



Coupar Angus Primary School

Newsletter 3

October 2020

The first term is almost finished and I pleased to say that almost all the children are back in school and settled well into school routines. We have been very pleased with how well children have settled back to school routines and the new procedures and they are clearly enjoying being back with their peers. We wish all our families a good October break and as usual please email couparangus@pvc.gov.uk if you have any concerns or questions. Please look out for Coupar Angus Primary in the Blairgowrie Advertiser and the 'Can Do' magazine in coming weeks. We hope to have articles on the new Nursery and also being awarded our 5th Eco Schools Green Flag! There is quite a lot of information in this last newsletter for the term, so please take time to have a read.

Kind regards
Nikki Drew

School uniform

We would like to see children return to wearing School uniform next term where possible. On PE days children will be encouraged to wear comfortable clothing as we cannot change for PE as yet.

Families are still encouraged to wash clothes regularly in line with good hygiene to help prevent the spread of Covid 19.

Children may also wear comfortable bottom half and a school jumper.

We will hold a school uniform bank on Thursday 1st October in the playground (weather dependent) from 2.00pm if any parent would like to collect uniform.

As we do not want everyone coming at 3.10pm and to allow for social distancing, we will allow parents to take children home early if they come from 2pm to school uniform bank, if they wish. We will also be looking at a Halloween costume swap after October hols and Christmas jumpers later next term. If you have any old **Halloween costumes** that are too small and in good condition if you can hand into school before the October break we will wash and

quarantine them. If you wish to hand in any uniform in good condition, which is too small please do so and we will wash and use after the October break.

Coupar Angus has been awarded our 5th Eco schools Green flag !!!

Eco Schools Scotland have awarded Coupar Angus Primary School our fifth Green Flag in recognition of our ongoing commitment to the environment. They commented that they "commend the work that Coupar Angus Primary School has been doing over the last few years. It was a joy to read how the pupils and the local community have been getting involved with your Eco-Schools Journey."

Well-done everyone! (for more see our Facebook page or look out for the Blairgowrie Advertiser article)

Poppies

Poppies will be available in school from after the October break. However, this year, as school is cashless, we will set up the payment for Poppies via ParentPay. You will see this as option when you go into ParentPay. Once you give a donation, we will be alerted and your child will receive their poppy in school the next day. The money raised will be sent to Poppy Scotland and we will let you know the total raised later in the year.

Pupil Council

The new Pupil Council has been elected from P2-P7. A few children have stayed on for a second year since last session they did not get to complete their time. The reps are:

Thinking Room 2 – Jamie Low

Thinking Room 1 - Jamie Dow

P2/3 Killian Elliot and Holly Smeaton

P3 Harrison Speedie and Emily Stephen

P4 Breagh McIlravey and Ellie Masterton

P5/6P Esosa Airhumwunde, Cassidy

Crichton & Maria Matei

P5/6D Aiden Harris, Lilly Campbell &

Leila Grant

P7 Adrian Jedryczka (Chairperson), Irina Matei (Vice Chairperson), Debbie Mudie & Betheny Drennan (Secretaries)

We had one meeting introduce the Pupil Council and remind everyone of its role and on Friday we had a socially distanced meeting in the main hall. Children raised issues such as why we have the Playground Zones and classroom resources. We have also been asked by SOC (Parent Council) to look at any resources each class might benefit from and they will consider these at their next meeting. The Pupil Council also discuss the learning in each class and consider how we might support a charity. We will update you after future meetings.

Risk Assessment

We review our school risk assessment continually and follow all updated procedures from PKC and Scottish Government. However, we have agreed one change to procedures following a Pupil Council request.

From October the children can bring in their own pencil case and resources from home, however, this would STAY IN SCHOOL and not go between home and school and would only be used by your child, not shared.

Children will continue to have their own pencil case and resources supplied by the school, but as some children would really like to use their own and by keeping it in school we can do it safely.

Many thanks.

Breakfast Club – Please remember to book in advance by contacting the school office.

SOC

The SOC AGM and first meeting this session was held on 7th September, via Zoom. The minutes are up in the school notice board and if you would like a copy or more information, please email SOC at the email below.

socpta.office@gmail.com

They also have a Facebook page and would welcome more members. Coupar Angus Primary School SOC Parent Council.

The number of parents in attendance was 5 and the current balance is £3,111.00.

Following a request from the children SOC have purchased some new playground toys, we thank them very much and these should arrive this week! Since the meeting the Chair, Gill Clark has resigned her post after two years and we thank her for her time in post and support. The current committee and regular members are keen to carry on for the time being but would dearly love some new members or more parents to come to meetings. As you can see there is a healthy balance and the school has benefited from SOC support for many years and we would be sad to see this have to close.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 18th November at 4.45pm and is likely to be via Zoom as well, we will give you information on how to come along to this meeting nearer the time, but meantime, please consider coming along for an hour or so to this group. It's your chance to have your say on school matters, support your child and support the school. Please contact the email above for more information and Clare Irving or Lynn Symon will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Sports and House Captains and Vice Captains

Children in P7 prepared posters, speeches and videos for P4-7 to vote on P7 House and Sport Captains. Once these are filled, we look to P6 to fill the remaining posts and we will let you know the new Captains in the next newsletter. Well-done P7 for your great efforts!

Big Pal, Wee Pal

Usually we pair up P7 and P1 pupils for the P7 pupils to support the P1 pupils in school. This year we are being as creative as we can as the children cannot yet work together in person, but they had a teams' meeting (online) last week and P7's have been making some resources to help the P1's with their counting.

P7 class responsibilities

The P7 class have made a great start to the session and have already written to me with some suggestions of projects they would like to take on to improve the school.

Traffic Exclusion zone

Is permanent and I would like to remind parents not to drive down school road from 8.40am – 9.05am and at the end of the school day. Please consider parking at Larghan park and striding the last part of the journey. Can I also remind parents and children to come in the school gates at the infant playground or from the common and NOT the vehicle entrance gates. This is

not a safe way for children to come into school, although vehicles are not to come into school from 8.45am onwards we have a couple of exceptions to this and also delivery drivers are not always aware of this, so to keep everyone safe, please use the entrances and exits mentioned.

Thank you to children who are cycling and scootering to school for remembering the rule to come off you bike or scooter in the playground.

****We are still asking all parents unless P1 or Nursery parents to arrange to meet their child outside the school gates at the end of day and before school. We would also ask parents to remember to socially distance from each other. We want to keep everyone safe and follow the guidance on our risk assessment.****

Seesaw

Seesaw has been a great way of sharing learning with parents and in lockdown it was our main way of communicating with you and providing learning. Please ensure you can all access this for homework, sharing current learning and in case of any future home learning periods.

You will notice a new folder in Seesaw called Assessment.

Parents are welcome to look in this folder, but we have created it as a space to save assessments we complete in school, for teachers and to be able to see the progress of children. This term there will be a baseline writing assessment saved in this folder and there may be other assessments as well.

Parent Contact

November parent contact is likely to be through a Teams call (online) or a phone call. We will contact you after the October break to set this up.

Nursery sent home a September newsletter, and posted a video of the new nursery on Seesaw. We will try and send the link to all parents soon.

P1-P7 parent Facebook page

If you are not a member of the P1-7 Facebook page please consider joining, we post updates on this as well as sending information via ParentPay and Seesaw.

Free School Meals October holidays

Information from PKC has been shared via Parentpay and posted on our Facebook pages. Any enquiries please email ECSSchools@pkc.gov.uk

Halloween Parties

We will send out a note about the Halloween Parties after the October holiday. However, so you can plan ahead, we do intend to have an 'in-school' Halloween party in each class on the afternoon of Friday 30th October. Children will be able to come to school in costume and take part in some games and activities. So all you need to do is plan your child's costume with them and we will have a swap shop of costumes available as well.

Parent/Carer consultation – Lockdown Learning (From Perth & Kinross Council) Survey

This survey will take approximately 6 minutes to complete. Please help us by following the link below. (This has been sent home already, however, if you have not yet completed it, please do so to give us feedback on the Lockdown experience.)

The period of lockdown, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, had a considerable impact on our children and young people in a range of ways, with a significant amount of innovative work undertaken by school staff to support learning and wellbeing during this extraordinary period.

At Coupar Angus we provided work using the Seesaw app and this was easy to use and accessed by many families. We also provided paper packs of work for some families who felt this was easier to manage and we provided some I-pads for some families to support learning at home.

We realise nothing can compensate for the time in school, but we think school staff, children and families made the best of the situation and worked together to support the children as best that we could. We appreciate that in many families parents were working, whilst caring for children at home and all during a pandemic where we were all dealing with a new situation.

We sent home updates via Seesaw, ParentPay and email and kept in touch via phone calls and emails, as well as school drop in times for resources. We hope you feel the school supported you as best we could but we are keen to get your feedback.

It is vital that we take time to learn about the impact of this learning at home from our parents and families. Information gathered will form part of a larger review including school staff and children and young people as part of ongoing school improvement activity.

The survey is now open and will close on 4 October 2020.

The link is <https://consult.pkc.gov.uk/change-and-improvement/21f69967/>

This has been posted on the Facebook page and via Seesaw.

N Drew