good time and should be avoided whenever possible.

If the class teacher feels a member of management should be made aware or to become involved, then this will be done immediately. The member of management will be the DHT for that department or when necessary Headteacher.

If you wish to see a member of the management team independently of the class teacher an appointment should be made either by phone call or email.

We wish to remind all parents that if they or their child has an issue or difficulty that you wish to discuss please engage with the school. It is very disheartening when you hear of cases where parents have chosen not to inform the school and situations have developed beyond being able to restore.

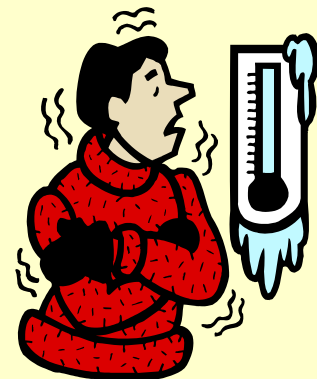
No problem is too big or too small – sometimes talking through feelings is enough to resolve, other times intervention may be needed.

As a school we have a wealth of experience dealing with a variety of situations throughout our careers and would always welcome being informed so that there is an opportunity to plan appropriate approaches or interventions. Being proactive in a situation is always the best approach.

## Dressed for the Weather....

Since the snow arrived at the beginning of the week we have seen some very interesting outfits being worn to school. It would be really appreciated if during cold spells that warm, water proof clothing be worn over the top of school uniforms. This will allow play and lunchtimes to be enjoyed by all.

Some non-school uniform items have been drifting into our Upper School classes – Hoodies, baseball hats, coloured trainers. Staff would like all pupils to remind themselves of the School Uniform and improvements made. **DON'T LET YOUR CLASS DOWN!**



## Eco Action Days – February 2013

We are very excited about our Eco Action Days – **Friendly Faces**☺☺

Staff and our Eco Committee have been working really hard to organize a variety of events and activities. They are going to be a busy few days.

We will be hosting our annual Disco on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February – fun and dancing to be had by all. It would be great if we could have some Parent Helpers on the night, if you are able to help please contact the school with your details.



## Upcoming Events ....

Dates for your diary – please keep safe for future reference

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
24.1.13	6.00pm	P5 Magic Castle Evening
28.1.13	6.30pm	P7 Family Burns Night
12.2.13	6.30pm	Nursery Parent Workshops
18.2.13 + 19.2.13	9am – 3pm	Eco Action Days
18.2.13	☺4pm – 5pm Nursery to P2 ☺5.15pm – 6.30pm P3 – P5 ☺6.45pm – 8pm – P6 & P7	Friendly Faces Disco ☺☺ - Mr ET Snack & Juice will be provided - £3 Any parents able to stay and help please let the School know before the event
19.2.13	During School day	P6 / 7 Cross Country Event
20.2.13		INSET Day – School closed to all pupils
21.2.13 – 24.2.13		February Break
25.2.13		Pupils / Staff return from February Break
1.3.13	All Day	Roman Soldier to visit P4's
11.3.13	7pm	Parent Council Meeting
12.3.13	4 – 9pm	Parent Contact Evening
14.3.13	4 – 9pm	Parent Contact Evening
20.3.13	Afternoon	P3 Pirate Event
28.3.13		End of term – 3:15pm finish
29.3.13 – 14.4.13		Spring Break
15.4.13		INSET Day – School closed to all pupils
16.4.13		New Term begins