### **Strathesk Primary School**

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**Newsletter - November 2018**

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***Farewell Mrs Agnew!***

*We are saying a last goodbye to our lovely Mrs Agnew on Friday 30th November. Mrs Agnew – you have worked tirelessly at Strathesk, making learning fun and always with the best interests of the children at heart. Thank you for your amazing contribution. We will miss you Donna and wish you all the best in your new school.*

***Bye Bye Mrs Mitchell!***

*We said another sad cheerio to Mrs Mitchell last week. Mrs Mitchell has worked both in nursery and the Support Hub and has had great success running Sparkle Time in school. Mrs Mitchell is moving on to focus full time on her crafting business – watch out for her at the Christmas Fair! Best of luck Dawn!*

***Staffing***

*Our new P5a teacher Mrs Heather Carr will start with us on Monday 10th December – Mrs Carr is very excited to get started with her new class! We have also employed a number of new Learning Assistants to support our children in Strathesk. We will let you know when they are due to start.*

***Parent Partnership***

*The* ***Strathesk Parent Partnership*** *had their Annual General Meeting on the 21st November. We had a great turnout and lots of offers of support! Our new representatives are:*

***Chair: Hayley Birchmore (P1 Mum)***

***Vice Chair: Marna Mesbahi (P3 & P7 Mum)***

***Treasurers: Wendy Henderson (P3 Mum) Andy Wilson (P2 Dad)***

***Secretary: Karen Cooper (School Admin)***

*If you would still 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.*

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***Parking***

*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 have also on-going issues of buses being unable to enter and exit the drop off zone. We will be asking our* ***Junior Road Safety Officers*** *to support safe use of the area in the near future. Thank you.*

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***Dear Parents***

*The bad weather is truly upon us here in Penicuik and the nights are drawing in! However, school is cosy and busy as ever. We have had a wonderful week with the superhero ‘Bookman’, and our imaginations have been inspired by his work with classes. We have been learning about keeping ourselves and animals safe with informative visits from the NSPCC and the NSPCA. We have a new link with our community police officer PC Louise Cassidy who has been talking to the children about safety and good behaviour in the community. Not long until Christmas so please wrap your little ones up warm and do enjoy this festive term!*

*Ms Donaldson*

*Head Teacher*

***Parent Consultations***

*Thanks to all the parents and carers who came along to our Parent Consultations last week. It was an excellent turnout. We received some great feedback about changes to school reporting and suggestions for our school values. More information to follow.*

***Pupil Council***

*The Strathesk Pupil Council is made up of 2 representatives from each stage Primary 1-7. The Council meet regularly to discuss issues affecting the school and its community. This is a great opportunity for children to contribute effectively and act as responsible citizens. The Pupil Council will soon be inviting their own parents to come along and find about more about the work they do – and how things work in school.*

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***Nursery Expansion***

*By 2020 all Midlothian Early Learning and Childcare centres will be providing 1140 hours of high quality child care and education to flexibly meet families’ needs. Strathesk Nursery will be running two pilot programmes from January which will offer increased hours. More information will follow soon, both from nursery and from Midlothian Council.*

***Strathesk Support Hub***

*Our Support Hub are now running some super clubs and initiatives including Cook Club. Don’t forget, you can pop in to school any time to chat to - Mrs Turbitt or Mrs Black 0131 271 4705 or Mrs Turbitt on 07825 054 017*

***Little Visitors***

*We wish to remind parents to regularly check your children for head lice. Early identification and treatment is key to success in avoiding infestation. Parent information leaflets will be sent out in the near future to assist with what to look for and what to do if lice or eggs are found.*

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**Diary Dates**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **Monday 26th November** | Penicuik Learners at Strathesk PS |
| **Friday 30th November** | Christmas Fair 1-3pm |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | Nursery trip to Purves Puppets @ Biggar 9.15-2.15pm |
| **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 |
| **Wednesday 23rd January** | Scots Night |
| **Monday 28th January** | Penicuik Learners at Cornbank PS |

***Reminders***

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*Friday 30th November 1-3pm is our annual* ***Christmas Fair****. Do come along and show your support, meet Santa and maybe win a prize or two in our amazing raffle!*

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*Dogs are* ***NOT*** *allowed on the school campus. We have children in school with severe allergies and also some who are afraid.*

* *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.*

