

Newsletter – September 2018



Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back! It is lovely to see the learners looking so smart in their school uniform. I have enjoyed hearing about their adventures in the glorious weather we had this summer. As always, do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any queries or concerns. We use a range of ways to contact parents – SMS text, email, newsletter and school website. We have purchased 16 iPads that will support the app “Seesaw”. This is a tool that will replace the “learning logs” and provide up to 10 family members weekly updates on your child’s learning journey.

School playground – We are working hard as a school to promote independence and resilience. As of **Monday 3 September** please note that we will return to **no parents in the playground**. The children can be dropped off at the school gate. If you prefer to keep your child with you, please remain outside the playground and once the bell has rung, allow your child to walk to their line.

Point of contact – We have an open door policy at Strathmore. We welcome feedback from parents and carers. We understand the importance of working with parents as partners. Members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are responsible for specific stages in the school. If your child is in the nursery or P1, please contact Mrs McLean, P2-4 pupils lead is Mrs Noonan, Mrs Walker has p5-7 responsibility. Mrs Quinn is pastoral care contact.

School Improvement Plan – We are continually striving to improve outcomes for all. We are implementing “Bounceback” to improve relationships and develop resilience, we have purchased “Numicon” and “Abacus” as core maths resources and in writing we will focus on “talking to writing”.

Parent Council – We are fortunate to have such an active and supportive parent council. The parents raise substantial sums of money throughout the session to enhance our learners’ experiences. Their AGM will be held on Monday 3 September at 6 pm in our “Strathmore Snug”. This is a room that we will be developing this session to encourage family learning and partnership working. Please do come along if you can.

Wider achievements – once again we are auditing the many wider achievements of our pupils. If your child is in P1-4 please look out for the note coming home this week to ask if your child attends after school clubs. The pupils in p5-7 will share with their class teacher their hobbies/interests.

Additional Support for Learners – please note that learners will be working with the ASN staff as individuals or part of a group to challenge and support their learning. We have purchased two learning pods that are being used as teaching space for groups of children.

Staffing – We have welcomed Adelle McGregor, Amanda McIntosh and Rebecca Black to the teaching team this session. Miss Davidson was married in the summer holidays and is now Mrs Noonan. Emily Rennie has joined our nurture team. Mrs Mazella has retired and our new administrator, Laura Stewart will begin next Monday.

Lost property – We have accumulated a substantial amount of lost property already! Please feel free to come in and check our labelled boxes in reception.

I Pay – Please could you contact the school office if you are having difficulty registering for I-Pay? We appreciate that this is difficult to do on a portable device. We would be happy to arrange for groups of parents to come to our computer suite and use our desktops for registration purposes. We can support with entering codes etc... As a council, we cannot accept cash for payments for lunches, school trips etc... it is essential that your child is registered.

PE/Showcase – Children should NOT come to school this session in their outdoor PE kits. Please provide a bag clearly labelled with their name, to hold shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes. An old sweater would be handy for outdoor gym. If your child has a piercing, please provide micro pore tape. This should be applied by the child over their piercing to prevent injury.

Parent Helpers – We would welcome more parent helpers at Strathmore. If you are happy to help for an hour or two a week, please contact the school office and we will arrange for a PVG check.

Resilience Film – We will be screening a film in our gym hall on Wednesday 17 October from 6 pm – 8 pm for parents and carers. We will be providing activities for pupils who have adults attending. The film is about “ACES” – Adverse child experiences. More details will follow in due course, but please pop this date into your diary!

DATES FOR THE DIARY (Subject to change)

3 September	Parent Council AGM	6 pm
17 September	School photographer	all day
20 September	Heavenly Bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
20 September	Sports for Champions	TBC
26 September	European day of languages	
28 September	Last day of term	3.10/3.20 pm
15 October	First day of term 2	9.00 am
17 October	Screening of ACES film	6 – 8 pm
18 October	Flu vaccinations	all day
	Heavenly bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
1 November	Outdoor classroom day	all day
15 November	Heavenly bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
19 November	Scottish book week	all week
20/21 November	Parents evening	4-7 pm
27 November	Christmas Fayre	1.30 – 3.00 pm
28 November	In-service 2	school closed to pupils
29 November	In-service 3	school closed to pupils
30 November	St Andrews day	school closed to everyone
17 December	Dress rehearsal School Show	afternoon
18 December	P1-7 trip to the Panto	Webster Theatre
19/20 December	School show	1.30 pm
21 December	Church service	9.45 am at East and Old Church
21 December	Last day of term	school closes at 3 pm
17 January	Heavenly bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
31 January	Scottish Poetry final	all day
21 February	In-service 4	School closed to pupils
22/25 February	mid term break	School closed to all
25 February	Fairtrade fortnight	
7 March	World Book Day	NO costumes required
11 March	British Science week	

19/20 March	Parents evening	4-7 pm
21 March	Heavenly bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
27 March	J Rock Final	Caird Hall all day
5 April	Church service	9.45 am at East and Old Church
5 April	End of term	3.10/3.20 pm
22 April	First day of term 4	9.00 am
6 May	May Day holiday	school closed to pupils and staff
13 May	Digital learning week	
13-16 May	P7 residential experience	Belmont
16 May	Heavenly Bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
23 May	Outdoor classroom day	
23 May	Scottish Opera	1 – 2.30 pm
27 May	In-service day 5	School closed to pupils
31 May	Scottish Opera	all day
3 June	Health week	
4-6 June	P7's transition to Forfar Academy	
5 June	Move up day for p1-6 pupils	all day
7 June	Sports day	9.30 am
14 June	Report cards issued	3.10/3.20 pm
14 June	New P1 induction lunch	11.45 am
18 June	Dress rehearsal school show	1.30 pm
19/20 June	School show	1.30 pm
20 June	Heavenly bites	12 noon at East and Old Church
21 June	Nursery sports	TBC
25 June	P7 Leaver's assembly	1.30 pm
28 June	Prize giving	1.30 pm
28 June	End of term	3.00 pm

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Garnes

Head Teacher