

August 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone! It is a pleasure to see everyone back in school after an enjoyable summer break, looking so smart in our school uniform. We would especially like to welcome all our new pupils, parents and staff to school. Our teachers from August are:

P1 – Ms Cunningham
P3 – Mrs McLeod
P4 – Ms Allan
P6 – Ms Monaghan
DHT – Mrs Patterson
Literacy (0.2) – Ms Brunjes

P2 – Ms Keegan
P4/3 – Ms Dowson
P5 – Ms Gordon
P7 – Mr Paton
NCCT – Ms Harper
Early Years (0.2) – Mrs Brown/Mrs Meiklejohn

Our support staff are:

Senior Clerical Assistant – Mrs McGregor
Additional Support Needs Assistant (ASNA) – Mrs Angela Wilson
ASNA – Mrs Julie McGrorie
Home-Link – Mr Jim Williamson

Classroom Assistant – Mrs Natalie McGroarty
Classroom Assistant – Mrs Rene Colton
Classroom Assistant – Mrs Lesley Watson

Annual Reminders

School Hours

Start 9.00 am
Lunch 12.15 pm - 1.00 pm
Close 3.00 pm



P1 Reminder

Full day attendance for P1 starts this year on Monday 5th September. The afternoon starts at 1.00 pm and finishes at 3.00 pm.

Medicines



If your child requires any medicines including inhalers, etc while at school; please contact the school office to fill out the required paper work. All medicines are held in the office and will be administered by the office staff once the necessary paper work is completed. Please also clearly label any inhalers and medicine.

Annual Data Check Reminder and Permissions

The Annual Data Check forms will be sent out over the next few weeks. The annual permission form covers the children for any local excursions out of the school. It is essential that you return these as soon as possible when you receive them. This allows us to quickly update our records in case we should need to contact you. Remember throughout the session to let us know promptly should any details change. A separate form is also required for any school trips outwith the local area.



Gym



Children are required to remove all jewellery before gym, including earrings. This is part of Renfrewshire Council's policy. Teachers will inform classes of their gym days. Please ensure children bring their gym kit – gym shoes and shorts will suffice - on these days. If they wish to leave their gym kit, please provide a gym bag clearly labelled with their name and remind the children to take them home on a regular basis 😊 !!

Dogs

As per Renfrewshire Council policy, dogs are not permitted in the school playground.



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	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Cochrane Castle Newsletter</h1>	<p>Cochrane Castle Primary School Beith Road Johnstone PA5 0BB Tel: 01505 320618 www.cochranecastle.renfrewshire.sch.uk enquiries@cochranecastle.renfrewshire.sch.uk</p>	
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Name Tags



Please make sure your child's name is on all items of clothing. It can be very difficult to trace the owner of un-named lost sweatshirts, jackets, lunch-boxes, etc. A Sharpie Permanent Maker is great for this and the school has invested in some for this reason.

Snacks

We have a number of pupils with nut allergies and it is essential that children only bring nut-free snacks to school. We only have 15 minutes for break so please bear this in mind when choosing your child's snack. As part of our Health Promoting School status we discourage fizzy drinks and energy drinks and would ask for your support in this. We have again purchased Cochrane Castle water bottles which are clearly marked with your child's name and these are available in class to make sure the children drink plenty of water.



Mobile Phones



Children should not bring valuables or items with sentimental value to school as these can be easily broken or lost. Mobile phones should remain switched off during school hours, as per Renfrewshire Council's policy.

School Absence

Parents should contact the school office if your child is going to be absent. A letter from the parents on their return should also be sent in. This allows us to monitor pupils' absence. We had a number of pupils with excellent attendance last year and we appreciate your continued support with this.

Attending & Time-keeping

We would like to stress the importance of making sure your child is in school for **9.00 am**. If your child arrives at school after the bell has gone, you should bring your child to the front office. The late-coming will be recorded on the register and a record is kept of the number of late-comings.



Playground and School Lines



When the bell rings at 9.00 am children should line up at the designated place. Parents/carers of pupils are asked **not** to stand in the line with their child. This allows the teacher to ensure the line is orderly before entering the building. We are very fortunate to have Mrs McGroarty in the school playground from 8.45 most days and on very wet days, children will be brought into the school building, **staff permitting**. At 3.00 pm children should be collected from the playground. The children know – and are reminded daily! – to come straight back into the building if there is no-one there to collect them. They will then be brought to the Main Office to be collected from there.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We will be continuing to promote our school values this session and have included them at the bottom of this newsletter so you can encourage your children to demonstrate these at home. In addition, we are reviewing our policy on this and will asking a group of parents to help us with this. If you would be interested, please let the school office know. We will be sharing our thoughts with all parents soon.

Walk to School

As part of Health Promoting Schools, we encourage children to walk to school as much as possible. We successfully ran Bikeability last session and were delighted to see a large number of pupils coming to school on their bikes. We also have lots who come on their scooters. We hope you will continue to support us to avoid any accidents by reminding your child not to ride their bike or scooter through the school playground. Thank-you.



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School Communication

We will shortly sending out letters requesting parents' email addresses. If you would like to receive school communication via email in the future, please complete the form and return as soon as possible. Paper copies of all correspondence will still be available if you would prefer.

Head Lice



At the start of the session I would like to remind parents to be vigilant about checking their child's hair on a regular basis. A reminder text has been sent out to all parents. If any cases of head lice are found, we will send out a class text alerting parents. It would be very helpful if you could tell the school if you discover your child has head lice.

P6 Swimming

This starts on Wednesday, 24th August for 4 weeks. Please remind your child to bring their swimming kit on these days. If any parents would be available to walk the class to and from the Johnstone Hub, please contact the school office.



Smoking and Electronic Cigarettes



Renfrewshire operates a no-smoking policy in all school grounds. Please support us by not smoking or using electronic cigarettes in our playground.

Concerns about your child

If there are concerns about your child in school we will contact you to discuss the situation. Similarly, if parents/carers have concerns about their child they should contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Parents should note that it may not always be possible for a member of staff to be available to discuss concerns with you if you call into school without previously arranging an appointment.

What's On at Cochrane Castle

As a busy working Mum, I appreciate the importance of advance warning of important events in the school year. Each year we produce a list of event dates and attach them to our monthly newsletters and will continue to do this. However, this year we will also produce a fridge copy of events so you can easily check the dates. These will be sent out separately soon. We have tried to list as many events and dates that we know of at the moment. Of course, these may be subject to unavoidable change but we will keep you posted of these as and when they arise.



I think that is all the important beginning of term information for now. This month's newsletter feels a bit of a long list of do's and don'ts so I look forward to next month which can be more of a celebration of all the things going on in the school! I'm sure we will have a super year here at Cochrane Castle and look forward to working in partnership with you.

Kindest regards,

Pam McDowall

Mrs Pam McDowall
Head Teacher

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Dates for your diary!

Date	Class	Event
24 th August 2016	P6	Swimming starts for 4 weeks
15 th September 2016	P1 – 7	Parent Evening 3.30 – 8.30 pm
19 th September 2016	P1 – 7	Homework Club starts for 4 weeks
27 th September 2016	All	Our first Community Group meeting
23 rd & 26 th September 2016	All	HOLIDAY
30 th September 2016	All	Celebrating Achievements Assembly
14 th October 2016	Staff	InService
17 th – 21 st October 2016	All	HOLIDAY
24 th October 2016	All	Flu Immunisation
28 th October 2016	P1 – 7	Halloween Party
2 nd November 2016	P1 – 7	Sharing the Learning Event
18 th November 2016	All	Celebrating Achievements Assembly
29 th November 2016	All	Joint Campus St Andrew's Day Celebrations
30 th November 2016	All	HOLIDAY
8 th December 2016	All	St David's Christmas Fair
9 th December 2016	All	Christmas Fair
16 th December 2016	P1 – 7	Nativity Service
19 th December 2016	P1 – 7	Christmas Parties 1.00 – 3.00 pm
20 th December 2016	All	Joint Campus Carol Concert
20 th December 2016	All	School closes 2.30 pm
5 th January 2017	All	Pupils return
13 th January 2017	P6	P6 Assembly and Open Afternoon
20 th January 2017	P7	P7 Assembly and Open Afternoon
27 th January 2017	P4/3	P4/3 Assembly and Open Afternoon
3 rd February 2017	P2	P2 Assembly and Open Afternoon
10 th February 2017	Staff	InService
13 th & 14 th February 2017	All	HOLIDAY
24 th February 2017	P5	P5 Assembly and Open Afternoon
3 rd March 2017	P1	P1 Assembly and Open Afternoon
10 th March 2017	P3	P3 Assembly and Open Afternoon
17 th March 2017	P4	P4 Assembly and Open Afternoon
24 th March 2017	All	Celebrating Achievements Assembly
30 th March 2017	P1 – 7	Parent Evening 3.30 – 8.30 pm
31 st March 2017	All	School closes 2.30 pm
3 rd April – 17 th April 2017	All	HOLIDAY
1 st May 2017	All	HOLIDAY
24 th May 2017	P1 – 7	Sharing the Learning Event
25 th May 2017	Staff	InService
26 th – 29 th May 2017	All	HOLIDAY
2 nd June 2017	All	Celebrating Achievements Assembly
14 th – 16 th June	P7	Johnstone High Visit
21 st June 2017	All	Reports issued
26 th June 2017	All	Valedictory
26 th June 2017	P7	Joint Campus Prom
28 th June 2017	All	School closes 1.00 pm

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