

# Clovenfords Primary School

**Kindness Respect Honesty**

Weekly Update – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024



## Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

We finish the week before half term with some lovely successes and achievements. In particular we wanted to say a huge congratulations to all the pupils who competed in the Sportshall Athletics Finals. Whilst they did not come out as overall winners, competing against the biggest schools in the Borders with enthusiasm, fun and a terrific sense of teamwork has made us all very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you to the parents who were able to help with transport for this event.

Our younger pupils very much enjoyed another successful outdoor learning session with Lisa from Go Wild and we are delighted with the rich experiences they are engaging in which tie in with supporting them to understand how they can be effective learners and responsible citizens outside the classroom.

The next focus of our Building Resilience programme is looking at how having a goal can help us to set realistic targets. You will find the home learning task for this posted on your child's Class Communication Group. We very much hope you engage with this as we have had a recent focus on our health and wellbeing curriculum, where we asked you to share your understanding of this. You will see the results from the feedback survey below.

Over the next few weeks, on our return to school, we will be consulting with you on our Respectful Relationships Policy as we are creating a statement which supports understanding and provides clear information for all.

The next section of our Parent Handbook is below in our weekly '**Parent Handbook Bitesize**'.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend and a restful half term break. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

*Mrs Saxon*

## Dates for the Diary

<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Building Resilience Family Learning task issued – Have A Goal
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Half Term begins – school closed to all
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	In Service Day – school closed to all pupils
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Pupils resume
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	World Thinking Day – pupils invited to come to school in Brownie/Scout/Cubs etc. uniform
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Building Resilience Family Learning Task due – Have A Goal
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Open Afternoon Café Conversations – 1.30pm
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Pupil Progress Consultations - 5.00pm-7.00pm
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	P6/7 Class Assembly – 1.30pm – all P6/7 parents welcome
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Pupil Progress Consultations - 4.00pm-6.00pm
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter Holidays begin
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	All resume

## School Car Park

A reminder that the school car park is for staff use only. Please do not drive your children beyond the school gate to drop them off or collect them at either end of the school day. **This is for pupil and staff safety.** Please park outside the school gates if arriving by car with your child(ren).

## Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Kyla Akrigg and Miss Laura Cook to our Additional Needs Assistant team. At the end of this month Miss Cook is getting married and will then be known as Mrs Blair. Welcome to both ladies who have made a super start to getting to know the children.



Miss Akrigg



Miss Cook

### Health and Wellbeing Parental Engagement

Thank you to everyone who gave feedback on their understanding of children's Health and Wellbeing learning. We wanted to hear all the ways you support your child's health and wellbeing outwith school and the most effective ways that you do this. We have included the QR code and link once more if you would like to add your thoughts.

<https://forms.office.com/e/R1ecAQqVh0>

Below are some of the key messages that were shared from home about children's Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) learning:



Almost all of you knew about the following programmes/resources for learning that the school use to promote H&WB

- Daily soft starts
- Nurture groups
- children's entitlement to two hours of physical education each week

Less well known were:

- Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting programme
- Principles of Nurture
- Wellbeing Wednesdays

We will endeavour to share further information about our H&WB learning and resources over the coming weeks. We will also be consulting with you on our Respectful Relationships Policy shortly.

Some of the most popular messages you share with your child to support their confidence and resilience included:

- Sharing with your child that everyone goes through ups and down in their life and that this is normal
- Supporting your child to understand that everyone has different strengths and that we are all unique
- It is good to talk things over and share any worries
- Praising your child's progress and ability to have a go at things

negative feelings  
times beivre  
good part of day  
relationship with my child  
curricular clubs

Honest  
new foods  
definitely try  
different kinds

mental health  
foods and activities  
child time  
way  
effort rather than her achievement

good values  
hard  
self determination  
multiple times  
feelings



### Wider Achievements

Congratulations to Rosie who is Brownie of the Week!

Well done to Sean and Jamie for showing their lifelong learner skills out of school by adding to the bug hotel last weekend.



### Building Resilience Launch Assembly Have A Goal

At assembly this week we looked at how setting realistic goals can help to motivate us, and that learning to overcome setbacks helps us to cope with future ones. We also spoke about how important it is to share successes, and of course our weekly Star Achievers, house point tallies and other achievements – such as our Sportshall Athletics stars are all super examples of the importance of celebrating success.

Congratulations to the following Star Achievers for showing our school values in action, for using their learning powers effectively to support their progress, and for showing their ongoing understanding of our school aims:



ELC	Sophie
P1/2	Innis
P2/3	Anna
P3/4	Eva
P5/6	Leah
P6/7	Eliza



It was a fun celebration with a few new hot chocolate ‘rituals’ shared by the children. Lots of giggling ensued – and then we did the washing up!

### Art n’ About in Gala Community Arts Festival

Please see the attached flyer for information on a range of creative experiences for children at MacArts, Bridge Street, Galashiels, TD1 1SP on Saturday 17 February from 10.30am to 2pm.

### Parent Handbook Bitesize

Please find below the latest section of our Parent Handbook which we are sharing in manageable chunks to keep you up to date and informed with all that this handbook contains:

#### *Practical information*

#### **Outdoor Play**

We have large playground areas outside for the children to enjoy during their break times and school staff are on duty to supervise. We expect the children to follow our school values at all times during the school day and this includes at break times.

Please do not send your child to school with toys or other personal items from home as these can get lost or broken. Staff will not be responsible for any personal items that get broken or lost during the school day.

## **Mobile Phones**

Personal mobile phones can compromise the safeguarding and security of other children and/or adults and are therefore a security risk. If your child comes to school with a mobile phone or smartwatch, they will be required to hand it to their teacher at the start of the school day. Their phone/watch will be returned to them at the end of the day. The school may contact you to discuss this further if necessary.

## **Wet Weather Arrangements**

During extreme weather, children will have their break inside school, normally in their own classrooms. They will have access to suitable games, TV programmes or educational videos. If at any time during breaks the weather improves the children will get the opportunity to go outside for fresh air.

## **School Transport**

Scottish Borders Council (SBC) organises school buses/transport for children who require this. Please contact Scottish Borders Council Transport Department for further information.

## *Health, Safety and Security*

### **School Security**

The safety and security of pupils and staff when attending or working in the school is extremely important to us. We have a CCTV system in place to monitor security around the school building outwith school hours.

For the security and safety of all pupils, all doors around the school are locked during the school day. Parents and visitors wishing to speak with individual members of staff should go to the school office at the main school entrance to make an appointment.

We would ask that all parents assist us in ensuring the security of the building and those inside by not entering the building at any time through the pupil entrances, but rather from the main school entrance. This may feel a little inconvenient at times and in contrast to our 'open door' policy however it is a small price to pay for the knowledge that we are doing all we can to ensure children's safety.

If you come to school, we have a buzzer entry system to alert staff to your presence at the door. You will be buzzed in, and, if accessing the main school areas you may be required to sign in.

Parents and visitors wishing to speak with individual members of staff should go to the school office at the main school entrance and make an appointment.

All visitors to school will be asked to sign in and wear an identification badge whilst in the school.

To ensure pupil safety, Additional Needs Assistants and other staff may approach and question an unknown adult in the playground.

Please note that there may be times when you arrive at the school main entrance and find that the office is not staffed. This may be due to lunch breaks or staff being elsewhere in the building for a short period of time. Please do not attract the attention of passing pupils and signal to them to open the door for you. The children know that they must not do this - even if they know who you are. Please be patient as a member of staff will attend to your arrival at their earliest convenience.

To support you with this our office hours are:

Monday to Thursday - 8.30am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Friday - 8.30am - 12.30pm

### **Medical Care**

If your child uses an inhaler or needs to take medication regularly in school, please discuss this with the school office staff, who will issue you with a medication form to enable staff to administer medication, which must have a name dispensing label for the child. The form will detail the procedure for use of such medication within school time. It must be completed by parents and



discussed with first aiders. Any short-term medication requirements should also be discussed with the first aiders in school.

Any minor injuries in school will be dealt with by our first aiders.

If your child receives a bump or injury to the head then, regardless of the severity, we will endeavour to contact parents who can then make the decision as to whether they come and collect the child or wait until the end of the school day.

If your child falls ill, or is more seriously injured during school time, we will contact you to make you aware of the situation and, if necessary, we will ask you to collect your child from the school.

If you cannot be contacted and the Headteacher/first aiders consider the case to be serious, your child will be taken straight to hospital with a member of staff.

**Parents must always keep the school informed of their most up-to-date emergency contact numbers so we can get in touch quickly in an emergency.**

### **Pupil Records**

Records of home addresses, places of work, emergency contacts, telephone numbers etc. must be kept up-to-date and the office staff should be notified immediately of any changes. This information is vital in case of illness or accident in school.

If an emergency does occur, or if a child feels very poorly, it is crucial that time is not wasted in trying to contact parents or carers who may be urgently needed. Any delay can be extremely distressing for the child concerned.

Clovenfords Parent Handbook pages 8-10



### **School's Out Clovenfords**

A reminder you can contact School's Out at: [admin@schoolsoutclovenfords](mailto:admin@schoolsoutclovenfords)



### **Clothingfords**

Clothingfords is available for you to come and browse across the school day as well as during after school and evening events. Please do not be shy about coming in to use this great facility! There is a great mixture of good quality, used items. Please pop along when you can to use this great facility.

#### **WANTED!**

If you have any children's wellies that no longer fit and are in good condition we would love to have them for our hub. Thank you for the donations so far – keep them coming!

### **Communication**

If your child will not be in school, it is important that you inform the school office by 9.00am. You can report absence by phone or email.

**School office phone number:** 01896 662755

**School office email:** [clovenfordsps@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:clovenfordsps@scotborders.gov.uk)

**School Twitter (X) :** @Clovenfords\_ps

**School website:** [Clovenfords Primary School – Kindness, Respect, Honesty \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Clovenfords Primary School – Kindness, Respect, Honesty (glowscotland.org.uk))