

Tynewater Primary School

a thinking, caring, learning community

Information for Parents

18 December 2019



Nursery to P7: email / copy per family via oldest child

Our School Aims

We believe that each of us can confidently:

- Be ambitious, imaginative and creative
- Make healthy choices to take care of ourselves, others, and our environment
- Seek new challenges to learn together to achieve our goals
- Explore, be involved in, and build up our community

Modelling attitudes and behaviour; thinking before we do or say something: t-h-i-n-k

Is it true?

Is it helpful?

Is it inspiring? (build up?)

Is it needed?

Is it kind?

If not, do not do or say it.

Thank you

Christmas Fair

For all the enthusiasm and effort that contributed to our very enjoyable and successful Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December, and especially to Emma Diffley (Parent Council Chairperson), Nicola Faux, Mrs Mancini, Mr Cairn and a very versatile team of parent volunteers. Everyone's involvement resulted in raising an amazing £2,300!

BBC Children in Need

3 Teams of P7 pupils, Mr Lawson and Mrs Scott (Kitchen Manager) raised £381.05 by serving breakfasts to parents, children and staff on 15, 22 and 29 November. Our School raised £573.26 in total.

Harvest Thanksgiving

All who made donations of groceries, flowers, fruit and vegetables for our Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly led by P1a and P1b on Friday 11 October. P7 pupils sorted and distributed items to twenty-one senior citizens in Roman Camp Court.

Snow / Severe weather

With snow or severe weather Midlothian schools will do everything possible to remain open. Please visit Midlothian Council website (www.midlothian.gov.uk School closures) as early in the morning as possible and listen to Radio Forth for up-to-date information. Please do not telephone the school. The most up-to-date information will be on the Midlothian Council website from approximately 05.30 each day.

If Midlothian Council decides to close our school due to adverse weather conditions during the school day, Mrs Munro (Administrative Assistant) will text parents and carers. School staff will look after children until parents, carers or emergency contacts have collected them. It is vital that you keep our Office Staff informed of any changes in your contact details.

In the event of our school being closed, Teachers have placed Home Learning Activities for respective classes on our school website at <http://tynewater.mgfl.net/>

Winter 2019-2020 Respiratory Illness

You will probably be aware that we have seen a large number of respiratory outbreaks in nurseries and schools in the past few weeks. These have caused service disruption with staff shortages and many pupils being absent from school/nursery.

The main symptoms being reported include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Sore tummy
- Cold/Flu like symptoms
- headache



These symptoms are consistent with respiratory viral illnesses such as the common cold, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and influenza.

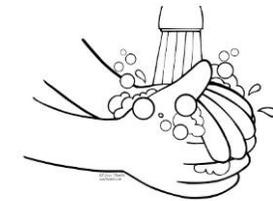
Respiratory viruses are spread by breathing in droplets produced when a person coughs or sneezes. You can also catch the virus by touching the surfaces that the droplets have landed on if you pick up the virus on your hands and then touch your nose or mouth.

Key advice for parents and carers

In the home the risk of catching or spreading flu/cold like illness can be reduced by:

- Regular hand washing with liquid soap and running water
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Using a disposable paper tissue, disposed off immediately after use.
- You can teach your child to sneeze into the 'crook' of their arm rather than their hands, if they don't have a tissue.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQINuSTP1jl>
- Good general cleaning of surface that everyone touches often e.g. TV remote, light switches, door handles, toilet flushes and tap heads.
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/common-cold>
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/flu>

Children should not return to school until completely well and 48 hours after symptoms have stopped to avoid it spreading further.



Hygiene and trying to avoid the Norovirus ('winter vomiting disease')

Could we please make every effort to ensure that children wash their hands thoroughly after being at the toilet; before eating any food, and regularly throughout the day. Please encourage your child(-ren) to keep their fingers, pencils, and pens out of their mouths. We realize this is not easy!

Please remember children need to stay at home for 48 hours after the Norovirus symptoms have stopped to avoid it spreading further.



On Thursday 5 December, we welcomed Michelle Livingston from Sport Scotland to present our school with the above award.

Thank you to our Steering Group: our Health and Wellbeing Pupil Voice-Leadership Group; Ms Blyth (currently teaching P6); Mr Watson (Relief Teacher and Literacy Support Teacher) and especially Mrs McCabe (Principal Teacher and Support for Learning Teacher) for driving the whole project and co-ordinating the gathering of evidence for our school's application.



Learning with professional musicians from the Dunedin Consort

Thank you to members of the Dunedin Consort - Erin, Christine, Jess, Gabby and Alison who gave a concert to Nursery to P7 pupils, staff and parents on Tuesday 10 December. P5 and P6 have each received learning through 5 workshops led by Christine of the Dunedin Consort.

The Project culminated in P5 and P6 joining pupils from 15 primary schools at a concert in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday 16 December in the afternoon, presenting 'A Children's Handel's Messiah'.

Thank you to Mrs Keighley Smith (Early Years Modern Apprentice) who has been on placement with our Nursery Class from 15 August. Mrs Smith leaves us on Friday 20 December to take up her final placement at Woodburn PS.

Our comprehensive **A to Z of Information for Parents is available on our school website.**

As always, please feel free to speak with me if you have any feedback, questions, suggestions, concerns, or simply need to talk through something. I am always happy to meet with you and speak with you about any matter relating to your child(-ren), improving learning and developing our school.

All staff look forward to working with you each day to maximize progress in your child(-ren)'s learning.

Thank you for all your support.

With best wishes for Christmas,

Douglas Lawson *Head Teacher*