

We are an ambitious school where everyone works well together and feels part of the Newmains Team



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Via seesaw app



Newsletter 2

14th October 2022

Parental Engagement survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey carried out by our Digital Leaders during the Parent and Carer interviews held this week. From the last survey results we made several changes to streamline and enhance communication and increase opportunity for parental engagement and involvement. I thought I would share a few of the results with you.

- ★ 99% feel they are kept up to date with events happening in school
- ★ 95% felt they were kept up to date with their child's learning through Seesaw
- ★ 95% found streamlining all communication to Seesaw beneficial

Some great comments too:

No suggestions, the school do a great job of engaging families and there are lots of opportunities. We enjoy Seesaw and the fact parents can interact with posts. Communication is much better now it's all via Seesaw. Overall, well informed with strong clear communication. Love the Seesaw platform and relevant amount.

A few parents commented on timing of events which often understandably fall within the school day therefore next term Bedtime stories, Disco and Christmas Fair are all in the evening.

Pupil Achievement

We operate a House system where all pupils and staff are linked to either **Bruce**, **Fitzalan**, **Stewart**, or **Wallace**. Each house has two House Captains (voted by their peers) who have different responsibilities throughout the year. Pupils can earn house tokens based on the four capacities of Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Effective Contributor and Responsible Citizen.

In assembly every week class teachers are asked to nominate one pupil for a **Pupil of the Week** award with a focus linked to the assembly such as being a good friend or working hard.

Once a month Miss Gillon and Mr McGauley hold a **Hot Chocolate Award** afternoon attended by pupils given the award by all staff members for demonstrating the school values.

At the end of every term one pupil from each class is nominated by the class teacher for a **Head Teacher Award** based on academic or wider achievement (developing skills in other aspects of life such as hobbies, sporting achievement/development, learning a new skill, fundraising, or volunteering).

We are caring

We are kind

We are fair

We strive for success

Pupil Leadership Groups

We are delighted to have many Pupil Leadership groups running this session including House Captains, Eco Committee, Digital Leaders, Sports Leaders, Reading Leaders, Rotakids and Pupil Councillors who will all undertake a wide range of activities and gather pupil voice from across the school to help identify improvements and areas of development in Newmains. Throughout the year we will share these with you via Seesaw and Twitter.

Accelerated Reading

One of our School Improvement Priorities (SIP) this year is to raise attainment in Reading. We have used some of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to support this through the use of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. Following analysis of school data and pupil reading engagement survey results, we identified that pupil motivation for reading and particularly the opportunity to self-select and monitor reading development was lower than other indicators. All pupils in P3-7 have participated in a baseline assessment which identifies the appropriate reading range for each individual. Pupils then select a book from within the range and complete a short online comprehension assessment when the book is complete. The pupil receives immediate feedback and this progress is tracked by the teacher.

Our New Library

Mrs Pickering in her role as Reading Ambassador for the school has undertaken the job of revamping the library area to now house our new AR library. We are very grateful to the Renfrew Rotary Club and the Parent Council for providing additional funding for the area and resources to support the new reading approach. Pupils will be involved in helping to care for and organise the library throughout the session. I am sure you were very impressed at Parent Interviews this week when you visited the school.

Important Dates: including holidays, school events and parental engagement opportunities

12 th October 2022	Parent Interviews
14 th October 2022	School closes for October holiday
24 th October 2022	Inservice day - staff only
25 th October 2022	School reopens for pupils
25 th October 2022	Newmains book week
26 th October 2022	Parent Council AGM at 6pm
28 th October 2022	Primary 1 and Primary 7 class photos
3 rd November 2022	Parent Council Hallowe'en Disco
14 th - 18 th November 2022	Anti-bullying week
14 th November 2022	Anti-bullying parent workshop
18 th November 2022	Rights Respecting School Day (RRS)
30 th November 2022	St Andrew's Day holiday - school closed
1 st December 2022	Parent Council Christmas Fair
8 th December 2022	Christmas Jumper Day
14 th and 15 th December 2022	Christmas shows - more information will follow
16 th - 21 st December 2022	Christmas parties - information will follow with date nearer the time
21 st December 2022	School closes for Winter holiday
5 th January 2023	School reopens for pupils

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Newmains Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM this year will be held in the school on 26th October 2022 to which all parents and carers are invited. If you are interested in joining the Parent Council, please contact them via their Facebook page or the school office and your information can be passed on.

One aspect of the work of the parent council is fundraising for the benefit of all pupils in Newmains. Next term they are organising a Hallowe'en Disco, personalised Christmas Cards, and Christmas Fair. It would be great if you are able to support any of these events.

Next Term

On return from the October holiday, we have a number of exciting events, to promote enjoyment of reading, organised for Newmains Book Week including Bedtime stories and a Reading Cafe - information has been sent out by Mrs Pickering to the relevant year groups.

In addition, we have a wide range of events for parents and carers to be involved in such as Parent Council AGM and Hallowe'en Disco, Anti-bullying workshop, Christmas Fair and Christmas shows - we will send information for each of these with more detail, nearer the time.

I hope you all have an enjoyable October break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on 25th October 2022.

Louise Dunn

Head Teacher