

Aitkenbar Primary School



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER - 2017
(Please keep for reference)



Welcome.....to the new school session and the first of our regular newsletters. There are a lot of 'rules' listed here which are particularly useful for our new parents but we would be grateful if all parents would read the information and observe the procedures, which are in place to ensure the health and safety of your children and the smooth running of the school.



New starts ~ A very warm welcome to our 31 new P1 pupils and their parents. We are delighted with how well the new children have settled in to school life. Full time education begins for P1 on **Monday, August 21st**.

We are also pleased to welcome four new children who have joined us from other schools - Thomas and Sam to P2, David to P4 and Leo to P7. This year we welcome three new members of staff - Miss Carroll to P6, Miss Gibson to P5 and Mr McKean who is our Pupil and Family Support Worker. Congratulations to Miss Birss who was married during the holidays and is now Mrs Allen.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Aitkenbar Primary School
Bellsmyre Campus
Howatshaws Road
Dumbarton
G82 3DR
01389 773901

School website ~ Our website is packed with information and photographs of activities. Copies of newsletters, menus, the school handbook, letters, holiday dates etc. are also posted. Please check regularly for updates and let us know your thoughts by posting a message in the 'guestbook.'
<http://www.scottishschools.info/aitkenbar>

- Please observe the council's policies:
DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL GROUNDS
NO SMOKING IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS
If you bring your dog to school, please ask your child to meet you at the gate.
- Parents are asked to wait around the edge of the playground so that the teachers have a clear view of the children being collected
- Please encourage your child to walk to school if and when possible. If you bring your car please drop your child off in the car park or in a street away from the front entrance to avoid congestion. Disabled parking spaces are situated at the front of the school for blue badge holders only.
- The classrooms and open areas are all carpeted so if you could provide your child with a pair of soft gym shoes (clearly labelled with their name) to be kept in school so that they can change their shoes if the weather is bad. A waterproof, hooded jacket is also essential as the children we will only keep the children inside if the rain is very heavy.



Thank you for your co-operation in these matters

Photographs ~ Many photographs are taken in school and posted on the school website. Please inform Mrs Hutchison in writing if you do not wish your child's photograph to appear in the local press or on the school website: <http://www.scottishschools.info/aitkenbar>



Staffing ~ Our classes this session are:

Primary 1 (31) Miss Simpson & Mrs Allen

Primary 3 (28) Mr MacLetchie

Primary 5 (26) Miss Gibson (Mrs Bailey every Friday)

Primary 7 (29) Mrs Oates

Primary 2 (23) Mrs Coates

Primary 4 (24) Miss Watt

Primary 6 (28) Miss Carroll

Mrs Brechin, Principal Teacher, is not class committed this session but will focus on raising attainment across all the classes. Part time members of staff - Mrs Wiggins, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Allison and Mrs Shanks will provide pupil support and cover classes to allow other teachers to develop the curriculum.

- Mrs Gilfillan and Miss McKenzie are our clerical assistants
- Our Learning Assistants are: Mrs Brown, Mrs Lowne, Mrs McGillen, Mrs McGinlay and Mrs McMahon
- Mr McKean is our Pupil and Family Support Worker and will be working closely with families.

We are planning to hold an information event for parents soon where you will be able to meet the new staff. We would like to hear your views about this and help us agree on the best time to hold such an event. There is a short questionnaire at the end of this letter. Please complete and return it so that we can plan the event.

Parent Council ~ We have an active Parent Council and would welcome new members. Meetings are held in the Cutty Sark Centre on Monday evenings (approximately every 6 - 8 weeks). Dates for this session's meetings are listed below soon and information is also posted on the school website. (Some of these dates may change and other dates may be added - details will be sent out before each meeting)

Please come along to the first meeting - a warm welcome is guaranteed!

11th September 2017

13th November 2017

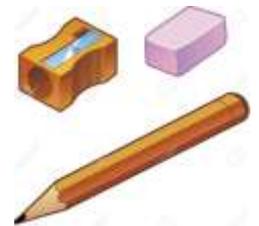
15th January 2018

12th March 2018

14th May 2018

Please support your child at school by...

- Making sure he/she has a pencil, rubber and sharpener to take to school each day.
- Providing a PE kit which can be kept in school and taken home periodically for washing (Children should bring a note from home if they need to be excused from PE for any reason)
- Checking their schoolbag every day for homework, letters, permission forms etc.
- Regularly asking what they are learning in school.



Pupil Attendance ~ Please contact the school before 9.30am if your child is absent. This ensures that we know all our pupils are safe. If we do not receive a phone call, Mr McKean may visit your home to ensure that all is well. If you are running late or having trouble getting your child to school, please phone the school and Mr McKean may be able to offer support.

Health appointments ~ Please try to keep appointments during school hours to a minimum. If you have no option, may I remind you that pupils are not allowed to leave school without an adult during school hours. Please make arrangements to collect your child personally from the school office.

Dates to remember ~ The September weekend is **Friday 22nd and Monday Sep 25th**

Harvest Service -Thursday, September 21st

Friday, Oct 13th is an in-service day followed by the October holiday week.

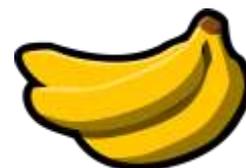
School Uniform ~ Thank you for supporting the Local Authority school uniform policy. The children are beautifully dressed and are a real credit to their parents! Please note that school colours for jumpers and sweatshirts are purple or grey - not black. Uniforms can be purchased from Leonard Hudson and Tesco's online uniform site. There are certain types of clothing that are unacceptable for school wear:



- Clothing in football colours or with team slogans connected with alcohol or tobacco are not allowed (This also applies to school trips)
- Hooded tops should not be worn in class
- Valuable items of jewellery or expensive clothing should be kept for home
- The authority policy is clear - **All jewellery must be removed during PE**. If your child cannot remove earrings, unfortunately they are not permitted to take part in PE lessons.
- In the interests of Health & Safety, girls should avoid wearing shoes with high heels.



Please make sure that **ALL** your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name. This should include lunch boxes, gym shoes, pencil cases etc. Lost items can then be easily returned to their owner. Unclaimed items will only be kept for 2 weeks to avoid piles of belongings mounting up. If your child has lost something in school, please contact us as soon as possible.



Healthy Tuck-shop ~ The tuck shop runs daily and sells fresh fruit, carrots and rice cakes with low fat cheeses. Pupils can buy tuck for 10p or 15p at morning breaks. All children are provided with a free carton of milk each day. Every month a fund-raising Cake and Candy Day is held. You will be notified when it is the turn of your child's class to provide the goodies.

School Lunches ~ The cost of a school lunch is £2.15. All pupils in Primary 1-3 are entitled to a free meal. A 4 week rolling programme of menus is available on the school website. For younger children it is useful if they have a note in their schoolbag to say what they would like for lunch each day. Their senior buddies will help them at lunchtime.



The **Breakfast Club** runs from 8:15am-8.50am and costs 83p per day for the first child in a family and 36p for siblings. Families in receipt of clothing grants or free meals also pay 36p. Cereal, toast and drinks are available and children attending breakfast club are supervised until 9 o'clock. Children should come in the dining hall doors at the rear of the school. Contact Mrs Gilfillan in the office for more information.

Please do not give your child sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks as the staff find the children are very unsettled after break and do not work so well when they have had too much sugar. We are a Health Promoting School and have achieved the highest level of award for work in this area. We appreciate your support in encouraging the children to eat healthy snacks.

*If your child is not at breakfast club, please do not send them to school until **08:50**, particularly in wet weather, as there is no playground supervision before this.*

Contact Details ~ Your child recently brought home a pink data sheet. Please update and return these sheets as soon as possible. It is very important that we have a phone contact other than yourself in case of emergency. Please tell us of any changes and add your email address if you have one.

Medication ~ For the safety of all pupils, children should not carry medication in school. If your child needs medicine during school hours please contact the school office. Medicines will be centrally held in the medical room and refrigerated if necessary. Children may collect them at home time. Please do not give your child anything containing nuts as there are a few children in the school with nut allergies.



Permission slips for outings ~ Please note for insurance purposes we must have a completed permission slip for outings with up to date information on it. Please ensure these are returned as we cannot take children on trips without a medical permission form signed by a parent. If the medical section on the form says your child requires medication e.g. an inhaler, we must take this on the trip.

Water bottles ~ Children may bring a bottle of plain water to drink in class, preferably with a pop-up sports top - no flavoured water or juice is allowed (except at break times). This ensures that if there are any spillages, there is no staining or stickiness. Water bottles are available for sale in the office at a cost of £1:00. Spare tops can be bought for 20p.



Health & Safety

Can I remind you to check your child's head regularly for head lice and report to us any infestation. Advice is available from the School Nursing Service.

Therapet ~ This session, classes will be visited regularly by Kerri, a little dog who is trained to work with children. Information about therapets can be found here.
<https://www.canineconcernscotland.org.uk/therapet>

and finally....

I realise there is a lot of information in this newsletter (sorry!) but it covers many of the issues that need to be addressed at the start of a new session. You may wish to keep it for reference.

If there is anything you wish to discuss, please contact the school directly on **01389 773901**. The first set of Parents' meetings will be held in October. Details will be sent home in due course. We will, of course contact you before then if we have concerns about your child's progress.

Regular updates and reminders are sent home in schoolbags - if you have more than one child at Aitkenbar, information will be issued to your youngest child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Christine Hutchison
 Head Teacher



Please complete and return by Friday, August 25th - Thank you

PARENT INFORMATION EVENT Name of child(ren): _____ Class: Primary _____

Would you be interested in attending an information event?	
YES	NO

Please tick the time that would suit you best			
2:00 - 3:00	3:00 - 4:00	6:00 - 7:00	7:00 - 8:00

Please tick the areas where you would like information	
<i>The school improvement plan</i>	
<i>Pupil Equity Funding (Govt Raising Attainment Programme)</i>	
<i>Reading and Mathematics</i>	
<i>Helping your child at home (+ homework)</i>	
<i>Learning Spanish</i>	
<i>School rules and procedures</i>	
<i>After school clubs</i>	

Please list **other** aspects of school where you require more information

Signed: _____