



# School Newsletter

## August 2017

### WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to another school year! I hope everyone has had a fantastic summer break and is looking forward to the exciting school year ahead of us.

### NEW CHILDREN AND STAFF

I would like to give a warm welcome to all the new children who have joined Primary 1 this year. Our Primary 1 classroom has had a make over this summer and although not quite finished we are really pleased with how it is looking. We also have new children joining nearly every class in the school, taking our school roll to over 270. Please make sure you say hello to the new families in the playground as it is daunting starting a new school (as a pupil and parent!) and a friendly smile can make all the difference.

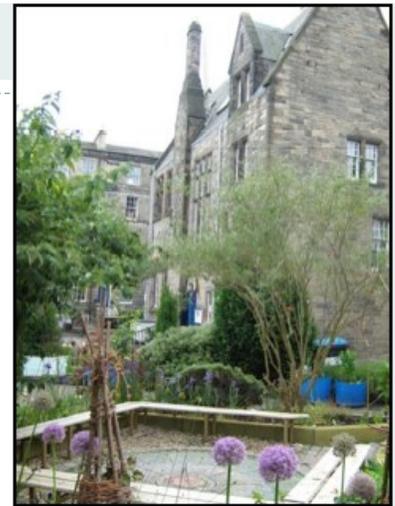
I am also sure you will join with me in welcoming our new staff to our school community—Miss Leyland in P2, Miss Ferguson in P2/3 and Miss Jones in P5. Jenna Douglas is an MA student who will be working with us all year. She will be supporting P6 this term.

### PRIORITIES FOR THIS YEAR

We were very pleased to see that our attainment rose again last year in literacy and numeracy, with a significant rise in the number of pupils exceeding expectations in numeracy and mathematics across the school. We are delighted to see that the initiatives we have introduced over the last few years such as the SEAL approach to early numeracy in P1-4 and Stockbridge Counts are making a difference for our learners.

You will receive a full overview of our Improvement Plan for 2017-2018 at our Curriculum Evening on the **14th September** but some of the areas we will be developing this year include -

- We will implement a new Spelling Programme P3-7.
- We will develop a new home learning policy (**please note that as we are still developing this policy no home learning other than reading and our building resilience theme home learning will come home until after the Curriculum Evening**).
- We will continue to develop our support for learning programmes in literacy and numeracy (including extending our able learners).
- We will be using some of our Pupil Equity Funding to recruit a Pupil Support Officer to work with children and families.
- We will continue to develop our Global Citizenship curriculum through our partnership with Mpeni.



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## MPENI PARTNERSHIP/FUNDRAISING



Those of you who attended our end of term assembly will know that we have set ourselves a HUGE challenge this year. We are hoping to help our partner school in Malawi build an additional classroom block. Currently the school only has room for P1-P5 and the older children have to walk 12 km a day to get to their nearest school.

We recognise this will be a huge task but we have already secured a donation from Scottish Widows from a dress down day at work where they raised £790 (which they will fund match making it up to £1580). The building will cost £10,000 and the local development fund in Mpeni has offered to pay £5000 towards the cost. That leaves us a target of around £3500! We are determined to try our best to achieve this goal and every class in the school will be using their enterprise skills to plan an event of some kind this year. If you have any fundraising ideas please let us know!

## PARENT COUNCIL/PARENT STAFF ASSOCIATION

At our final parent council meeting last year it was agreed that we would amalgamate our Parent Council and Parent Staff Association into one body. The Parent Council will continue to exist in its current form with a focus on whole school matters and the PSA will become a Fundraising and Events subcommittee. However, we need your help and support in order to make this a success and continue to run the fun family events that we have enjoyed in the past. Please come along to our first parent council meeting on the **29th August** and/or our AGM on the **26th September** to find out how you can help.

## NEW CLASSROOMS FOR AUGUST 2018

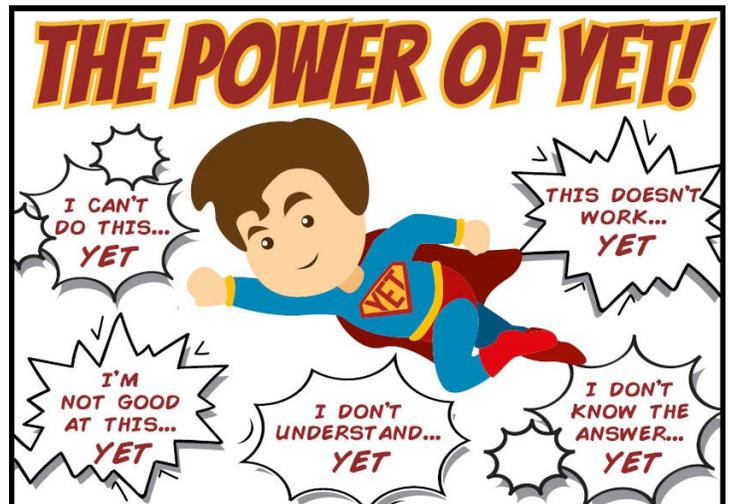
As you are aware our school roll has risen significantly over the past 7 years and we need to have additional classrooms built to increase our capacity. A working party which has included parent representatives has been working on design proposals for the 2 new classrooms. The council will be holding an information evening on **Tuesday the 29th August at 5.30pm in the school hall** to share with parents and the local community the proposed building design. I would urge as many parents as possible to attend this event. This event will be followed by a parent council meeting.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE THEME

We have launched our new Building Resilience theme for this term — Challenge Your Mindset. In this unit your child will learn -

- Who we are and what we are good at is not fixed
- The way we think, feel or learn shapes our brain
- I can change through the choices I make

Please look out for the parent booklet and home learning task in your child's school bag next week.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

### SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please can all parents ensure that all school lunches are ordered by **midnight on a Wednesday** using parentpay. Primary 1 parents have ordered for the first 2 weeks through the school office and will move onto parentpay as soon as we have you set up. Unfortunately we are unable to accept late orders and if you miss the deadline you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch.

### LATENESS

Please can all parents make a concerted effort to ensure children are in school by 8.55am each day and picked up on time. Children who arrive late at school miss out on the introduction to lessons and put additional pressures on staffing. All latecomers should report to the school office. It is vitally important that staff are able to record that your child has entered the building as they may have missed registration.

### PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

Please can P1-3 parents ensure that you inform the class teacher **in writing** of any changes in pick up arrangements at the start of each day. Phone calls from the office later in the day disrupt learning—please avoid if you can!

### SCHOOL SECURITY

Parents/children are not allowed in the school building before or after school without signing in at the school office. Unfortunately we are not able to allow children/parents to use the school toilets after school hours. Please use the public toilets next to the public library if you are remaining in the school grounds at the end of the day. This is to ensure we know who is in the building at any time and that we can keep the school and children safe.

### BALL SPORTS IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Ball sports are not allowed in the school grounds before school. Ball sports are permitted from 3.30pm in the MUGA area.

### UNIFORM

It has been lovely to see the children returning to school looking so smart—thank you! Please can we all make an effort to encourage the children to keep this up!. The school uniform policy can be found on the school website.

### PE KIT

As we now have 10 classes it is getting increasingly difficult to ensure all classes have use of the school hall for PE. All classes will have at least 1 PE lesson a week outside in our MUGA. Please ensure that your child has a warm layer in their PE kit to wear outside for PE in the colder weather.

### SCOOTERS & BIKES

As a health promoting school we would like to see as many children as possible cycling and scooting to school. Please ensure that ALL children get off their scooter or bike at the school gate as they should not be ridden at any time in the school grounds. We have had a number of accidents and would appreciate ALL parents help to keep our school community safe.

### LOOKING AFTER OUR PLAYGROUND

As we have an open playground many parents/children make use of our school grounds outwith school hours. It is great to see the children making use of our resources. However, if we are to keep our playground safe and our equipment in good condition please can we all remember a few rules -

- Please put all rubbish in the bins.
- Parents must supervise their children and take responsibility for reminding them to play safely and look after property.
- Please do not allow your child to use the soundgarden before school or after 4pm.

### ONLINE LEARNING JOURNALS

Please remember that we regularly update your child's online learning journals. You should all have a login for your child (Primary 1 parents will get these shortly if your child did not attend our nursery) if you have difficulty accessing your child's profile you can request that your password is reset by contacting the school office. We encourage parents to post personal achievements and comment on progress.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**CLASS CHARTERS WILL BE SENT HOME THIS WEEK. PLEASE READ THIS OVER WITH YOUR CHILD, SIGN AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL.**



### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please check our school website for diary dates, school menus, class news and photos of school events.

[www.stockbridge.edin.sch.uk](http://www.stockbridge.edin.sch.uk)

FOLLOW US ON

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### AUGUST

24 P6 class to visit Botanics to harvest produce

28 House Elections

29 M&M Productions visiting the school with a production of Charlottes Web

29 P4 visit to the book festival

29 COUNCIL INFORMATION EVENING ON NEW BUILD FOLLOWED BY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING—ALL PARENTS INVITED

30 P3 visit to the Museum of Scotland

### SEPTEMBER

5 6pm P4-7 Parents information evening—Sexual Health and Relationships Curriculum (this is run annually so you don't need to attend if you have attended one before)

11 FINANCIAL EDUCATION WEEK

14 Curriculum Evening - all parents invited (Nursery 5-6pm, P1 and P5-7 6-7pm and P2/3 7-8pm )

15 8.30am—9am School Open Morning

**18 AUTUMN HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED**

21 School Discos—P7 Fundraiser

### OCTOBER

4 Parent Council Meeting 6pm

5 Parent Consultations 6-8.30pm

6 Parent Consultations 1.30—4pm

11 P7 Camp Information Talk

**16-20 OCTOBER HOLIDAY**

**23 IN—SERVICE DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS**

### NOVEMBER

6—10 P7 on School Camp at Benmore

15 Parent Council Meeting 6pm

20-24 Road Safety Week

### DECEMBER

1 P4/5 Class Assembly 9.15am

5 Christmas Show at school The Hunchback of Notre Dame

8 P6 Class Assembly 9.15am

13 Infant Christmas Show to P1 parents 2pm

14 Infant Christmas Show to P2 parents 2pm

14 Christmas Discos 6-8.30pm

15 Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

20 Christmas Carols at Stockbridge Parish Church 1.30pm

**22 END OF TERM—SCHOOL CLOSURES AT 12 NOON**