

Coupar Angus Primary School Newsletter 1 August 2017

Welcome to the new session at Coupar Angus Primary School. It's lovely to see all the children back in school, full of enthusiasm for their new term at school. The Primary Ones did so well on Tuesday and seem settled already! You may have noticed workmen in the school over the summer; they have been putting in new lighting throughout the whole school and will be working in the evenings for the next few weeks to complete this huge task! We also have a new fire alarm and will be testing it with the children over the next week or two. You may also have noticed new fencing around the electricity power hub, thanks to Thinking Room 2, who wrote letters to Scottish and Southern Energy asking for the old fence to be made safer and to have a roof. Pupil power at its best!! Our next challenge is to look at painting it – so we will be looking for volunteers to work with the children on this!

More workmen have arrived on site this week to start work on a new fence in part of the P4-7 playground. This is to make an enclosed and safer playground space. They have put up a fence to block off the work, so it shouldn't be too much of a disruption to the school, and it will hopefully be completed next week.

As always please keep up-to-date with school and nursery news through the Facebook page/groups and if you have any concerns feel free to email me at couparangus@pkc.gov.uk or have a quiet word with the class teacher at the end or start of the day or make an appointment to see myself or Miss Sinclair through the school office. We always try our best to work with parents, we all have the same shared goal, to support your child to do their best in school and reach their potential, but if you have a concern or a complaint, we would ask you to let us know, so we can work together to resolve any problems that may arise.



School Uniform

All the children have been looking really smart this week in their new school uniform. Please put your child's name on any jumpers, coats, trousers, PE kit.....in fact everything if you haven't done so already!! We do have a lost property box in school, but if there are no names it is very difficult to match up the clothes to their owners. Parents are welcome to come in and look through lost property any time.

At the end of each term we will rag bag any unclaimed property.

If you still need to purchase some school uniform we ask for children to wear blue, navy or dark sweatshirts and dark trousers, skirts, dresses. We would ask that there are no leggings this year and also no hooded sweatshirts for school uniform.

The website for school uniform is www.border-embroideries.co.uk for a sweatshirt with the school logo on in either bright blue, and shortly, after parental requests, **navy** will also be available with a logo.

One or two of the older children do sometimes wear brightly coloured trainers to school. Can I please ask that children wear dark footwear; they can bring something to change into for break if they need other shoes for football. Many thanks for your support with this.

Please also remember no jewellery for PE and no excessive jewellery for class. We noticed this week some of the P1 girls had hoop earrings in for gym. Can they please wear studs for PE or tape ears, as this is a health and safety concern.

If younger children have an accident in school, school staff will change your child and return any wet clothes. We are running short of changes of pants and socks though, having bought more before summer and also again this week. If you have any spare boy/girl pants/socks in nursery, or P1-3 size we would be grateful for them in the school office. Many thanks.

P1 School Photographs

On Tuesday 29th August at 11am the P1s will have their photographs taken for the Perthshire Advertiser and on Wednesday 30th August they will have their photographs taken for the Dundee Telegraph. We will try and let you know when the photographs will be in the paper through our Facebook page.

Nursery News

We welcomed the nursery children back last week and some new faces as well. The nursery team remains the same this session, apart from the fact that Miss Wightman has sadly left due to a drop in the number of children. However, she was successful at interview for a post at Newhill and we wish her all the best there.

Book Bug Rhyme Time – Starts Friday 1st September in the Infant Building. 9.15-10.15am. Tea and coffee available from 9am. All babies, toddlers, preschool children and their families welcome.

Strong Start 2 places available now for 2 year old children in our Nursery. Further information can be obtained from the school office, the nursery or online at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/strongstart>.

The nursery notice board and Facebook Group have all the up-to-date information for the term and a newsletter for nursery will be out soon. The theme this term is the Gruffalo and this should be lots of fun for all the children.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Miss Duthie to the school this session. Miss Duthie will be teaching P2. A full list of staffing will be attached to this

newsletter. We also welcome Miss Collins who will be teaching the children drama.

School office

The office team is made up of Mrs MacGregor, Mrs McLellen, and at times in the week, Mrs Mukherji and Miss Ritchie (Miss Ritchie is our new modern apprentice and we welcome her to the team, she will be working in classes and in the office). If you have any queries please pop in and see them. We would ask that where possible you use your Parent Pay account to pay for school dinners and other events. If you need help to set this account up, please pop into the school office and Mrs McLellen will be happy to help you.



Term 1 open classroom, workshop and tea event

Save the date: Thursday 25th September from 2.45 – 5pm

After the successful workshop event we held in March we are taking on your feedback and holding a similar event in Term 1 and hopefully again later in the year.

On Thursday 25th September the classrooms will be open for parents to come in and see what is happening from 2.45- 3.15. Then there will be a workshop opportunity from 3.30- 4pm. We are currently planning for maths and language workshops. If you have requests we will take these on board too.

We then invite your family to stay for refreshments in the hall from 4-5pm.

More information to follow, but for now, save the date and let us know if you have any requests for a workshop.

Class newsletters will be coming home towards the end of this week, so look out for this in the school bag. It will contain details of PE times, homework and events happening in class and how you can help support your child.

Active Literacy in P1-3

We will be starting Active Literacy language programme with P1-3 this week. The children may move between classes to work with

children at a similar stage and also to allow support to be matched to the needs of the children. More information on Active Literacy will be available to parents later this term.

SOC (Supporting Our Children) Our first meeting will be on **Thursday 14th September 6pm at school**. All parents are a member of this group and we would love to welcome you all to the meeting in the main building of the school. The meetings usually last 1- 1.5 hours and are held termly. You don't have to come to all the meetings, but we would not be able to do all the amazing things we do in school without this group of parents. Parents help to support and arrange fundraising events, decide how to spend the money, find out about school plans and have a chance to have your say on school matters. If you want to find out more, please speak to Shona Turnbull or Lorna Millar or phone and speak to Mrs Drew.

School Improvement plan priorities for 2017-18
Our three main priorities for the session are:

- Improved performance of all children in Literacy and Numeracy attainment and particularly in identified group of learners.
- Improved Health & Wellbeing for all children with a focus on increased resilience and ability to make good choices.
- Continue to focus on ensuring there is appropriate Pace and Challenge for all learners, leading to increased learner motivation and improved attainment.

We will continue the focus on Literacy throughout the school this session, embedding the initiatives such as Active Literacy in the early years and vocabulary programmes. We have created our Curriculum Rationale and reviewed many aspects of the school curriculum; we will now focus on further curricular areas.

Education Scotland

Our follow-up visit from Education Scotland in March 2017 was very positive and we will now work with Perth & Kinross Council to ensure we

continue to strive for excellence in Coupar Angus.

School staff list August 2017
Mrs N Drew - Headteacher
Miss M Sinclair - Depute Headteacher
Mrs J McGregor - School Office
Mrs P McLellen - Office
Mr R Ritchie - School janitor
Nursery Team
Mrs MacGregor - Nursery Teacher
Mrs R Dingwall
Mrs A Rennie
Mrs L Johnstone
Mrs V Clarke
Mrs S Bell
Miss S Whyte
Mrs P Fulton
Miss L Black
P1 - Mrs S Hanlin
P1/2 - Mrs Z Alexander (nee Gruneberg) & Mrs Constable
P2 - Miss Duthie (& Mrs Dewar on a Friday)
P3 - Miss H Mitchell
P4 - Miss A Kerr
P5 - Miss H McQueen
P6- Miss L Martyn
P7 - Mr M Billen
Mrs G Stewart (school cook)
Ms E Colville - Thinking Room 2
Mrs S Ashley - Thinking Room 1
Mrs H Ferdinand- Pupil Support Teacher
Garden Room -Mrs J MacGregor
Miss N Gourlay - support teacher out of class
Mrs A Kinney - ECP supporting in P1 & P2 classes
Reduced Class Contact time - Mrs P Canning, Mrs K Dewar and Miss F Pearson
PE - class teachers
Drama - Miss J Collins
Jill Smyth (Strings Instructor)
Support Staff
Ms Suchomska
Mrs McClinton
Mrs Bowles
Mrs Young
Mrs Hastie
Mrs Lockerbie
Mrs Mukherji
Mrs Kinnear
Miss Ritchie

Karen Jamieson - Breakfast Club

Amanda Wilson- Breakfast Club

Dates for Diary 2017/18

I will add to this each term, so please keep a look out each month on the newsletter for this.

We will try to give you as much notice as possible for events, however, sometimes we do get last minute offers of visitors and have changes to plans, please bear with us.

Class assembly dates are on a Friday at 10.50am, parents and friends are welcome to attend when it is your child's class assembly:

P4-29th September 2017

P6 – 6th October 2017

P5 – 3rd November 2017

P7 – 9th February 2018

P1- Friday 16th March 2018

P1/2- Friday 23rd March 2018

P3-Friday 4th May 2018

P2- Friday 11th May 2018

Friday 25th August 2016 – House meeting after assembly to elect House & Sports captains

Tuesday 29th August – P1 photos: Perthshire Advertiser

Wednesday 30th August – P1 photos: Dundee Telegraph

Friday 1st September – Rhyme Time restarts in infant building at 9am

Thursday 14th September – SOC meeting(Parent Council) – all welcome 6pm in main building

Thursday 14th September – Judo taster session TBC
Vertical groups start on –
Cycle training for P6 & P7 will start in Term 1 – date to be confirmed shortly

Thursday 21st September – Fischy Music to visit school to work with all children over the day – more information to follow.

Thursday 28th September – Open classroom/workshop and tea session 2.45pm- 5pm

Friday 6th October 2017 – School closes at 3.15pm for October holidays

Monday 23rd October – School resumes

Thursday 26th October – Halloween Disco P1-3 6-7pm

P4-7 7.15- 8.30pm

Monday 6th November 5.30pm – SOC meeting all welcome

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November – school closed for inservice days

Monday 20th November – Flu Immunisations

Parent contact dates:

Thursday 23rd November - 3.30- 6pm

Tuesday 28th November – 5- 7.30pm

Monday 18th December 2017 – Nursery Christmas nativity and party – am and pm

Dates for Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and nativity shows will be included in the September newsletter.

Friday 22nd December 12.00- school closes for Christmas holidays.

Monday 8th January 2017 – Back to school

SOC meeting – Thursday 25th January 5.30pm

Wednesday 14th February 2018 – inservice day
Thursday 15th & Friday 16th 2018 – holiday
Friday 23rd February 2018 – Bingo Tea in Town hall

Thursday 15th March 2018 - 5-7.30pm Parent Contact

Tuesday 20th March 3.30- 6pm Parent Contact

Thursday 29th March 2018 – school closes at 3.15pm for Easter holiday

Monday 16th April 2018 – inservice day

Tuesday 17th April 2018 – school opens for children

Monday 30th April 2018- Friday 4th May – P7 Residential trip

Monday 7th May 2018 – May day holiday

Thursday 10th May 2018 – SOC meeting 5.30pm

Wednesday 6th June 2018 – Reports issued to parents

Thursday 28th June 2018 –school closes at 12.00 for summer holiday.

We will add in dates for end of term service and sports day in the next Newsletter.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything on this newsletter and let the school office or Mrs Drew know if you would like to be a regular parent helper.

Finally:

It is our intention to put newsletters on the Facebook page and website this session. However, we would also like to move to emailing newsletters out to parents. When the data sheets come back we will add email addresses and let you know when we will trial this. Printing and photocopying cost over £2000 last year and if we can reduce this even slightly it will save us money to spend on other items for the children. Paper copies will always be available for families who wish this.

N. Drew.