



Mrs Sarah Burke  
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Contact Mrs Sarah Burke

Our ref SB/KF

Your ref

Date: 21/10/19

Dear families,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had an enjoyable break and are back ready for another productive term full of exciting opportunities.

**Staffing updates**

Mrs Kate Falconer, our School Support Assistant, is due to return to work on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Although HR have advertised for office supply cover, we currently do not have anyone to staff the office. As all other staff are mainly class committed or often out at meetings/courses, there will not always be someone available to take calls, we would therefore ask that you leave a message on the school answerphone and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as is practically possible. Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Myself & Mrs Scrimgeour will assist Mrs Turner with lunchtime & playground supervision until Mrs Falconer returns.

**Halloween Discos**

A big thank you to our Parent Council for organising the upcoming Halloween discos for our children. These will take place in the school gym hall on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October** at the following times;

P1-4 (6pm to 7pm)

P5-7 (7.15pm to 8.15pm).

£2 entry fee on the night.

Thank you to Mrs Simpson who organises the discos every year. We really appreciate the time and effort you put into this.

### **Local Foodbank - Christmas**

Staff and pupils are keen to support our local foodbank this Christmas. We would be very grateful if you can send in any donations with your child/children over the next few weeks to add to our collection. They are looking for long life items particularly the following;

- UHT Milk
- Long Life Juice
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Jam

They are unable to use;

- Food that is past the use by/best before date
- Fresh or chilled food

Thank you very much for your support with this.

### **November Open Morning**

Across the school, we have invested in introducing a structured synthetic phonics/spelling programme as well as introducing new handwriting resources. We also have a key focus on ensuring pace and challenge in writing. The children and staff are looking forward to showcasing these approaches and resources at our upcoming open morning on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. Our Restorative Rangers (p5-7 pupils) will also be presenting at our open day to share information about restorative approaches.

### **Junior Leadership Team**

Our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) are running a competition this term which they launched at today's assembly. They have asked pupils to come up with a pupil friendly version of our school improvement priorities for session 2019/20 and create a sketchnote (drawings/words) to represent these:-

- Pace and challenge in **writing**
- Continue to develop creativity skills, resilience and skills for learning, life and work through **play-based** approaches and **outdoor learning**



The winning design will be enlarged and displayed around the school. The JLT are also planning to present a certificate to the winning candidate. Entries are due by **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

### Example of a sketchnote:-



Other examples from Education Scotland can be found here:-

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/sharing-highly-effective-practice>

### **Continued Professional Learning for Staff**

Staff enjoyed a very productive training day on play-based learning approaches on the final day of last term. Mrs Scrimgeour has attended a number of PKC training days recently and shared these approaches and research evidence with the rest of the staff. Our next step is to develop a Learning Through Play Framework for Ruthvenfield Primary School based on research and the PKC Play Framework. We will also be taking part in Number Talk training this term at Ruthvenfield. Staff from a number of other schools will be joining us to learn more about active approaches / resources to use in maths.

Further outdoor learning training will also take place in November from Learning Through Landscapes who delivered our Inset training in August.

We were successful in our funding bid with this company and the school recently received £500 worth of outdoor learning resources along with the staff training session in November.



I am aware that we have quite a number of new families this session who will not have received the Seesaw parent leaflet that was distributed last year. I have attached this for your information along with this newsletter. Seesaw is a way for your child to share their learning and next steps with you at home and allows you to also add comments to celebrate their learning.

### **Climbing and Gymnastics**

Mrs Moloney (Skye's mum) has kindly volunteered to run a gymnastics club this term. More details regarding dates/times will follow shortly.

A big thank you to Mrs Moloney and Mrs Lockhart (Lily's mum) who have also kindly offered to run climbing club starting in term 3 (January time). We really appreciate the time that our family volunteers put in to running these clubs for the children. If you would like to help with either of these clubs then please let us know. Thank you.



### **Aldi's Sports Kit for Schools**

We are just over half way to collecting 300 Team GB stickers from Aldi to receive a sports kit and the chance to win one of 20 prizes of £20000 to build a health legacy. Thank you for all your help with this.

Please send any stickers collected into school with your child/children and we can add them to our Aldi's Kit for Schools poster which we have put up in the school gym hall. The offer ends on **3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

### **Volunteers – Breakfast and After School Care**

At our last Parent Council meeting some of our parents mentioned that they would like to find out more about volunteering to start up a breakfast club and after school care at Ruthvenfield. Shona O'Connor, who works for PKC, would be happy to come along after school sometime this term to talk to any interested parents about this. If you are interested then please let me know and I will find out dates that Shona has available to pop in to discuss this with you.

It would also be helpful for our volunteers to know how many families would be interested in using this service if they do decide to go ahead. Please let us know if breakfast and after school care is something that you would use for your child/children.

***Please see the following page for upcoming diary dates.***

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sarah Burke  
Headteacher





### **Term 2 diary dates**

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Oct – Term 2 begins

Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct – Parent Council Halloween Discos

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Nov - Inset Day (children not in school)

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Inset Day (children not in school)

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Council Meeting, Glover Arms @ 7pm (all welcome)

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov-Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – Book Week Scotland

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – Open morning at Ruthvenfield

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – Flu immunisations (am -Ruthvenfield PS)

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parent Contact Sessions

(Mrs Falconer will send out information nearer the time)
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Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Nov – Parent Contact Sessions

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas lunch

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec –Christmas Show rehearsal at church

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Ruthvenfield Christmas show in church 7-8pm

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas pantomime trip, Perth Concert Hall (Sinbad)

***(Please remember to make any outstanding pantomime payments through Parent Pay. Please contact me if you require any funding assistance. Thank you).***

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas parties

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – End of term