

Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update – Friday 22nd March 2024



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

This week we have welcomed almost all of our families into school to share in their child's progress in learning. Thank you to everyone who has engaged with this as we value working in partnership with you. There were lots of positives to share and I know that our teachers and ELC practitioners were so appreciative of the positive feedback they received around how they are supporting your child on their ongoing journeys as lifelong learners.

If for any reason you were unable to make your appointment or indeed book one, please contact the school office in the first instance and we will arrange a ten minute consultation for you with your child's class teacher/practitioner.

On Thursday we celebrated some wonderful learning at our P6/7 class assembly as the children shared their Genius Hour projects. The topics were so wide-ranging and really reflected the children's personal interests. It was also lovely, as always, to celebrate our Star Achievers at our weekly assembly. We very much enjoy sharing with the whole school their super examples of our school vision, values and aims in action which continue to support and encourage a positive culture and ethos in our school. Your support at home with these values also reinforces this.

Next week we finish up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28th March and as such there will be no Weekly Update next Friday.

We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back into school on Monday 15th April for our final term of the session. I hope you all have a restful and happy break as a family.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

Friday 29th March	Easter Holidays begin
Monday 15th April	All resume
Tuesday 16th April	P7 Parents Residential Information Evening - 6.00pm
Monday 22nd April	YID Class Photos

P7 Residential

We are looking forward to welcoming P7 parents and pupils to an Information Evening on the 16th April at 6.00pm so you can hear more about the upcoming P7 residential. The children will be looking at the activities on offer prior to their residential and we will endeavour to book their first choices of activity with the centre. The attached list of recommended clothing should only be used once the activities on offer have been booked, which is why, for ease, we have provided a general list below:

Clothes: Indoor shoes, Trainers for dry activities, Trainers for water activities, Trousers/leggings or shorts full length and/or below the knee, T-shirts, Jumpers, Underwear, Waterproof jacket and trousers (if you have them), Wellies, Sunhat, Swimming costume or shorts.

Other items: Sunscreen or insect repellent, Bag for muddy clothes and shoes, Water bottle, Towels (for showering and activities), Toiletries.

Swimming Lessons

We would really appreciate a few minutes of your time if you haven't already done so to fill in the very short survey below indicating your child's swimming ability.

Live Borders are trying to gauge the need to provide swimming lessons (delivered during normal school hours) in order to bring non and apprehensive swimmers up to a level where they can then take part in normal swimming activities that are age and stage appropriate.

Live Borders envisage this going ahead from August 2024. **If you have a child who is currently in P3, P4, P5 and P6 please can we ask that you complete this short form to indicate your child's swimming ability.** We would ask all P3-P6 parents to complete this form so we have an accurate picture for our school and will therefore be able to ensure that we can access all opportunities as they arise with Live Borders for swimming lessons.

<https://forms.office.com/e/tqzxzaM2Fh>



Bird Gardens Scotland Free Music Workshop

Hugh Nankivell who is one of the UK's more respected community musicians with local young musician Cormac Thomas will be running free music workshops for any age and any experience of music at Bird Gardens Scotland in Oxtun on 9th April. See attached flyer for more details.

More information about the workshops can be found at:

<https://beanjarbeanjar.co.uk/oxton-workshops-and-concert-info>

The Bird Gardens cafe will be open. There won't be a charge to go into the Visitors Centre where the workshops are being held, or the cafe.

Katie's Music Sessions Easter Gig

Katie's Music Sessions are playing a gig and workshop on **Friday 29th March** at Cafe Recharge in Galashiels from 10.30-12.30pm. The gig is open to all and is free, although they would welcome donations. See attached flyer for full details.

Parent Handbook Bitesize

Here is the next instalment of our Parent Handbook in chronological order as it appears in the handbook, this week looking at Curriculum:

Curriculum

Curriculum

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and progressive curriculum which is relevant to the needs of our pupils. We will ensure that the principles of a Curriculum for Excellent; challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance underpins all of our curriculum work.

The curriculum is made up of four key contexts for learning:

The ethos and life of the school where:

- A positive climate of respect and trust is established based on the Vision, Values and Aims of the school.
- Children are encouraged to contribute to the life of the school by taking on leadership responsibilities.

Experiences and Outcomes

- Teachers and visiting specialists will plan and offer experiences for children to learn across all eight curriculum areas
- The eight curriculum areas are: Languages, Mathematics, Expressive Arts, Religious and Moral Education, Sciences, Social Studies, Technologies and Health and Wellbeing

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL):

- Projects where children can apply skills, knowledge and understanding from more than one curriculum area to promote deeper understanding and relevance to their learning

Personal Achievement

- Opportunities to recognise and share achievements beyond the classroom

The curriculum for Excellence Framework is divided into levels:

Below is the expected levels of attainment for the Curriculum for Excellence. It is a guide as learners will progress at a pace that is right for them within a curriculum which has been designed to be flexible to allow us to meet the needs of all our pupils.

CfE Level	Expected Stage of Achievement
Early Level	Aged 3 to the end of P1, but earlier or later for some.
First Level	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some.
Second Level	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some.
Third/Fourth Level	S1 to S3, but earlier or later for some.
Senior Phase	S4 to S6, and college or other means of study.

The path most children are expected to follow through the levels reflects childhood development and the stages of maturation as well as the changing ways in which they engage with learning as they develop. Some children will start learning at these levels earlier and others later, depending on individual needs and aptitudes. The framework is designed to be flexible in order to permit careful planning for those with additional support needs, including those, for example, who have a learning difficulty or those who are particularly able. All children have their unique skills, abilities and aptitudes and learning is not linear. Children can flourish across different areas of the curriculum at different times. It is important to celebrate the achievements and successes of all children and for families not to compare their child to others.

Further information on the Curriculum for Excellence and how you can support your child's education can be found on the following websites:

- [Parentzone Scotland | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)
- [Education Scotland | Education Scotland](#)
- [Scotland's national skills agency | Skills Development Scotland](#)

The Importance of Play

The importance of play in children's daily lives as a way of supporting healthy development, quality of life and sense of wellbeing has been increasingly recognised in recent years. Play is a key element in developing children's physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills and is essential to them becoming effective learners. Outdoor play is particularly important for both mental and emotional wellbeing.

At Clovenfords we offer all children a 'soft start' each morning. A 'soft start' is the first 30 minutes at the start of each day which gives the children a chance to catch up with each other, choose a game or a task to settle them back into the routines of school after the weekend, and to continue to develop their social and emotional skills in a calm and purposeful way. This means all children have the chance to begin each school day in a more relaxed way; they feel less rushed and the opportunities for free play allow for the development of many other skills, such as creativity, curiosity, problem solving, teamwork, independence and emotional regulation. For our older pupils, the soft start will be play based but may have a guided focus on aspects of their learning.

Learning and Teaching

Pupils from P1-P7 are taught across the curriculum using a range of different approaches. We aim for all pupils to experience high quality active learning and teaching approaches, which are purposeful, engaging, challenging and which encourage creativity. We will ensure that, wherever possible that real contexts and purposes will be used for learning. We will cater for varying needs and abilities and will encourage independent learning. We will help the children to fulfil their potential by setting challenging, but realistic goals, supported by consistent and positive approaches to assessment, feedback and self-reflection to inform next steps in learning.

Learning Powers

Metacognition is a term used to describe 'learning about learning'. At Clovenfords the children learn about this through using their Learning Powers. Learning Powers help to develop children's understanding of themselves as learners, to be able to understand their learning and to have a shared language to support their understanding about what learning consists of. For example, it is not enough to simply talk about putting effort into their learning, children must understand what that means - *how do they put effort into their learning?*

Learning Powers are explored and shared with the children using eight characters:

Connie Concentrate, Enjoy Learning Ellie, Keep Improving Katie, Have A Go Harry, Be Curious Clive, Be Co-operative Bertie, Don't Give Up Dan, Use Your Imagination Isi.

Clovenfords Parent Handbook pages 14-18

Primary 6/7 Class Assembly

Primary 6/7 led our assembly this week and shared their learning on their Genius Hours – topics of personal interest to them which they explored, researched and then presented, first to the rest of their class and then by sharing how they used their learning powers to develop their understanding of themselves as lifelong learners during the whole school assembly.

Congratulations to the following Star Achievers for showing our school vision, values and aims in action, as well as using their learning powers to continue to progress in their learning:



ELC	Ruby
P1/2	Callum
P2/3	Eilidh
P3/4	Joey
P5/6	Struan
P6/7	Joe





It was lovely to chat with the children and celebrate their award with them. We know this is a real highlight of our school week and the children are looking forward to baking the biscuits.



School's Out Clovenfords

A reminder you can contact School's Out at: 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!

We are still keen to receive children's wellies that no longer fit and are in good condition. 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

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))