

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

## *St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School*

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee  
William Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7RQ, 01698 285080



*Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!*

Enjoyment

### **School Newsletter 2, Oct 2019**

Respect

#### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

What a quick term this has been, it is hard to believe we are already at the October break. We have had a great start to our new school session, the children are settled and working really hard. We warmly welcome a new family to our school this week, we are delighted to have Erin join us.

As you know, our newsletter has now gone paperless but anyone who still needs a paper copy is welcome to take one from the foyer of our school.

We hope you all have a lovely October break and look forward to having everyone back with us on Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Yours sincerely  
Miss Christine MacPhee  
Head Teacher

#### **School Information**

You can always find further information about our school and our children on our Twitter page (@stelizabeths), our School App, our web site and our Facebook page – all have frequent updates in between newsletters to help keep you as up-to-date with school news. Many thanks to our members of staff and parents who help update and maintain these sites for us.

#### **Weekly Assemblies**

Thank you to all families who have been able to make it along to our Thursday Assemblies to celebrate good news and achievements in our school. It is wonderful to have you with us. If you have good news from home that you would like to share with us, please let us know as we would be delighted to share this at Assembly. We are always keen to hear of our children's many achievements...we are a very talented school!

#### **Good to be Green**

The majority of our children have had a very successful term by being on Green this whole term. This is wonderful news and we are delighted for them. The children will receive a reward card that will entitle them to a well deserved treat. I believe many of our families have promised treats at home too - thank you all very much for your support with our behaviour system, it is an important part of our partnership in helping to ensure the very best education for all of our children.

## **Important School Information**

**\*Nut allergies** – just a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free school. Children should not bring any snacks or items to school that may contain nuts or nut based ingredients. Thank you.

**\*Fizzy drinks** – fizzy drinks are not permitted in our school as they contain a vast amount of sugar which affects children's attention and behaviour.

**\*Health Promotion** – we are a health promoting school and encourage our children to think about what they eat and drink. This includes snacks at playtime and lunchtime. Milk is available each week at a cost of £1.00 and a biscuit can be bought for each day of the week for the total cost of 10p. We are looking to set up a healthy tuckshop and more information about this will follow.

**\*Absences/Lateness/Leaving Early** - If your child is to be absent from school, please phone our school office as soon as possible to inform us. We have an answering machine for your use. All children should be in the playground before the bell rings at 9am each day and we now have a bell ringing at 8.55am as a reminder to our children that 9am is fast approaching! The legal requirement is that children attend school from 9-3pm each day. If they are required to leave early, please bring your appointment letter to our office staff who will then note this. Lateness, absences and leaving early are recorded daily and if either of these become detrimental to any child's time at school, the council procedure is that an attendance officer will be asked to contact you to discuss further.

We monitor absence levels, lateness and leaving school early very closely. This session, you will be informed if your child's attendance drops below 95% or if lateness/leaving early is becoming an issue. It would be really helpful for any appointments your child may have to be scheduled for out with school hours as leaving school early can have a detrimental effect on their learning in many ways. We appreciate your support in helping to ensure any disruptions to your child's learning are minimum throughout the school year.

**\*Contact Details** - If your telephone number or e-mail address change throughout the course of the year, please do let our office staff know to allow us to update our records. This also applies to emergency contacts.

**\*Head Lice** – We ask all parents and carers to please check hair regularly and if there is any case of head lice, it is helpful if you let the school know as soon as possible please.

**\*School Uniform** – the children are very smart in our school uniform and we thank you so much for your great support with this. Please note that trainers are not part of our school uniform and named items such as Nike, etc should be kept for home. Children need a full PE kit each week and will also require joggers and a warm top as each class has a timetabled slot each week for outdoor PE. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery during PE due to Health and Safety and earrings should be removed or covered. I am delighted to see the majority of our children wearing the appropriate PE kits, thank you. The wearing of school uniform in our school is also excellent and the children wear it with pride.

### **Staffing Update**

We are delighted to have Mrs Emmett back with us on supply every Friday. Mrs Emmett is working with our P6 children.

Mrs McCaig has begun her maternity leave and we look forward to hearing her good news!

Mrs Murphy will be teaching P3/4 every Monday and Tuesday and we thank her for being able to commit to this.

Mrs Greene will be joining our team on a supply basis from Wed 23rd Oct to teach P3/4 every Wed, Thurs and Fri and we look forward to welcoming her. Further info about our fantastic school!

### **Student Teachers**

Over the course of the year, we have several students who are placed with us to complete various placements.

From Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Oct until Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, we welcome Mrs Cooper, a Post Graduate Teaching Student who will be working in our P5/6 class under the guidance of Mrs McGuire.

From Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov until Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec we welcome 2 further Post Graduate Teaching Students. Miss Devaney will be working in our P6 class under the guidance of Mrs MacIntyre and Mrs Emmett and Miss Moore will be in P3/4 under the guidance of Mrs Murphy and Mrs Greene. Both these students have been in our school for the past 2 weeks and have had a great introductory start to their placement.

From Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, we have a Bed 3 student starting with us and Miss Campbell will be working in our P2 class under the guidance of Miss Brand.

### **Clubs in our School**

During playtime each day, we will be having a reading club and an art/drawing club taking place. Some of our senior pupils will be helping to run these clubs, supervised by support assistants. This begins the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. Every Mon and Tues we will be having a dance club at playtime – this is initially for our P5-7 children and we will alternate this with younger pupils as the year goes on.

Our Active Schools Co-Ordinator, Fiona Woods, has been in touch to offer the following clubs for us and these also begin after the holiday week.

**Multisport after school club for P4/5 children from 3-4 pm** on a Mon, from the 21<sup>st</sup> Oct until the 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Multisport lunchtime club for P6/7 children from 12.30-1pm** every Wednesday from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct until the 11<sup>th</sup> Dec.

### **Milk and snack**

We are bringing our milk and biscuit/snack idea back by popular demand! The children can order milk to enjoy in their classroom every morning. This is done through parent pay. They may bring a small healthy snack to eat at this time or can purchase a small biscuit (digestive/rich tea or cream cracker) to enjoy. The cost of the biscuit is 20p per week and children need to please bring the correct money on a Monday for the week. As we are a cashless school, we will not unfortunately have any change to be able to give them

Our Pupil Consultative Group have been inundated with delighted children at the thought of us bringing this back which tells us how important it is to them and helps sustain them during the morning.

### **Photographer**

\*We are still awaiting a date from the Hamilton Advertiser to come to school for our P1 photographs. We've been in touch with them and hope to hear back shortly. We'll keep our P1 parents posted.

\*We hope you have been delighted with the family/individual photographs you will have received this year. Many thanks to Careen and her team for taking such lovely pictures.

## **Homework Diaries**

Many thanks for your use of our homework diaries – we really appreciate you taking the time to write a note/sign the diary and it helps us all with another level of communication. Each week, a green stamp is put in the diary for all our children who have been green that week. If there have been any unfortunate times that a child has received a yellow or a red card, a dot of that colour is put in the diary on that day to help inform you that this has happened. No dot means they have been on green and this is celebrated with the green stamp at the end of the week. All of this is communicated through the use of our diaries.

## **Breakfast Club**

We run a breakfast club each day in our school and this takes place from 8.15am until 8.45am. This is free of charge and open to all pupils in our school. Children should come to the front door of the school where a member of staff will register them and let them through to our dining hall for breakfast. Please note that children are not permitted before 8.15am.

## **P7 Residential Trip**

\*We had a wonderful Residential Trip to Lockerbie Manor with our P7 children who were just delightful to take away. They represented our school so well and Miss Costello, Miss Dunsmuir and I were extremely proud of each one of them. A special thank you to Miss Costello and Miss Dunsmuir for giving of their time to come along on the residential trip. Well done boys and girls for your superb team work, enthusiasm and care for one another.

## **Houses**

As you know, we have 4 houses in our school and each child is a member of one of these. The house colours and names are St Andrew (Blue); St Columba (Green); St Mungo (Red); St Margaret (Yellow). We have recently received a House Token Collector and will be issuing the children with gold and green tokens across the school for great behaviour, positive attitude, kindness, etc.

Also, many thanks to everyone who has been able to come along to our Family Events this term – we hope you enjoyed playing bingo with your children and were lucky winners! Thank you so much to our support assistants, parent helpers, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Wilson for helping these afternoons to run so smoothly. We have further events planned for next term – the first one being on FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> October for our St Andrew's House, from 2-3pm! We're looking forward to seeing you if you can manage along.

## **Hallowe'en**

Our Community Partnership is once again running the very successful Hallowe'en Disco for our children on Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. P1-3 are from 6-7pm and P4-7 are 7.15-8.15pm. Cost is £2.00 per child.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct children and adults can come to school in Hallowe'en costumes. We are running a Pumpkin Competition and if anyone would like to enter this the cost is £1, which will also entitle you to a raffle ticket. Pumpkins will be displayed in the school hall - be as creative and imaginative as you like. There will be a winning pumpkin chosen from each class...good luck!

We are having a coffee afternoon from 1.45-2.45pm on the afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup> – come along and enjoy some spooky goodies, spooky music, spooky fun and a parade by our children! Look forward to seeing you.

## **Christmas**

I know it's still a bit early, but we are wondering if anyone can contribute a small item for Christmas Hampers that we intend to create and then raffle. We are hoping to make a variety of hampers – some with food items, pamper items, a hamper for children, etc. Any help you can give us with items would be fantastic. Please hand any donations in to our school office. Thank you for any help with this.



### **Community Partnership**

The next meeting of our Community Partnership is Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct at 7pm in our school. **This is open to all parents and carers of children in our school and everyone is very welcome.** Please come along if you can and find out more. Many thanks to our Community Partnership for organising all the events that they do for us and we look forward to a successful Harvest Festival. Thank you to all families for contributing to and supporting these events for our school.

### **Contacting our School**

Please note our office staff are delighted to help you in any way and, as you know, do a wonderful job keeping our busy school office running smoothly. It is not always possible to get messages to children after 2.45pm due to them being in various parts of the school and this has caused a bit of anxiety for our office staff in trying to do so. Our answering machine is switched on from 2.45pm until after 3pm in order to try to help reduce the busyness at what can often be a frantic time of day. Should you have a message that needs passed on, please contact our school office as early as possible in the day. Please, please only call the school office in an emergency. Many thanks for your help with all of this.

### **Can you help?**

If you would like to be a parent helper in our school, please let us know. We are always looking for help with trips and events as well as activities in school and would be delighted to have your support. If you would be willing to come in to school to help with Book Week, World of Work Week, Fayres, Coffee Mornings, etc, please let us know. Many thanks to all our parents who are able to help us in any way, we really appreciate it. Special thanks to Mrs McGregor for her help in our school over the past few weeks.

### **Parent Evening**

Many thanks to all parents who attended our recent Parents Evening. I'm sure you will have received lots of good news and feedback about your child's learning and next steps for them to work on over the coming weeks/months. Your co-operation and support is invaluable and we greatly appreciate a strong partnership with you.

We hope all of families have a lovely October break.

Best wishes

Miss MacPhee and the School Team  
Head Teacher