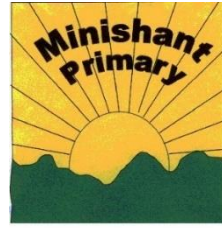


# September Newsletter 2024

## Minishant Primary School



### Welcome Back to School

We are delighted to welcome everyone back for Session 2024-25, following the summer break, and we hope that you have all managed to enjoy the holidays together, even if the Scottish weather was not always favourable! I am very excited about the session ahead and look forward to working closely with all our children, families and staff. As we start a new session, we extend a very warm welcome to Miss MacRae, Class 2 teacher who joins our team. I would also like to welcome Mrs Hogarth who will be working across both classes on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. I am delighted to say that our very popular free breakfast club continues for this session and is available every day from 8.15am until 8.45am. All pupils are invited to enjoy a healthy breakfast, take part in games, activities and chat to friends – a great, settled start to the day!

### Reading School and South Ayrshire Reads

We are ready to go on our journey to Silver Level Reading Schools accreditation. Silver accreditation builds on the foundational work of Core Level, through providing additional opportunities to broaden our learners' experiences both in and outside of the classroom, such as engaging with authors, visiting libraries, and bringing in other outside expertise.



### PE Kits & Learning Outdoors

In order to participate fully and safely, all pupils should have a bag of indoor kit comprising gym shoes or trainers, shorts and a t-shirt. For outdoor learning, please bring in a pair waterproof trousers, warm jacket and wellies that can be left in the school. On PE days, for health & safety reasons, all jewellery should be removed for gym and long hair tied back.

### Polycrub

Over the summer holidays, our Polycrub has been built, with grateful thanks to Mrs Devlin. We are all excited about this new addition to our school grounds. The children have already made a plan of what they would like to plant, grow and eat!

*Parents, if you have any donations of plants, cuttings, seeds or soil, the children would be very grateful.*



### What are we Learning?




Class teachers have outlined the learning focus for all classes for Term 1. This information has been uploaded to the school website. I would encourage you to have a look to support your children and talk about what they have been learning in class.

## Health & Safety – Medication

If your child requires medication at school, please fill in the necessary paperwork as this must be completed before we are able to administer any kind of medication. A blank medication permissions form is attached to this letter and these forms are also available from the school office.

## Minishant Primary – School Improvement

Each year, we set out clear areas to improve the work of our school. This is done through consultation with a range of partners including staff, parents and our young people and from surveys undertaken. The full plan can be found on our website. This session we will focus on:

<p><b>Priority 1</b> Raising children and young people's attainment and achievement in Literacy and numeracy.</p>		<p>To close the attainment gap in Literacy through engagement with South Ayrshire Reads and SARs. (Authority Priorities)</p>	<p>To ensure all staff have an understanding of meta-skills and creativity skills and how these can be used to enhance the teaching and learning experience for our pupils.</p>	<p>To improve attainment in Literacy through using high quality, decodable books and resources, aligned to phonics programme.</p>	<p>To raise attainment in numeracy and develop number skills through resources linked to CfE and developing conceptual understanding of maths that incorporate: Concrete Pictorial Abstract Mathematical reasoning and problem solving.</p>	<p>To improve children's handwriting and presentation of their work in jotters.</p>
<p><b>Priority 2</b> Enhance learners' experiences in Health and Wellbeing through partnership working to support the emotional and physical wellbeing of our young people and their families.</p>		<p>To enhance learners' experiences by providing a progressive HWB programme with a focus on social and emotional health (Tree House)</p>	<p>To ensure children are safe, happy and settled at school.</p>	<p>To support our children and young people to reach their learning potential with a focus on wellbeing and removing barriers to learning by embedding Nurture Principles.</p>	<p>To ensure continued development of children's rights and pupil voice.</p>	
<p><b>Priority 3</b> Improve learning outcomes through consistent, high quality learning and teaching, with a focus on developing planning and assessment formats, tracking and monitoring procedures and effective approaches to learning and teaching.</p>		<p>To establish consistent approaches to planning and assessment used across both schools.</p>	<p>To agree shared expectations of what high quality learning and teaching looks like through staff meeting focus on differentiation/adaptive teaching and feedback.</p>	<p>To enhance learning experiences for children and young people through play and active learning.</p>	<p>To continue to improve engagement through the use of MTV thinking Routines and SSERC science</p>	
<p><b>Cluster Priority - Transition</b></p>		<p>To establish a robust transition framework for P4-S2 across the cluster schools</p>	<p>To review Curriculum transition experiences for the Carrick Cluster</p>	<p>To explore the national perspective, contextualised approach as a cluster.</p>		

## Toothbrushing

Our Child smile nurse, Mrs Girvan, will visit the children again on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September to set up the toothbrushing programme. The Child smile Toothbrushing Programme is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland. Research tells us that brushing at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste can help prevent tooth decay. To support this, Childsmile have developed a national supervised toothbrushing programme to take place in our school setting, in addition to brushing at home.

## Parents are Partners

As a school, we are always reflecting on what we do, to ensure we continue to provide the best we can for the school and school community. I have included a Parental Response sheet at the back of the newsletter, which has a few questions relating to your child's/children's learning. Please return by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## Parent Helpers

We are always very keen to have parent helpers in and around the school. Parents can be involved in assisting in classes, with libraries, with art activities and in a number of other ways such as offering a special skill or knowledge related to children's learning. Should you be willing to get involved, even just once, I would ask that you complete the response sheet at the back of the newsletter. We will then be in touch to arrange suitable times.

## Parent Coffee & Chat

I would like to welcome parents to an informal Coffee & Chat session in the IFE wing on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 1.30pm – 1.55pm, before the Harvest Assembly at 2pm – 3pm.

## Swimming Lessons Primary 5-7

Swimming lessons began on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August** for a 10-week block of lessons at the new Culzean Campus swimming pool. In addition to swimwear and a towel, if your child wears goggles please ensure that they bring these too (goggles must have the child's name written on them), and a **£1 coin** for a locker.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – IFE Wing 9.15am – 10.15am

Once again, we are delighted to support MacMillan coffee morning charity event to support people living with cancer. We would be delighted to accept donations of cakes or biscuits and these can be handed in to school on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Our pupils will welcome our guests and the suggested donation for tea/coffee & cake is £2.

## European Languages Day 2024

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, our classes will be celebrating European Languages Day. Our focus this year is Spanish, as we welcome new pupils Victoria and Dante to our school from Spain. If pupils wish, they may come to school dressed in the colours of the Spanish flag.



## Attendance & Late Coming

In South Ayrshire we know that going to school is a great way to prepare children and young people for the future. We've launched the 'Every Learner, Every Day' campaign to highlight the benefits of going to school, such as having fun with friends, learning about the world, and developing life skills. We place great importance on good attendance and of course arriving at school on



time. Poor attendance and late coming is monitored closely and letters sent to parents, where this is causing concern. Thanks for your support with this.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Please find attached, a list of school dates for your diary. As we progress through the school year, this will be added to, and I will keep you informed of other important dates as they emerge.

### **Contact**

As always, should you have any queries about the school or anything in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school. I look forward to this exciting new term and I appreciate your support as we work together in partnership to provide the very best for our young people in our school.

Kind regards,

*Shirley H Devlin*

Head Teacher

**PARENTAL RESPONSE SHEET – September 2024**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer's Name:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am keen to be involved in the school as a parent helper.

In relation to the learning that takes place in school, what are the things that are important to you and your child when at school?

Homework – Please outline below your views on homework.

What are your suggestions for school trips, including residential trips?

We are keen to work in partnership with parents. How do you feel home and school can best work together to ensure the best outcomes for your child?

Please use the space below for any other suggestions or comments.

Swimming for P5, P6 and P7	Every Monday morning until (including) Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Elise Girvan Toothbrushing– Minishant	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September
Cutty Sark Museum visit	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Celebration of Learning, SARS, 2.30pm – 3pm	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
EU Languages’ Day	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
MacMillan Coffee Morning, 9.15am to 10.15am	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Parents’ Night	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Coffee and Chat, 1.30pm to 1.55pm	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Harvest Assembly, 2pm to 3pm	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Flu Immunisations	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Hallowe’en Party, 1.30pm to 3pm	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024
Maths Celebration of Learning, Open Session, 9.30am to 10.30am	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Remembrance Day, time tbc at the Cenotaph	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Children in Need	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Dental Inspections, pm	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Pantomime	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas Concert, 6pm	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Christmas Party, 1.30pm to 3pm	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Scottish Celebration, 2.15pm to 3pm	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2025
STEM Fortnight	w/c Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025
World Book Day	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Comic Relief	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Spring Celebration, 9.30am to 10.30am	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
New P1 Parents’ Induction/Meeting	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Parents’ Night	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Sports’ Day, 9.30am to 10.30am	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Carrick Academy Transition Days for P7 to S1	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Bump Up Afternoon	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Leavers’ Assembly, 1.30pm to 3pm	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

