

Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update – Friday 15th March 2024



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

We very much enjoyed welcoming all the families who were able to make it to our Open Afternoon Café Conversations on Monday this week. Our P7 leaders did an excellent job of collecting and returning children to their classrooms, serving refreshments, handing out feedback forms and tidying up afterwards. It was lovely to read how many of you appreciated the P7's efforts. Some of the feedback from you included:

"The relaxed atmosphere works well as the boys can get comfy and chat more openly about their work."

"Enjoyed the focused time to sit down with the children. Thank you for the refreshments."

"I feel it was very relaxed. Was a good open afternoon."

"Thank you to all the P7s who looked after us well and were extremely polite and helpful."

"Informal setting (but still within the 'formality' of the school) – this is ideal to focus on school activities. Please do this event again"

"The P7s helping worked really well."

"Amazing to see the P7 learners in action – they are fab!"

"The P7s did an amazing job!"

"Lovely, welcoming environment, led by the children. Wouldn't change a thing!"

Next week we will be opening our doors to you again as we welcome you in for your child's Pupil Progress Consultation. There is much to celebrate and recognise in terms of progress across the curriculum for all the children and we will continue to champion effort and process over product. It is important that every child is recognised for their strengths as well as their next steps.

In the meantime, please take a few minutes, if applicable, to access and fill in the online form regarding swimming lessons – full details below. We are also sharing news this week of our aim to receive a Digital Schools Award.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 20th March | Pupil Progress Consultations - 5.00pm-7.00pm |
| Thursday 21st March | P6/7 Class Assembly – 1.30pm – all P6/7 parents welcome |
| Thursday 21st March | Pupil Progress Consultations - 4.00pm-6.00pm |
| 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 |

Swimming Lessons

Over the past few months Live Borders has been in discussion with the Rowan Boland Memorial Trust in order to see if they could access funding to pursue a targeted swimming project that is aimed at primary aged children in the immediate Galashiels area who are non-swimmers or who have very limited swimming abilities or severe apprehension about swimming.

The aim would be that these children would be given 8-10 weeks' worth of swimming lessons (delivered during normal school hours) in order to bring them up to a level where they can then take part in normal swimming activities that are age and stage appropriate. Groups would be no larger than 10 at a time so that learning is really targeted and each child gets lots of attention each week. Lessons would take place at Galashiels swimming pool and be taught by a Live Borders instructor in 30-45 minute sessions. Live Borders would like to target P4 and P5 pupils in the 1st instance. However, if places remained unused then schools may have the opportunity to send along identified P6 and/or P7 pupils.

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>



Open Afternoon – Café Conversations



Our Café Conversations were a great chance for you to talk with your child(ren) before our upcoming Pupil Progress Consultations next week.

Wider Achievements



Congratulations to **Anna** for being Brownie of the Week and to **Fergus** and **James** for their recent rugby medals. Please continue to encourage your child to share their wider achievements with us – or you can email the school and let us know. Thank you.



Digital Schools Award

We have recently registered to become a Digital School in the hope of receiving the Digital Schools Award. This is a national awards scheme to promote, recognise and encourage a whole school approach to the use of digital technology in schools.

As part of this process, we have to gather evidence and examples of how we use digital technology at Clovenfords. At our whole school gathering this week we collected the children's voice about how digital technology is used to support and enhance their learning. Examples included P7 Tech Leaders supporting digital technology learning in classes, our weekly Sphero Indi club and the children using various apps on their iPads to share their voice and understanding of their learning.

We hope to successfully complete this programme in the coming months and receive a nationally recognised Digital Schools Award accredited by Education Scotland. We will keep you up to date with the progress!



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 Communication:

Communication

Absence Procedures

If your child is absent from school through ill health, please contact the school between 8.30am - 9.00 am to inform the office and to give an idea of how long your child may be absent. If no contact has been made from home, then the office staff will either send a text message by Groupcall or will telephone to find out the reason for the absence. Requests for absences such as medical appointments should be emailed/phoned to the school office.

If a child has to leave early, for safety reasons it is essential they are collected from the school office by the parent/carer. Children will not be permitted to leave school during school hours without a known adult to accompany them.

Holidays should not be taken during term time, unless in exceptional circumstances. If you do need to request a holiday during term time, please email or write to the Headteacher in advance, giving dates of absence. Family holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances, will be marked as an unauthorised absence on the register.

Communication with Parents

The headteacher's Weekly Update is emailed every Friday to all parents and families in the school community.

The Update covers aspects of the life of the school and gives information about events and activities. These updates are emailed using Groupcall - please ensure you have given the school office your most up to date email address in order to receive a copy. You can also find our Weekly Updates on our school website.

Letters are issued for specific reasons such as a class outing. Parents will be asked to return permission slips for outings and sports activities. Please note that if permission slips and other relevant forms are not returned by the date required and we do not have written permission from parents, then for health and safety reasons, children may not be able to take part in an outing.

Each class also has a communication group on Showbie which allows you to see instant up to date news about events /information pertinent to your child's class. You will also be able to access regular updates and information on learning that is taking place each week via your child's online learning portfolio on Showbie. When your child enrolls, an online portfolio will be created for them and you will be sent the relevant information to join their class communication group.

We have a school Twitter (X) account which is linked to our website. You will find snapshots of learning activities happening in school across the week as well as useful school and community information for families. Our Twitter handle is: **@Clovenfords_ps**

Concerns or Complaints

We aim to ensure your child is safe, happy and has regular opportunities to experience success and achievements as well as having a consistent level of pride in their learning. If you are unhappy about any aspect of your child's education, it is important that you contact the school as soon as possible.

If something goes wrong, or you are dissatisfied with our services, please tell us and we will do our best to put things right. We deal with all complaints in accordance with the Scottish Borders Council complaints handling procedure. This can be found on the council's website:

www.scotborders.gov.uk

If you do want to make a complaint, you can do it either in person, by phone, in writing or by email. You can do this through your child's teacher/practitioner or a senior member of staff (the Headteacher, Principal Teacher or Early Years Officer) or indeed any member of staff. You can also make a complaint via the complaints form on the council website, (see above).

If we are unable to resolve your complaint, or if you believe your complaint requires formal investigation, you may make a complaint directly to the Education and Lifelong Learning Department at Scottish Borders Council. Again, this may be done in a variety of ways:

- In person at Scottish Borders Council customer services office
- By phoning Customer Advice and Support Service on 0300 100 1800
- By email: PeopleComplaint@scotborders.gov.uk
- In writing
- To your local councillor
- Via the complaints form on the council website: www.scotborders.gov.uk

Emergency School Closure

In the case of an emergency closure such as adverse weather conditions or a heating or power failure in the school, parents will be advised by text message to a mobile phone via our GroupCall system. It is therefore essential that we have up to date mobile numbers for all parent contacts for such situations. Messages will normally also be announced on Radio Borders and information put on the school website and on our Twitter feed.

For children travelling on school transport the bus company may decide that transport times will be changed to earlier in the day if there is worsening weather conditions. In this event, the school will contact those parents by text message or email (GroupCall) to clarify if the child should leave early on the school transport or wait to be collected in school. The school will ensure that the child gets on school transport **only if it has been confirmed** that there is someone at home to meet them.

Enrolment

When families move into the catchment area, they should contact the school to arrange a visit to the school and meet with the Headteacher or Principal Teacher. They will also receive details on how to order school uniform and be given a copy of the latest school handbook. For pupils starting in nursery (ELC), nursery enrolment normally takes place in November each year. All nursery children have to re-enrol each November for a returning place in our setting.

Enrolment forms are available online on the SBC website. www.scotborders.gov.uk

For children starting in P1 in August, parents will be reminded in the local press about enrolment week, when they should complete an online enrolment form.

Clovenfords Parent Handbook pages 12-14

Building Resilience Sharing Assembly

It was lovely to share some family learning examples as part of our Health and Wellbeing focus and Building Resilience learning at assembly on Thursday. The children have been learning the importance of setting and pursuing meaningful goals. Each of our classes also shared how they have been developing their understanding of this in class.

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



| | |
|------|----------|
| ELC | Penelope |
| P1/2 | Thomas |
| P2/3 | Mason |
| P3/4 | Eli |
| P5/6 | Tyler |
| P6/7 | Sara |



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 next week.



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))