

# Allan's Primary School



## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

### A Warm Welcome

Welcome to our August newsletter! We would also like to extend our welcome to all our new children and families who have joined us this summer! We hope that this newsletter gives you an update on our achievements, ongoing initiatives and our improvement planning strategy. There seems to be a real buzz about being part of our wonderful Allan's family and we are so excited about the all new initiatives which are planned to take place this session—read on to find out more!

### Priorities for this Session

As mentioned in our newsletter in June 2017, we are continually self-evaluating our practice, policies and procedures to identify areas for development and enhancement. Therefore our school improvement priority areas for next session which are in line with the National Improvement Framework will focus on :

- Raising attainment in numeracy and literacy;
- Improvement in children's health and wellbeing;
- Increasing opportunities to develop our young workforce with a progressive skill framework.

In maths, our staff have been trained in Big Maths and will be implementing this approach consistently throughout the school. There will be a major focus on developing and progressing our children's numeracy skills and you may hear them discussing "Beat Its, Count Fourways, Squiggleworth Pim and Pom". We will be running Learning Together sessions this term to communicate our new approach and to give you hints on how you can increase your child's numeracy attainment.

In literacy we are introducing two new approaches to raise attainment "Word Aware" and "Fresh Start".

Miss McColl and Mrs McLean attended a two day training course to implement our "Fresh Start" strategy which they will put into practice this term by developing children's word attack, spelling and writing. Fresh Start is a phonological awareness intervention package which enhances children's reading, writing and spelling for learners in P4—7.

We are also introducing Word Aware which is a whole school approach to enrich children's use of vocabulary and we will be working closely with a Speech and Language therapist.



### Dates for Your Diary

1 September	Parents Get-together at 2pm in the Hub
5 September	Meet the Teacher 6.30—8pm
7 September	Allan's Parent Council at 7pm in the Hub
13/14 September	School Photographer in school for individual & family photographs
14 September	Learning Together session 9— 10.30am
5 October	Harvest Church Service at 1.45pm
6 October	School closes for October holiday at 3.20pm
16 October	School begins for term 2 at 9am
18—20 Oct	P7 Residential Trip to Dalguise
27 October	Snapshot Jotters to be sent home
31 October	Flu immunisation in school
1 November	Learning Together session 1.30—2.45pm
21—22 Nov	Parents Consultations 4—7pm

Staff will be trained in this approach between September and December this year. We will also be working closely with Baker Street Nursery on this approach to ensure development of vocabulary skills from pre-school and across primary stages.

In Health & Wellbeing, we have created up a new facility in school called the Health & Wellbeing Hub. This facility enables our children to access this throughout the school day, in particular during playtime and lunchtime. We will also be running Family Engagement sessions, resilience and friendship groups from here.

To Develop our Young Workforce strategy, Mr Downs has many exciting projects lined up for our children to explore and promote the necessary skills to enter the world of work. There will be a strong emphasis on promoting our children's creativity and solution focused skills as business leaders are communicating that many young people currently entering the work place need development in these skills.

## Building Update

During the summer holidays our historic school building received and is still receiving much needed tender, love and care. Our roof is now watertight due to renewal of slates, leadwork and feltwork! Our windows have been repaired, painted and can be opened at floor level! Guttering has been repaired, painted or renewed and the vegetation which



had made been growing for many years has now been removed. We have also had renewal of parts of our playground surface.

Inside we have had many areas painted from stairwells to open spaces and this is due to hard work and effort from Mr Mooney, our janitor and the volunteers from the Stirling Baptist Church.



Throughout this year we will continue to improve the interior of our much-loved school building!

We would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and support throughout the duration of the building works and we have been assured that all works will be completed by 5 September! We are so excited to see our school take pride of place in historic Spittal Street!

## School Travel Plan

Throughout last term, Mrs Ferguson and members of the APC—Mrs Lawrence and Mr Little, worked extremely hard on producing our School Travel Plan. This plan was submitted to the Council at the end of last term which outlines the changes and developments which need to take place to ensure that our children travel to school safely. Throughout this session, Mrs Ferguson and her team will be ensuring that the priorities raised are discussed and actioned! If you would like more information on our priorities, please speak to any member of our School Travel Plan team!

## Hip Hip Hooray!

Last session we applied for two grants to improve our school:

1. To install bike and scooter racks
2. To implement life skills activities in our H&W Hub

We are delighted to announce that we secured funding from both grants and, as a result, we are able to:

1. Install bike and scooter racks in our school shed—this will be completed in the October break. More info to follow.
2. Implement food contexts to develop technological skills and knowledge. We are very lucky to have Mrs James who is a highly skilled tutor at Forth Valley College, responsible for food technology. As a result, Mrs James will be implementing food technology activities to all our children in our new Health and Wellbeing Hub. P6/7 will be her guinea-pigs and then she will roll it out to the rest of the school!



## Breakfast Club

Our new Breakfast Club started on 22 August and already we have children using this new facility. The club starts at 8.15am and children can be dropped off for breakfast any time between 8.15—8.45am. We serve cereal, toast, fruit, milk, fruit juice and water—all for £1.50 per day. There is no need to book in advance and you can either pay on the day or settle your account on Parent Pay. If your child receives free school meals or you think you may be entitled, please pop in and speak to Mrs Howland.

## Our Parent Council

Our Parent Council plays an active role in supporting parental involvement in the work and the life of our school, while also providing opportunities for parents to express their views on children's education and learning. We have a highly supportive Parent Council who play a pivotal role in our School Improvement Plan for this session. We would really appreciate your support and involvement so if you are free on Thursday 1 September at 7pm, please come along! We have also organised a Parent Get-Together for all new parents in our Hub on Friday 1 September at 2pm. Come along for a coffee and cake!



## Head Lice

Head lice is a common problem and can spread easily so being pro-active by checking your child can help. Please refer to the Government's guidance on Managing Head Lice in Children by visiting the website <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2003/03/16774/20133>

It is good practice to check your child's hair regularly by "wet combing" which involves washing the hair and applying conditioner, then combing through with a wide-tooth comb to remove tangles. Taking a section at a time, a fine tooth detection comb is then pulled downwards through the hair, keeping the comb close to the scalp (where head lice are often located).

## Dalguise Residential Trip



Preparations are in full swing for our P7 residential trip to Dalguise from 18th-20th October 2017.

P7 parents are invited to a presentation by Mr Downs at 6pm on the 5th September (before the meet the Teacher event starting at 6.30pm) where a variety of information will be shared, together with the opportunity for any questions you might have to be answered.

**Final payments**— a reminder that the final instalment is due to be paid by Parentpay or direct to the school office by Friday 1st September.

## Mindfulness Sessions

Primary 3 and Primary 4 will be taking part in short Mindfulness sessions at the Yoga Tree starting Monday 4th September. These sessions will take place in the afternoon for approximately the next 10 weeks and will complement and extend classroom learning. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## Primary 1 Update

Our fantastic new primary 1 children have settled in well to class and school routines. They have been working hard and have been supported by their P7 buddies who are doing such an excellent job of supporting them in school and in the playground.



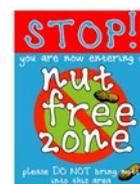
## Reminders

Please note that if your child is going home for lunch or if he/she is leaving school to attend an appointment during lunchtime, we would be extremely grateful if you could report to the school office as this will enable us to update our register. Keeping accurate registers are essential for fire evacuation purposes.

If you are going away for a short break during the school week and your child will be staying with a family member/friend, please make sure that you give us the contact details of your nominated person.

Mrs Arthur will be distributing Pupil Information Update forms, please check the information and make amendments where required, e.g. change of mobile phone numbers, emergency contact details or your child's health and return to school at your earliest convenience.

**Nut Free Zone**-a reminder that our school is a nut free zone and we would ask that you take this into account when providing snacks and packed lunches for your children.



## Congratulations

Huge congratulations to Hayley and Caitlin Guthrie who successfully auditioned for the NCOS choir, well done! We will be sharing outside achievement at our fortnightly assembly but if there is anything you wish to share, please contact the school.