



Dear Parents / Guardians,

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful break- it seems like a distant memory now that we have the first week back under our belt. It was wonderful to see all the children back last week refreshed and ready for a new term. Today we began the process of enrolling our new Primary 1 pupils ready for them to begin in August, which inevitably leads us to planning and looking forward. As I look ahead and reflect back on our journey so far I am very excited about the year ahead and what 2019 has in store for us. As always I look forward to working together with parents and partners to make sure the boys and girls of Lochwinnoch have the best experience possible.

I hope that 2019 is all you hope it to be!

Julie Bell
Head Teacher

Green Flag



We were very proud to receive notification last term that we were successful in obtaining our first Green Flag. We are looking in to how we now proudly display our Flag to celebrate such a wonderful achievement. A huge thanks to all pupils, teachers and community partners for their hard work in helping us achieve this, but a special thanks to Miss Menzies for coordinating and pulling together a wonderful presentation and application. We will now begin the journey towards achieving our second flag.

Arts Festival



As part of this year's Arts Festival the children from P1-7 have been invited to the MacKillop building for a special visit from Badger the Mystical Mutt on **Tuesday 19th March at 1.30pm**. There will be a small number of tickets available to parents/grandparents who wish to attend the performance. More details will follow in due course.

Anti-Bullying

Thank you to all who participated in our anti-bullying workshops and completed the questionnaires provided by Brian Donnelly. He is now collating all responses and will feed these back to us in due course. These will be key to helping us form our policy, which I look forward to sharing with you when completed.

Scottish Events

This year we will host our annual Scottish Poetry and Song competition on **Friday 25th January** (am). This will be judged by myself, Mrs Gilchrist and Mr Ford. Children should have received the poem/song that they need to learn by now. We have added a new and very exciting even to the calendar this year- Primary 7 will host our very first Burns Supper on **Thursday 24th February at 1.15pm**. Both events are sure to showcase the wealth of talent we have here in Lochwinnoch!



Mobile phones

We understand that some older pupils need to bring their mobile phones to school as a safety precaution for the journey to and from school. Whilst we can accept responsibility for loss or damage to these during the school day we do have safety boxes available in upper school classrooms and in the main office to minimise risk. Mobile phones should remain in these or school bags and be switched off during the school day. Phones should not be taken out or turned on until children have left the school grounds.

Playground

Hopefully we will move towards better weather soon and we can continue to maximise the playground areas. If children wish to use the front or back areas of the playground please ensure they have wellies/old trainers and weather appropriate outdoor clothing.



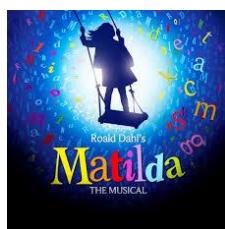
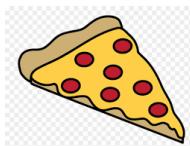
P7 Residential

We are finalising the plans for the P7 residential trip; a letter will come to Primary 7 parents next week outlining these final arrangements, including plans for the day of travel to maximise the experience for pupils. As indicated the final cost of the trip will be approx. £300 which will be due by 16th March- payments can be made at any time to the school office.



House Winners

Well done to **McDowall** who were the winning house last term. They have chosen a movie afternoon with pizza as their winning treat. McDowall will watch Home Alone (as voted for by pupils!) and have Margherita Pizza on **Tuesday 22nd January**. If you do not wish your child to participate, or if your child has any dietary requirements please contact the school office before the 22nd.



Theatre Trip

Our Theatre trip to Matilda the musical is fast approaching. A reminder that the final balance of this is due by **Thursday 28th March**- payments can be made at any time to the school office.

Internet Safety

Many thanks to one of our parents, Laurel Stevens, who has agreed to deliver an internet safety presentation to parents. This was a subject many parents were keen to learn more about so we are very grateful to Laurel for agreeing to share her expertise in this area. The session will take place on **Monday 4th February** from 5.30pm-6.30pm. All welcome.



Annexe Building

As we move into terms 3 and 4 we are continuing to build and foster independence in Primary 1 and 2 pupils. Can I now ask that parents leave pupils at the door of the annexe rather than coming in to the corridor area- teaching and support staff will be available to greet and support children as they enter their classroom. A reminder that younger children should not play on the bankings around the parked cars at the beginning/end of the day. This is to ensure the safety of all. Thank you for your support in this.

Parent Council

There will be an informal meeting of the Parent Council on **Friday 18th January** from 2-3pm. A chance to share a cuppa with the Parent Council and SLT. All welcome.



Big Bird Watch

All classes will participate in the RSPB's Big Bird Watch again this year, which will take place on **Monday 28th January**. Please ensure all children come to school prepared to be outdoors on this day.

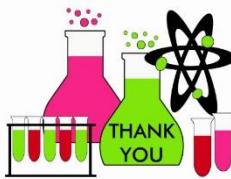


Drugs Talk

Our community Police Officers, Steven and Eilidh, will deliver a drugs safety talk to the pupils of Primary 6 and 7 on **Friday 25th January**. This complements the programme of Health and Well Being topics covered during Primary 6 and 7. Please contact the school office if you have any concerns around your child participating in the talk.

Science Week 2019

There will be a spotlight on Science during the week 4th-8th February- this is sure to be a very exciting and informative week for all. This is being organised by Mrs Beverland- more details to follow. We would like to offer huge thanks to one of our Grandparents, Mrs Watt, who has made a very generous donation to our school to enable this and future Science events to be planned for our pupils.



ParentPay

Please see the attached letter outlining the new method of making payments to school.

Active Schools

This term's active schools block will begin on Monday 28th January. All classes in the timetable attached are now live and available for booking on class4kids.

Chess Club will also resume on Wednesday 30th January.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.20-8.50am	8.20-8.50am Badminton P4-P7 Lianne Shields	8.20-8.50am Run for Fun P1-P7 Lianne Shields placement voluntary hour	8.20-8.50am	8.20-8.50am Gymnastics P4-P7 Bethany Allan
12.15-12.45pm	12.15-12.45pm	12.15-12.45pm Football (FREE) (outdoors) P5-P7 Sean Cramsey	12.15-12.45pm Mini Dodgeball (FREE) Indoors/outdoors P1-P2 Lee Callacher	12.15-12.45pm
3.00-4.00pm Netball (FREE) P5-P7 Class Teacher	3.00-4.00pm Football P3-P4 Sean Callaghan	3.00-4.00pm Street/commercial dance P3-P7 Kerry Gray	3.00-4.00pm Dodgeball P3-P7 Sean Callaghan	3.00-4.00pm

Dates for your diary

Please note that there are changes to the dates/times of some events which have been unavoidable- these have been marked in **bold**.

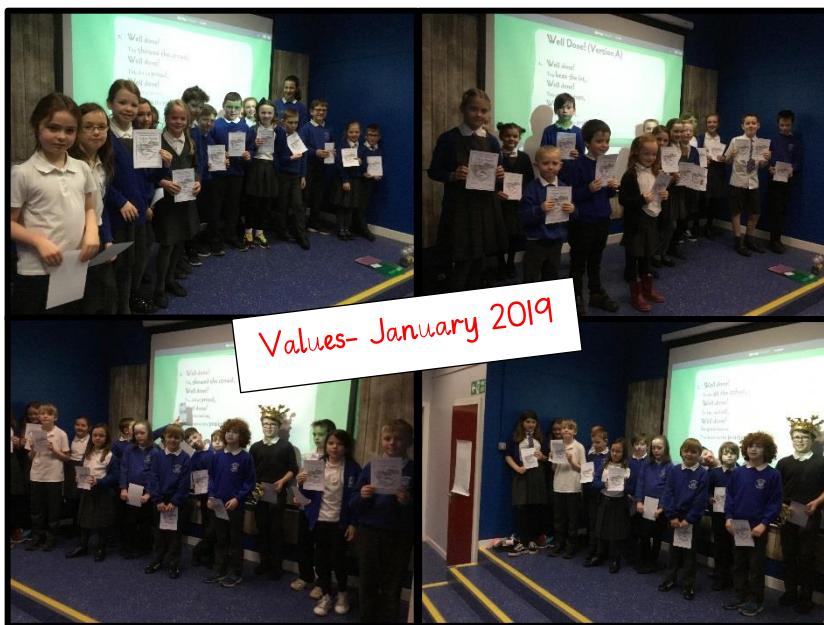
Wednesday 16 th January	PI Enrolment	
Thursday 17 th January	PI Enrolment	
Friday 18 th January	Informal Parent Council	2.00-3.00pm Main Hall
Tuesday 22 nd January	McDowall Movie afternoon	
Wednesday 23 rd January	Hot Chocolate treat	
Thursday 24 th January	P7 Burns Supper	1.15pm main hall
Friday 25 th January	Burns/Scottish Poetry competition	Change of date
Monday 28 th January	Big Bird Watch	
Monday 4 th February	Internet Safety Presentation	5.30-6.30pm
	Science week launch	
Monday 11 th -Tuesday 12 th February	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 13 th February	INSERVICE	Pupils return Thursday 14 th February at 9am
Wednesday 13 th March	Target Planning Parents Evening	3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 14 th March	Target Planning Parents Evening	3.30-6.30pm
Friday 16 th March	Final Lockerbie payment due	Payments can be made to office anytime
Tuesday 19 th March	Badger the Mystical Mutt	1.30pm
Thursday 28 th March	Final Matilda payment	
Friday 29 th March	Spring Service	Calder Church 10am
Monday 1 st -Friday 12 th April	SPRING HOLIDAY	Pupils return Monday 16 th April at 9am
Thursday 18 th April	Easter Egg competition	
Friday 20 th April	GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY	

Monday 22 nd April	EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY	
Monday 6 th May	HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 7 th May	INSERVICE	Pupils return Wednesday 8 th May at 9am
Friday 17 th May	Sports Day (weather permitting)	Times tbc
Tuesday 21 st May	Playdate for new Primary 1 pupils	9:30-10:45
Friday 24 th May	HOLIDAY	
Monday 27 th May	HOLIDAY	
Wednesday 29 th May	Playdate for new Primary 1 pupils	1:30-2:45
Tuesday 28 th -Friday 31 st May	P7 Residential	
Wednesday 5 th June	New Primary 1 Class Induction Visit	1:30-2:30
	Parents Meeting	1:30-2:30
Wednesday 12 th June	New Primary 1 Class Induction Visit	10:30-11:30
	Opportunity to sample school lunches	11:30-12:00
Wednesday 12 th June	School Show P3-6	Change of date
Thursday 13 th June	School Show P3-6	Change of date
Wednesday 12 th June	P7 JHS Visit /PI transition	
Thursday 13 th June	P7 JHS Visit /PI transition	
Friday 14 th June	P7 JHS Visit	
Monday 17 th June	Reports home	
Monday 24 th June	Primary 7 Leavers Dance	
Thursday 27 th June	End of term service	Parish Church 1pm *change to original time
Friday 28 th June	School closed for summer	1pm

Celebrating Achievement

Well done to everyone who made it on to the Rainbow Rug at the end of last term and at the start of the new term- as always I am always so impressed with the range of talents our boys and girls come to me with. We have also now had two Values assemblies- celebrating the children who have gone above and beyond to demonstrate our core school values. Our second group of recipients will join myself and Mrs Gilchrist for Hot Chocolate on Wednesday 23rd January to mark their achievements.







ParentPay - our new online payment service

We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and uniform. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card or continue to make cash payments at PayPoint stores. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or cash payments at one of 33,000 PayPoint stores
- full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school.

Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

How to get started with ParentPay



We will shortly be sending you your account activation details, just follow the instructions in the letter we give you to get started with ParentPay.

If you want to find out more about ParentPay go to:

<https://www.parentpay.com/parents/>

