



February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year! It has been lovely welcoming the children back to Strathmore for Term 3. I have particularly enjoyed monitoring the leadership opportunities that are being offered to our learners. We have both junior and senior house captains, STAR council, Learning Lights and peer mediators. We are in the process of establishing a Health and Wellbeing leadership group. The purpose is to ensure wellbeing, equality and inclusion for our learners. These groups increase our pupil participation in school improvement.



Food bank Friday – Our House Captains have been working in partnership with “Costcutters” to provide a food bank in our main reception. This has been warmly welcomed by many. We would like to replenish stocks on a regular basis. We would like to have a food bank Friday on the first Friday of the month. We are looking for donations of long life foodstuffs, cleaning products, washing power for 2/3 washes, a toilet roll, tissues etc.... etc..... These will be collected by our senior pupils and stored in Miss McGregor’s classroom. This will ensure that our food bank is fully stocked for the month. Our first food bank Friday is the 1st February.



Guide Dogs – We have good links with the Guide Dog Association here in Forfar. P3 visited the training school and then held a fundraising Ceilidh. Tyler and Alvin Lovegrove’s family are boarders, as are two of our staff. Do you think you could support the training school?

“The Guide Dogs for the Blind are looking for temporary homes for their dogs in training in the evenings and weekends. Can you help provide one of these homes? This is a great opportunity for those of you that have too many work commitments to own your own pet dog and one that the whole family can enjoy whilst making a massive difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people. The role requires the dog to be dropped off the training school in Forfar between 8-9am and collected between 3 - 4pm or 5 - 6pm on weekdays. No previous experience is required as all training, equipment and support is provided by us. To find out more contact Niki Merrilees on 0345 143 0205 and pop along to our information evening on the 29th January 5 – 6.30pm. Alternatively to apply then head to www.guidedogs.org.uk/volunteer to help a dog succeed in being a life changer.”



Forest School – We believe that all children learn differently and that we need to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all. Some thrive in the outdoors, others in classrooms, dance and drama, sports and all through play. We are in the fortunate position to have received PEF funding to provide these experiences for our learners, however we are mindful that sustainability is the key so we have forged a link with “Sticks and Stones” Forest School in Luthermuir. Staff and parent/carers helpers are being upskilled to run this programme to support pupils with trauma, resilience and attachment. East and Old Church are allowing us to use their minibus to transport our learners around our wooded areas in Angus. Our aim is to be sector leading in outdoor education.



Family Learning – You should have already received notification about our exciting family learning programme in partnership with “New Solutions”. Our first session is on Monday 29 January from 9.15-11.15 in our Strathmore Snug. The focus will be “Parenting in the Digital World”, learn how to best support your child with their use of technology, keeping safe and development of good online manner”.



In service training – Strathmore School will be closed to pupils only on Thursday 21 February. Staff will be training in interpreting assessment data in the morning and using self-evaluation in the afternoon to measure what we do well and what we need to do better. School will be closed to everyone on Friday 22 and Monday 25 February for our midterm holiday.



SALT drop in session – Our speech and language therapist will be available on Tuesday 26 February from 1 pm in our Strathmore Snug for a drop in session. Please note that no appointment is required.



Community Café – Primaries 4 and 5 will be hosting our community café on Friday 25 January between 2-3 pm. We look forward to welcoming you enjoy a cuppy and a fine piece as you find out more about what your child is learning!

Please note that if you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01307 494274.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Garnes
Head Teacher