



# Law Primary School & Nursery Newsletter



**June**

School Motto: **In happiness we strive to learn**

## Summer Term

Welcome to our 2018 Summer Newsletter. As the final term is always such a busy one at Law Primary School and Nursery Class we are issuing this newsletter to help everyone know our latest news and beyond to plans for next school year. As always, we hope you enjoy reading about the wide range of learning experiences and opportunities available at Law.



## Staffing

As you are aware this is the time of year when we organise the classes for next session and make decisions about which classes teachers will take. As yet these decisions have still to be finalised as we do not have all the information we need for the year ahead. **Please be assured that as soon as the information is finalised we will provide you with it.** This will allow us to start working with the children to plan for transition to their next stage, including meeting their teacher.



Similarly, we do not yet know what our early years staffing position will be but we hope to keep our current team who are doing a marvelous job. We will update you as soon as we have been informed.

## Goodbyes and Welcomes

We said goodbye to Mrs Allan last term as she left us to take up a new role with another organisation. And now, this term, we will have some more goodbyes to say.



Our P7 pupils are getting ready to move on to Carluke High School, Lanark Grammar and West Calder High. This is an exciting time for them, and although we will be sad

to see them go, we wish them well and look forward to hearing how they have settled.

We will also be saying goodbye to some of our staff. Mrs McKenzie is leaving us after sixteen years of service to the school, in order to take up a post with another organisation. This will mean a big change in our school office, but we wish her well as she moves on to this new role. The staff and pupils wished her a fond farewell at a recent assembly and presented her with a gift, cards and some flowers.

We will also be sad to see Miss Gibson leave at the end of term. She is moving on to a new role within South Lanarkshire schools. Miss Gibson has been at Law for many years and has been our P1 Teacher for most of that time and Acting PT for the last two sessions. We know that you will all be sad to hear that she has decided to move on but hope that you will join us in wishing her well in her new post.

We have recently heard that we will be keeping almost all of our current support staff with only Ms Wilkins moving on to another school. We will also have a new Office Team Leader in place for August and another member of the clerical staff to replace Mrs Allan's hours.

**Welcome:** On a happier note, we would like to say a big welcome to Mrs L Purdie who is our recommended appointment to the substantive post of Principal Teacher. We look forward to seeing Mrs Purdie in school over the coming weeks as she gets to know us and the children in preparation for her August start date. Mrs Purdie's appointment is still to be finalised on successful completion of recruitment checks, but we hope that these will be completed before the end of term.

**HELLO**

### School Uniform

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child(ren) to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps to promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of belonging, sharing and pride in the school.

In addition, the wearing of a uniform helps towards increasing the protection of all pupils. It helps staff and pupils to distinguish between who belongs to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps in trying to offer a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike.

Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of the life of the school. Any proposals on the dress code and on what constitutes the school uniform will be the subject of discussion with the PTA / Parent Council and where appropriate consultation with parents, pupils and staff.

The school uniform is: **grey trousers/skirt/pinafore**  
**grey jumper/cardigan or royal blue sweatshirt**  
**pale blue shirt or blouse or white polo shirt**  
**Law Primary School tie**  
**black shoes**

Gym uniform is: **navy/black/royal shorts**  
**white polo/t-shirt – plain or with school logo**  
navy/black/royal jogging bottoms  
royal blue sweatshirt – plain or with school logo



In consultation with staff, pupils and a parent focus group we are proposing to change the practice of pupils coming to school in their PE Uniform. From **August 2018**, we are asking **all P3-7** pupils to **wear school uniform every day**. This is in response to self-evaluation which has noted that pupils are less engaged in their work when they are not in uniform. This has an impact on behaviour, attention, focus and ultimately on how well children achieve.

In Law Primary we have lovely changing facilities which currently lie unused, with the help of our PTA and staff, we intend to clear these over the Summer break and have them ready for use by all pupils come August.

We hope that you will support this initiative which should promote independence and potentially save you money as jogging bottoms will only be required when we use the outdoor space in colder weather.

**Stop Press:** The Scottish Government has recently announced that all school clothing grants will be for a minimum of £100. Please check your eligibility at:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/159/school\\_clothing\\_grants\\_and\\_free\\_school\\_meals](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals)

### What's Been Happening at Law?

We are always very busy at Law Primary; from sports competitions, educational excursions, opportunities to develop skills by attending a whole range of events as well as the day-to-day learning activities in each class.

All of our pupils are benefitting from our new Chromebooks which have greatly enhanced our IT provision. We have also recently purchased additional BeeBots and mats to go with these, these resources support children's learning about programming and their numeracy skills.

Mrs Currie is continuing to develop the Senior Library area which now resembles a rainforest thanks to Room 9's art work. This inviting area is helping children to develop a love of 'reading for pleasure' which will, in turn, impact positively on their learning and wellbeing.

Mrs McCann has been leading our Sports Council in their endeavours to gain a Gold Sports Scotland award, with the help of children and two of our parents. Some of this group will be attending the Lanarkshire finals of the Sporting School of the Year awards, later this month. We wish them good luck.

Transition events have started for our nursery children and P7s. Ms O'Shea, Mrs Kerr, Miss Gibson, Mrs Dowd and Miss Vickers have been working together to develop their Fairyland topic which is helping our nursery pre-school children integrate into the 'big school' environment – with a little help from some fairy dust!

Mrs Nelson and Mrs Shields are working hard with our P7s to ensure that their leaver's assembly is a night to remember. And, the PTA are helping us fund an additional treat to Cosmic Bowl.

Preparations are underway for our Sports Days, Nursery Fun Day and Nursery Graduation.

We also have a special treat coming soon for all of our children- more information will come out soon, so please check the schoolbag post.

We are consulting our Nursery Parents about the possibility of offering full time spaces from August 2018. We hope to have news on this and nursery allocations very soon.

### **Lunchtime, After School and Morning Clubs**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, pupils, volunteers and parents who have contributed towards all of our clubs that have enabled the children to take part in a number of extra-curricular activities. This term the clubs on offer have included: SU, Girls & Boys Football, Badminton, Drama, Multi-sports and Netball.

### **Credit Union**

Well done to all the savers in the school's credit union. We would like to thank our C.U. development team and Mrs Greer for their organisation and commitment throughout the session. If any children would like to open a savings account, they can come and collect an application form from Mrs Greer.

From next session, we hope to develop the role of children in this initiative and information about this will come out at the start of the session. We are also looking for a parent volunteer to help supervise the children who will operate the CU. If you could volunteer an hour or so per week, please speak to Mrs Greer. We can be flexible about the day but would prefer help on an afternoon.

### **Going for Green**

I am delighted to say that our Go for Green behaviour system continues to support us in promoting positive behaviour at Law. The majority of our children were awarded their Silver Certificate for managing to stay on green for three blocks.

Congratulations to them for their exemplary behaviour in class and around the school.



We will soon be looking forward to our Gold Certificate winners having a final treat of the year.

We have however, realised that our senior pupils do not always benefit as much as younger pupils from this system in its current form. So, we hope to amend it slightly, from August, to take account of those pupils who consistently reach the reminder or time out stages but are able to stop themselves from getting a yellow which would currently count against them receiving a treat if they have more than one.

We feel that it would be fairer to all pupils if children were allowed a maximum of 2 reminders per week, with a third reminder triggering a yellow card which is recorded in the usual way. In this way, children who consistently behave well will continue to get their end of term treat but others will be required to moderate low level disruptive behaviour or risk losing the opportunity for a treat and certificate. The intention of this

is to reduce disruptive behaviour in class which ultimately impacts on all pupils and improve behaviour in the playground.

### **Yellow Walk**

I am delighted to say that our Primary 6 children have taken part in this year's Yellow Walk, organised by St Andrew's Hospice. We enjoy a formal partnership with the hospice and this is just one of the events we take part in to show our support for our partners.

We will update you on how much we have raised once the money has been collected.



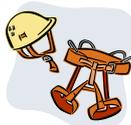
### **PTA Summer Fayre**

Please note that this year the PTA will host their annual Summer Fayre on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 11am – 1pm**. There will be lots of activities and events on the day for everyone to take part in. We hope to see you then and everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

(Following the last two fundraising events the PTA have raised a further £1000 towards improvements to our school grounds. A big thank you to everyone for their hard work and support.)

### **P7 Residential**

Plans are well underway for the Carluke Learning Community residential in September 2018 when almost all of our local schools will join together in a transition opportunity for next sessions P7s.



A further joint residential is now being planned for October 2019, for current P5s. We hope that if successful, these will become a regular feature.

### **Nursery Information Board**

Please continue to check the board, daily, for current nursery information and reminders. The information is updated regularly and provides an important link with our parents and carers - *thank you*.



### **Gala Day**

A gentle reminder that **Carluka Gala Day is Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. I am delighted to say that two of our Primary 6 girls are maids this year, Lily Meenan and Marni Todd. We wish the girls luck in their very important roles.



### **Gentle Reminders**

Can I remind you to check your child's hair for head lice on a fairly regular basis? The guidance suggests that parents/carers should aim to check their children's hair once a week during normal hair washing. Information leaflets with useful advice and guidance are available in our school foyer. You can also access useful advice from [www.onceaweektakeapeek.com](http://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com). Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further help.

### **Parent Pay**

Almost all of our children are signed up for parent pay now. If you have not already done so, please go online and register. Our office staff are happy to help if you have any questions. **Please note that from Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 you will no longer be able to pay cash for lunches or any school excursions or visits.** This means that if you are not already signed up for Parent Pay, your child **will not be able to attend. P1-3 pupils also need to be registered.**

There have been a few hiccups with the system, so please bear with us, but ultimately this will free up support staff and others to support children rather than go through the lengthy process of counting cash.



# Spotlight On Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for all of our children to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life. Our whole school attendance target is 95% which is in line with Local Authority and National Targets. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and the school to achieve this. There are 190 school days across the school year which leaves 175 days to book holidays and attend non urgent doctors and dentist appointments. We track and monitor school attendance and through this process I have become very concerned with the number of children who have less than 90% attendance. As you can see on the table below 90% attendance is equal to missing 4 weeks of school.

Days off school add up to lost learning					
190 days of education each year	<b>10 days absence</b> 180 days of education	<b>4 weeks absence</b> 171 days of education	<b>5 1/2 weeks absence</b> 1 school term missed	<b>7 1/2 weeks absence</b> 152 days of education	<b>9 1/2 weeks absence</b> 141 days of education
<b>100%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Good</b>		<b>Worrying</b>		<b>Serious Concern</b>	

As part of our attendance monitoring we have a series of letters that will be sent out if your child's attendance falls below 91%. These letters give you information regarding your child's attendance and will invite you in to the school to discuss the situation. We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment.

### Authorised Absences

**Below are some examples of absences which will be authorised by the school:**

- Genuine illness (not just a sniffle or cough)
- Short term emergency
- Bereavement
- **Emergency** dental or doctor's appointment (please try to make appointments outside of school hours)
- Hospital treatment



- Certain days for religious observation

### **Unauthorised Absences**

**Below are some examples of absences which will NOT be authorised by the school:**

- Shopping
- Birthday treats
- Days out/trips
- Non-urgent medical or dental appointments
- Oversleeping
- Family holidays except for certain occupations and supported by an employer's letter, e.g. armed forces, Police and NHS Staff

### **Late Coming**

Persistent late coming is also a problem in our school. On average we have 10 pupils late every day. Late comers miss important information at the start of the school day and disrupt children who are already settled in the class and who have started their work.

Children who are late also take up a lot of time with the office staff at one of the busiest times of the day for them.

Please ensure that your child or children are at school just before the bell at 9am so that they are ready to join their class line in the playground.

If your child is late for school this will be recorded and latecoming as well as attendance will be monitored by the school. If your child is persistently late you will be invited in to the school to discuss the situation.



### **Vote of Thanks**

As we near the end of the session I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped to make it a successful year for our children.

- We are very fortunate at Law to have polite and well-mannered children who demonstrate enthusiasm for every new challenge – well done to all of them for their hard work and willingness to get involved.
- We have exceptionally supportive parents/carers who are willing to work with us in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for our children. I would like to thank you all for your support throughout the year.
- Thanks are also due to our PTA who work tirelessly throughout the year for our school and nursery class. Our children benefit enormously from their endeavours.
- I would also like to thank all our partners who have supported us throughout the session, e.g. the community police, our Active Schools Co-ordinator etc.

- Last but by no means least thanks are due to **all** the staff at Law. We are privileged to work with a well-trained, enthusiastic and dedicated team, all of whom are focused on providing the best experiences and outcomes they can for the children in our care.



### Dates for your Diary

Please note that we endeavour to keep the school calendar on our website up to date, so please check this regularly for key dates.

- School closes on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm for the summer break and re-opens on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August for pupils.



# ACHIEVEMENT SUPPLEMENT

<b>Rory Fulton</b> Rory can now swim 10 metres without stopping. <b>Fantastic Rory!</b>	
<b>Kahlan McDonald</b> In her first Interclub Taekwon-Do competition she won a Bronze Medal for Patterns and a Silver for High Kick <b>Well Done Kahlan!</b>	<b>Dylan McDonald</b> In his first Interclub Taekwon-Do competition he won Bronze for Patterns and Bronze for Sparring <b>Well Done Dylan!</b>
<b>Rachel Carruthers</b> Rachel has passed all her Dance Stars Highland Exams and received Honours in her Grade 1 Ballet Exam. <b>Super effort Rachel!</b>	
<b>Dylan McDonald</b> Won Taekwon-Do medals for Patterns (Bronze) and High Kick (Bronze) <b>Another great achievement!</b>	<b>Kahlan McDonald</b> Won Taekwon-Do medals for Sparring (Gold) and High Kick (Silver) <b>Fantastic Kahlan- twice over!</b>
<b>James Glennie</b> James' Rugby Team won 3 out of 4 festivals and came in 2 <sup>nd</sup> in the other one. <b>Well Done James and The Dalziel Dragons</b>	<b>Erin Welsh</b> Erin won a gold and a bronze medal at her first Taekwon-Do competition. <b>Fantastic Erin!</b>

### Finally

If you have any comments about what you have read, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or Mrs McNeill.

Have a wonderful Summer Break and we look forward to seeing you in August.