### **Strathesk Primary School**

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**Newsletter - September 2018**

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***Staffing***

*We are sad to say that our very own Mrs Agnew is leaving us! Mrs Agnew is beginning a new phase in her life, moving to be closer to family in Ayrshire. After 13 years at Eastfield and 10 at Strathesk Primary she is very much ‘in with the fittings’ and will be sorely missed – but we do wish her all the very best. We will let you know as soon as possible about arrangements for P5a.*

*We are happy to welcome back our Learning Assistant, Miss Jeffrey, who has been on a career break exploring Australia and returns to us in October.*

***Parent Partnership***

*The* ***Strathesk Parent Partnership*** *are looking for new members! If you have time to spare (a little or a lot) and would like to play a part in supporting the life and work of Strathesk Primary do please get in touch through the Parent Partnership Facebook page or by contacting school or your child’s class teacher. The Parent Partnership Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th October at 6pm. This will see the re-election and election of members with roles such as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. When these posts are elected we will let you know who is who and how best to communicate items you may have for the agenda.*

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***Parking and Car Crime***

*Please remember that the drop off zone at the front of the school is only to be used for speedy drop off or collection. It is not for extended periods of parking. We have been struggling with staff being trapped in the car park, unable to leave for urgent events or meetings. We will be asking our* ***Junior Road Safety Officers*** *to support safe use of the area in the near future.We have a lot of staff at Strathesk and limited car parking – staff do try to park respectfully at all times. However, some staff cars parked in the local area have been targeted and vandalised. We have informed the police and we are working with them and residents to combat these attacks. Please do inform school staff if you see any suspicious behaviour in the local area. Thank you.*

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***The Big Bedtime Read***

*We are delighted to announce that the Support Hub launched the* ***Big Bedtime Read*** *in the nursery on Thursday 13th of September.  Every parent was delighted to receive a bag of 5 books to enjoy for the week and when they returned them the following week there was some lovely feedback received on the comments slips. A new batch of books will go out to the children every Thursday - a great success so far! If you have any children's books suitable for ages 3 - 5 that you no longer use please hand them into the school office or nursery. Thank you.*

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***Dear Parents***

*Term 1 is well underway! We had a successful Establishment Phase and children are showing understanding of the school rules and routines and they are being very polite. Primary 1 are settled and happy and Primary 7 are rising to the challenge of being our oldest and most responsible children. They are getting on with their prefect jobs very well and showed great care and concern for their P1 buddies. Well done! Thanks go to the group of parents who helped us to formulate plans for our ‘Ready to Learn Framework’ – a supportive and restorative approach to managing pupil behaviour. Your feedback was very valuable. The system is off to a great start with children regulating their behaviour well and showing us they are ready to learn!*

*Ms Donaldson Head Teacher*

***Penicuik Learners***

*Applications are flooding in for Primary 5 Representatives for* ***Penicuik Learners******Session 18-19.*** *A group of four P5 pupils will be selected to join together with local Penicuik Primary Schools and Penicuik High School, to discuss learning and share news and views. This was a very successful venture last year and this initiative was even celebrated at the Head Teacher meeting in June. More news to follow!*

***School Nursing Service***

*Our School Nurse, Amanda Boyle, will be spending more time in school this session helping us to teach pupils about the importance of mental health and wellbeing, as well as supporting pupils and families with specific medical conditions. We look forward to working more closely with Amanda and reaping the benefits of her expertise and specialised knowledge.*

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### **School Security**

### We work hard to ensure school is safe and secure and that we know exactly who is in the building at any one time. Please be advised parents should not try to enter the school through the pupil doors. If you need to speak with your child’s class teacher do please arrange this through the school office.

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***Sporting Events!***

*This year there is so much going on in the way of sporting events and opportunities, which is great for the physical and mental wellbeing of our children. We had a fabulous day at the Rugby Festival and P4&5 cross country was a great success. Coming up we have girls and boys football, cross country for P6&7 and skiing starts after the October break, not to mention P4 swimming which starts in December. Phew!*

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**Diary Dates**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **Monday 1st October** | P5s visit to Edinburgh Zoo  |
| **Tuesday 2nd October**  | Cross Country team from P6&7s @ Vogrie |
| **Thursday 4th October** | McMillan Coffee Morning 9.15-10.20 |
| **Friday 5th October** | Harvest Festival |
| **Monday 8th October** | Penicuik Learners visit Sacred Heart PS |
| **Wednesday 10th October** | Sharing Learning 9-10am |
| **Wednesday 10th October** | PC Cassidy – Talk P4&5 - ‘Behaviour in the Community’ |
| **Friday 12th October** | Break for half term holiday – school ends at normal time |
| **Monday 22nd October** | In-service day for school staff |
| **Tuesday 23rd October**  | Pupils resume |
| **Wednesday 24th October**  | Parent Partnership Annual General Meeting 6pm |
| **Thursday 25th October** | P6s to New Lanark |
| **Tuesday 30th October** | P1-4 Halloween Disco 4.30-6pm |
| **Wednesday 31st October**  | P5-7 Halloween Disco 4.30-6pm |
| **Wednesday 31st October** | Nursery Halloween Fun Day |
| **Wednesdays 31st Oct – 5th Dec** | Skiing  |
| **Thursday 1st November**  | Flu Immunisations |
| **Monday 5th November** | P7s Scottish Parliament  |
| **Monday 5th November** | School Photos |
| **Tuesday 6th November** | School Photos |
| **Thursday 15th November** | Parent Consultations 4-7pm |
| **Friday 16th November** | Parent Consultations 1-4pm |
| **Monday 26th November** | Penicuik Learners at Strathesk PS |
| **Friday 30th November** | Christmas Fair 1-3pm |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | Nursery trip to Purves Puppets @ Biggar 9.15-2.15 |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | P4 Swimming |
| **Wednesday 12th December** | Nativity Performances |
| **Thursday 13th December**  | School Christmas lunch |
| **Friday 21st December** | Break – school ends at normal time |
| **Monday 7th January 2019** | In-service day for school staff |
| **Tuesday 8th January**  | Pupils resume |
| **Tuesday 15th January**  | Sharing Learning 9-10am |

***Reminders***

* *Please remember to fill in a free school meals form if you qualify for this.*
* *Our uniform ‘swap shop’ is open in school every Wednesday at 9.00-9.30am.*
* *Please clearly label* ***ALL*** *of your child’s belongings.*
* *Children are not allowed to ride bikes and scooters in the playground – please ensure your child dismounts and walks with their bike/scooter while in this area.*
* *Please ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit for school.*
* *Dogs are NOT allowed on the school campus.*

