

STRATHMORE PRIMARY

Learning Together for Success

Newsletter 1 : August 2014

Strathmore Primary School, St. James Road. Forfar. DD8 1LE
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Dear Parent/Carer,

What a great summer holiday it was – lots of sunny weather! It is lovely to see so many children looking smart in their school uniform and so eager to get back into the routine of school.

Welcome

A warm welcome goes out to all the new pupils and staff who have joined us since the Summer holidays. It is lovely to have you with us at Strathmore! We look forward to getting to know you and hope you will be very happy here at Strathmore.

Staffing for 2014/2015

As I shared with your prior to the Summer break here are is a list of the staffing arrangements for this session:

Pre-school	Mrs Diane Ewen – Senior EYP Mrs Linda Smith – EYP Mrs Val Ogilvie – EYP Mrs Alison Glen – EYP (Mornings only)
P1a	Mrs Diane MacLean
P1b	Mrs Anne McGregor (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday morning) Mrs Heather Bruce (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday)
P2a	Mrs Jayne McLean
P2b	Miss Donna Sheriffs
P3	Miss Julia Macpherson (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) Mrs Kathryn Rooney (Monday)
P3/4	Mr Colin Hutchison
P4	Miss Jamie McPherson
P4/5	Mr Bruce Ollerensahw
P5	Mrs Karen Henderson
P6	Ms Gill Halliday
P6/7	Mrs Caroline Kerr
P7	Miss Anne Page (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday morning) Miss Angela Wells (Thursday afternoon & Friday)
Teaching Staff	Mrs Leona Ord (who will begin her maternity leave at the end of August) Mrs Edna Fairweather (supporting in classes during term 1)
ASN Teachers	Mrs Hazel Craddock (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) Mrs Dionne Douglas (Tuesday Morning)
Primary School Assistants	Mrs Liz Nicol Mrs Tracy Scorgie Mrs Heather Whitton Mrs Joyce Wilson
Support for Learning Assistants	Mrs Vicky Howe Mrs Mhairi Legge Mrs Rhona Prophet
El Assistants	Mrs Jennifer Cargill Mrs Lelsey Duthie
Clerical	Mrs Stella Mazella

As always we operate an 'open door policy' which means a member of our Senior Management Team will be happy to meet and chat with you about any concerns or issues that your or your child may have. Please pop into the office and we will be happy to have a chat with you. However, if you wish to speak with your child's class teacher please contact the school or speak to a member of the senior management team to arrange an appointment for the end of the day, as during the school day their main role is to teach, support and work with your child/children.

Those within our Senior Management Team here at Strathmore are:

Head Teacher – Mrs Jennifer Scott
Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs Jane Webster
Principal teacher – Miss Angela Wells
Acting Principal Teacher – Mrs Anne McGregor



Good to be Green

You will be aware from the children and the recent letter sent home that we have launched a new behaviour policy – Good to be Green. This involves a card system that is used consistently across the school in both the classroom and in the playground.

Each pupil has a green Good to Be Green Homework Diary that should be brought to and from school every day. Please support us with this new initiative by taking the time to look at this with your child each night and ensuring that the booklet is returned to school everyday.

More information will be shared with you on the Meet the Teacher Evening with the opportunity for you to share your views about this new approach. The pupils have been very positive about the new approach and already we can see the benefits of having a more consistent and visual approach to support positive behaviour in Strathmore.

P2 Playground & Lunchtime arrangements

I have decided to make use of the playground area at the P1 and P2 entrance for the P2 pupils at playtime and lunchtime. It has been brought to my attention by some parents that pupils find the transition from the P1 playground to the 'big' playground a tricky one, so in response to this all P2 pupils will make use of the side playground. To support us with this new move, please ensure that you refrain from accessing the playground during lunchtime. If your child is a home lunch please drop them off at the gate which will remain closed to be opened by the adult supervising in that playground. Thank you for your support with this.

We have a large number of pupils now staying for packed lunches and school lunches, to ensure that your child has ample time to eat their lunch and to provide more spaces in the dining hall the P2 and P3 pupils having a packed lunch will now access the spare classroom in the infant area to have their lunch.

Reading and Spelling Assessments

This term, our class teachers, supported by our senior management team and ASN staff, will be focusing largely on carrying out individual and class pupil assessments in literacy and numeracy, some through the use of a specific computer assessment (Incas and PIPs). This information gathered will allow us to gauge where your child is in their learning and what the next steps will be to ensure that they progress and are provided with the correct support and input to ensure this progression in learning. I trust you will support us in this work by understanding that homework relating to numeracy, literacy and reading will begin as and when each class teacher feels the pupils are ready and grouped accordingly. If you have any concerns relating to this please do not hesitate to speak to myself or any other member of the senior management team.

Strathie Cafe

Please remember that each Thursday morning our 'Strathie Cafe' operates which is led by the Parent Council. It is a great opportunity for you to come along and meet some other parents and staff for a cuppie.



Parent Council

All parents and carers of Strathmore Primary are automatically members of our Parent Council. This group represents the views of the parents and works closely with the school to improve the school/home partnership. Please also come along to our Parent Council AGM on Wednesday 27th August at 6pm in the School Dinner Hall, where you can offer your support to the group.

Children and Young People's Wellbeing Research

You may have heard that the Children's and Young People's Wellbeing Research is currently being undertaken in Angus. This Community Survey is taking place from 11th August until 11th October 2014 and will involve the market research company (BMG) making door-to-door enquiries with parents who have children 0-8 years of age as well as school surveys for P5-P7 and S1-S4 taking place from 1st -15th September 2014. All pupils in P5 to P7 have been issued with a letter to provide more details about this survey. The research gathered will provide detailed and reliable information about children and young people's health, social behaviour, emotional wellbeing, engagement in school and their perceptions of local communities. This information will help improve outcomes for children and families by targeting services where they are needed most. Information, including access to the surveys, is available on the Angus Council website.

Meet the Teacher Evening

We would like to invite you to our Meet the Teacher Evening on Wednesday 10th September at 6.30pm until 7.30pm. This event will be slightly different from the previous years as we will start the evening off in the Gym Hall at 6.30pm where Mrs McGregor (Principal Teacher) will share a presentation to explain the new Good to be Green behaviour Policy. Following this presentation you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom. At this event we will also be selling story books which are no longer needed in the school library, please support with this by making a donation of 20p for each book.

School Holidays

I would like to bring to your attention that the timings for the end of the day at the end of the Christmas and Summer terms have changes so that all pupils will end their day at 3pm rather than at lunchtime as previously. The changes to these times have been listed in the events table below.

Harvest Assembly

We will be having our Harvest Assembly on Thursday 2nd October at 2.30pm in the school hall. You are very welcome to come along and join us for this celebration. We will be collecting non-perishable foods (such as tins of soup, beans, tuna, etc.) to be donated to the Salvation Army in Forfar, who will then distribute it around Forfar. We would be very grateful of any donations and would ask that your child brings this into school by Wednesday 1st October. Thank you for your support.

What's on at Strathmore?

Listed below are some of the events that will be taking place over this session. Please note that these dates are accurate at this point in time but may change. Additional letters will be distributed to give more information about an event if required. Please also keep up to date with the events through future newsletters.



Date	Time	Event/Activity
August 2014		
Wednesday 27 th	6pm	Parent Council AGM
September 2014		
Wednesday 3 rd	6pm	Meeting for Dalguise Trip for P7 pupils
Monday 8 th		P1's begin full days
Wednesday 10 th	6.30pm – 7.30pm	Meet the Teacher Evening
Thursday 18 th	2pm	P1 Parent Curricular Open Afternoon
Wednesday 24 th	6pm	Parent Council Meeting

October 2014		
Thursday 2 nd	2.30pm	Harvest Assembly
Friday 3 rd	3.20pm	End of Term 1 – October Holidays begin
Monday 20 th	9am	Term 2 begins
November 2014		
Tuesday 4 th	6pm	Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 th	4.30pm – 6.50pm	Parent Evening
Wednesday 26 th	4pm – 6.20pm	Parent Evening
Thursday 27 th	All day	School closed for pupils – In-set day 3
Friday 28 th	All day	School closed for pupils – In-set day 4
December 2014		
Monday 1 st	All day	St Andrew's Holiday
Wednesday 3 rd	All day	Class photographs - Tempest
Saturday 6 th	tbc	Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 9 th	2pm	P1 & P2 Nativity Performance
Wednesday 10 th	6.30pm	P1 & P2 Nativity Performance
Monday 22 nd	2.30pm	Church Service
Tuesday 23 rd	3pm	End of Term 2
January 2015		
Wednesday 7 th	9am	Start of term 3
Thursday 29 th	All day	Judging of Scot's Poetry Competition
February 2015		
Tuesday 10 th	4.30pm – 6.50pm	Parent Evening
Wednesday 11 th	4pm – 6.20pm	Parent Evening
Thursday 12 th	All day	School closed for pupils – In-set day 5
Friday 13 th	All day	Mid Term Holiday
Monday 14 th	All day	Mid Term Holiday
March 2015		
Wednesday 4 th	6pm	Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 5 th	All day	World Book Day Celebrations
April 2015		
Thursday 2 nd	2pm	Easter Church Service
Friday 3 rd	3.20pm	End of term 3
Monday 20 th	9am	Start of term 4
May 2015		
Monday 4 th	All day	May Day Holiday
Monday 25 th	All day	School closed for pupils – In-set day 6
Wednesday 27 th	3.20pm	Pupils Reports to parents/carers
Friday 29 th	tbc	Sports Day
June 2015		
Friday 5 th	tbc	P7 pupils to Dalguise
Monday 8 th	tbc	P7 pupils return from Dalguise
Tuesday 9 th	tbc	P7 pupils to Forfar Academy
Wednesday 10 th	tbc	P7 pupils to Forfar Academy
Thursday 11 th	tbc	P7 pupils to Forfar Academy
Thursday 25 th	2pm	Prize Giving Service
	3pm	End of term 4
August 2015		
Monday 17 th	All day	School closed for pupils – In-set day 1
Tuesday 18 th	9am	Start of term 1

I look forward to seeing you at the forthcoming events. Many thanks for your continued support.

*Kind regards,
Jennifer Scott
Head Teacher*