



Law Primary School and Nursery Class Newsletter

August

2018

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer holiday enjoying the glorious weather we had this year and taking the opportunity for lots of outdoor activities. Now that the weather has changed to a more 'normal' Scottish Summer, it doesn't feel so bad to be back in school. It is fantastic to see all the children back looking so well and rested, ready for the session ahead! It is also super to see all of our children in their school uniform and PE uniform. We will be encouraging them to wear school uniform throughout the year as this promotes a sense of belonging and work ethic.

I would like to use this opportunity as a gentle reminder that **all** children require indoor shoes which should be left here in school. Children change into these when they enter the building and most also use these shoes for PE. Some pupils prefer to bring trainers for PE, this is fine as long as they are clean and have non-marking soles. I am sure that you will appreciate that if children wore trainers which were wet or dirty from being outdoors, we would very soon have an unsafe environment for PE activities. If your child does wear their trainers' outdoors, then please ensure that they clean the soles the evening before their PE day, removing any dirt and stones, then bring these in their bag for use in school.

We encourage pupils to bring in **plain water** for consumption throughout the day, a filled bottle should be provided each morning. Drinking water is known to have a positive impact on wellbeing; helping us to stay hydrated which is very important for good brain function. In line with local and national policies, we ask that only plain water is sent into school for consumption in class. Of course, pupils can have juice or flavoured water at lunchtime in their packed lunches. (**No fizzy drinks** are permitted during the school day, including on excursions.) Plain water is also available to all pupils at lunchtime in the cafeteria and, should your child forget their water bottle, they will have access to a cup of fresh water in their class.

We hope you find this newsletter informative, but please feel free to contact us at any time should you require further information.

In this edition, you will find a list of key dates, however, our website: www.law-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk has a calendar facility where we will add dates of key events happening here in school, so please check this regularly. Further newsletters and information throughout the year will also be posted on the website in order to minimise the amount of photocopying we do and to help lessen our impact on the environment. Should you wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the Newsletters, please let the school office know in writing. I would also like to make a special plea at this point: every session we spend valuable resources sending out reminders about permission slips and other forms which have not been returned. This is very time consuming and takes support staff away from supporting children's educational progress and other duties. It would be very helpful if you could return these forms immediately after they have been issued. Of course, things can get lost or misplaced, but we will be trying to reduce the number of times we send out reminders during the school year and I would like to ask for your support in this matter.

Thank you



Staffing

Staffing this session remains broadly the same as last. However, we have been joined by Mrs Lianne Purdie as Principal Teacher and we are currently finalising the recruiting of additional Early Years Practitioners to make sure we maintain ratios for our extended hours as the majority of nursery children join us for full days. As in previous years, if your child is in the Nursery or Primary 1-3 you should contact Mrs Currie and Mrs McNeill for P4-7 children if you require to speak to one of the management team.

In our office, we welcome Mrs A. Baird as our Team Leader and Mrs L. Stewart as an office based support assistant. All other support staff have returned to school with the exception of Ms Wilson who has moved to Braidwood Primary and Mrs Docherty who is recovering from surgery. We hope to see Mrs Docherty back in school soon and wish her well with her recovery.

Of course, we said goodbye to Miss Gibson in June and we wish her well in her new post. Ms Snobel has also been redeployed on a Monday and Tuesday but we hope that she may be with us at certain points during the year as she remains part of our staff team.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of my own decision to move on and that I shall be leaving Law Primary on the 19th October 2018. Normal recruitment procedures will be started shortly and you will be kept informed through further communication from the authority.



Law's Pupil Elections

Once again, election fever will be due to hit Law as the children enter into the campaign period to elect the new Pupil Council members for Primary 3-7 and the House Captains and Vice-Captains from P7 for 2018-19. Last year we have had a slight change in the format for these elections, with Primary 7 pupils being interviewed by senior management for roles as House and Vice Captains. This gave the candidates the opportunity to practice skills for learning, life and work. We will continue with this format and Primary 7 pupils will be issued with more information over the coming weeks.



We have some excellent parent/carer helpers at Law. Some people give freely of their time to provide valuable support for our children and school. This session we hope to welcome our regulars back and also recruit more help.

- If you are able to accompany our children on any visits out of the school, then please contact the office to provide the days/times you would be available to help.
- If you are able to provide an extra-curricular club at lunch-times or after school this would extend the variety of options, we would be able to provide for the children.

If you are interested in volunteering for the first time please don't hesitate to contact me by telephone: 01698 350816 or, by e-mail: gw14lawoffice@glow.sch.uk we'd love to hear from you!

Please note that all volunteers who wish to work in schools must become a member of the PVG scheme. Please contact the school office for more information on this.

Annual Data Checks

Every session we have to check that we have all the correct and up to date information for parent/carer and emergency contacts. The data checks will be issued over the next week or two and it is essential that these are returned to school as soon as possible and no later than Friday, 7th September, ensuring that you **sign both pages** even if there are no changes to be made. Please also remember to inform the school if you change your contact numbers, mobile phone or emergency contact during the session.

I hope as many people as possible will sign up for our email communication system. This would help save some trees and some money! If your e-mail address is provided we will send future newsletters to you electronically.

Please note that, where we already have an e-mail address for you, we will continue to send newsletters electronically. If you would like a paper copy instead, please contact the school office to inform us of this.

Medical Forms

At this point in the session we update all our medical records to ensure we have the most accurate and up to date information for each child. To assist us with this please complete and return the enclosed medical form along with the data check. Thank you in advance for your support with this.



If your child requires medicines to be taken during the school day after a period of illness, we do require that you complete an administration of medicines consent form, these are available from the school office. Please note only prescribed medicines can be given in school.

Labels

Can we ask you to ensure your child's belongings are labelled, e.g. jackets, packed lunch boxes etc. There are many similar, if not identical items, so a label helps them and us to keep track of their belongings.



Absences

You can help us tremendously by letting us know as soon as possible if your child is absent from school. Please note that if we have not heard from you we will send a text message asking you to let us know the reason for your child's absence.

Can I also ask that on your child's return to school, following a period of absence, that a note is provided for the class teacher. This is necessary even if you have telephoned while your child was off as we require this information for our records.

All of these procedures are in place to help ensure the safety of our children and I thank you in advance for your co-operation with these.



Safety First

For Health & Safety reasons **jewellery should not be worn on gym days**. If you cannot remove your child's earrings, please provide him/her with plasters to cover them.



Insurance

Consent forms (Appendix 3s) are issued by the school to parents/carers to gain permission for pupils to take part in any educational excursion. Appendix 3s are used for day excursions/visits and relate to any activity which involves pupils away from the school. The consent form refers to insurance cover being provided. This policy is for travel and personal accident insurance. South Lanarkshire Council reviews this annually and a summary of this is attached for your information. The same insurance policy is used for all educational excursions, simply to avoid repeated duplication. A copy of this will **NOT** be issued along with each Appendix 3. We should therefore ask parents/carers to retain the enclosed summary for future information. If at any time you would like a further copy, please contact the school office and this will be sent to you.

Improvement Priorities for Session 2018-19

Every session we write a school improvement plan. This helps us to continue to move forward in a strategic and focused way. The key outcome is to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our children. Here are our main priorities for this session:

- improve consistency of learning and teaching in Literacy and Numeracy across Law Primary and Nursery Class through a focus on pace, challenge and differentiation in writing
- Audit existing practice in family learning and use the results to develop new approaches with a focus on closing the attainment gap

We will also continue working with all establishments in the Carluke Learning Community to develop effective transitions.



We will shortly be publishing a summary of our Standards and Qualities Report. Please look out for this as it will provide you with further information on progress made in school improvement priorities and also on how pupils are performing related to national and local data.

Nursery Class

The Nursery Class are undergoing major changes due to the introduction of full day places for many of our children. These children will have their lunch in the cafeteria enjoying an adapted menu of healthy meals. Snack continues to be served but this will mainly be fruit prepared by nursery staff.

Over the next few weeks new children will join the nursery and consequently we require additional staff. All of this change brings its challenges and opportunities. We look forward to working with parents, past and present, in order to ensure a smooth transition to our new arrangements. Please contact the nursery team if you have any questions.

Chaplaincy Team

Our chaplaincy team for this session remains the same as last session. Alex Kelly, Christian Youth Worker will provide support during religious observance (RO) events including attending RO assemblies and supporting in class if appropriate. Mrs Hinshelwood and Miss Brown will continue to run our Scripture Union Clubs for children who sign up to attend and have parental/ carer permission. However, we will be joined by Mr P Grant, Minster, from Law Parish Church.

There is a statutory provision for parents to withdraw children from participation in religious observance. This right of parents' wishes will be respected. Please put any request to withdraw your child in writing, addressed for the attention of the Head Teacher. Parent/ Carers of **children withdrawn last session need not reapply**.

Road Safety

It is vital that we have everyone's co-operation in ensuring our car park is a safe place for our children. Please park only in designated bays when dropping off and collecting your child. Please also consider parking out with the school car park and walking all or part of the journey to help ease congestion. The area in front of the infant playground should remain clear at all times as this is our emergency access point. Please also **turn off your engine** when waiting for children in the school car park to help maintain air quality for our service users.

Our JRSO representatives have been appointed and they are: **Luca Simpson and Courtney-Lee Campbell**. They will work together to help raise awareness of this very important issue and other road safety initiatives. We will keep you up to date with their work throughout the school session. We have recently updated our travel plan and a copy is available in school should you wish to see this.

Please note that due to increased numbers of staff and the changes to nursery hours, our carpark will be busier than before. The central section of the carpark is reserved for staff and visiting professionals, if you must bring your child to school by car please consider **Park and Stride** or use the allocated drop off spaces. Please **do not park in front of the infant gates** as this our emergency vehicle access point.



Credit Union

P7 and Mrs Greer will re-launch the Credit Union later this term with collections being made **on Mondays** this session. If any children who are not already members wish to join, please see the office staff for an application form. The collection start date will be notified to you shortly.



Holiday Weekend

Please note that the school will be closed on Friday 21st September and Monday 24th September. School re-opens on Tuesday 25th September. I hope the children have an enjoyable break



Wider Achievement Wall

Thank you for your support in previous session for helping to build our Law Wider Achievement Wall. The children are enjoying seeing the wall being built brick by brick every time one of their achievements is put on. We are all very proud of their achievements and would welcome more to add to the wall. **Remember if your child has done something out with school which you feel deserves recognition please see the office for an achievement form.**

Gym Days

Please note that most classes have an hour and a half gym session and an additional half hour session taught by their class teacher each week. Gym kit will be required on these days and, for **P4-7 children, this should be brought to school for children to change into on those days.** There are some exceptions; Rooms, who have their gym session over two days (2 times 1hour slots) should wear full gym kit unless otherwise advised by their class teacher. Class teachers will ensure that your child has a note of their gym days.

As intimated in a previous newsletter, we noticed that children wearing their PE kit to school was not conducive with the promotion of a strong work ethic and also impacted on behaviour management. We also wish to promote independence in our older pupils. Therefore, P4-7 children will have use of our changing facilities to change into their PE kit on their allocated day. Class teachers will advise when outdoor PE kit is necessary. (P1-3 children can continue to come in their school PE uniform). If you are concerned that your child may forget their kit on their PE days, you have the option to put a PE kit in a drawstring bag which can be left in school to be sent home at the end of each term. However, for hygiene reasons we would prefer children to bring their kit in on their PE days.

Going for Green

Law's positive behaviour system 'Going for Green' encourages pupils to aim for high standards in behaviour, work and effort in Law Primary - in class, in the playground, in the cafeteria and when representing Law as part of a team or on a class trip. Almost all of our children regularly receive rewards for their good behaviour and we are very proud of this and know that your support and hard work in the home make this possible.

The system also encourages the children to follow our three basic school rules:

- **Do as you are asked**
- **Be kind, respectful and helpful**
- **Keep your hands and feet to yourself**

Many of our parents/carers are familiar with our system however we continue to engage with parents, pupils and all staff to review our procedures to make sure they reflected everyone's views and continued to support better behaviour and therefore better learning. A copy of our 'Going for Green' leaflet for parents/carers has been issued with this newsletter so that you are aware of any changes and we hope you find it useful. Please note that we will only feedback to you when your child has reached yellow, red or black. Reminders will be noted in diaries as children who reach 3 or more in one week will be issued with a yellow on Friday.



School Lunches

Please note that all Primary 1, 2 and 3 children are entitled to a free school lunch every day. We felt it may be useful to remind you of this in case you would like your child to benefit from this entitlement. School lunches are developed to be nutritionally balanced and to promote making healthy choices.



Meals for P4-7 pupils remain priced at £1.65 which represents very good value. We would respectfully ask that you ensure that children having paid school meals do not accrue debts by keeping up to date with your Parent Pay account. If you are having difficulties making payments, there may be help available to you through applying for a school clothing and free meals grant via the council's website:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Gentle Reminders

As we begin a new term please note the following 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. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can provide any further help.

I respectfully ask that you avoid taking your child out of school for holidays during term time. This can be very disruptive to your child's education as they miss valuable teaching input when they are absent. These absences are recorded as 'Unauthorised' (except in very exceptional circumstances). Work will not be provided during these absences (except for normal homework) but your child will be expected to catch up upon their return. There is a great deal of evidence which suggests that even short periods of absence can have a lasting effect upon children's attainment, even in later years.

Please note that **dogs are not permitted** on school grounds. Please leave your dog at home if at all possible or ensure that they remain outside of the school gate at drop off and collection times.

Please note that, if children are bringing scooters or bikes to school, they should dismount at the school gates and walk with their scooter/bike when in the school grounds. When leaving, they should walk their scooter/bike out and only get on it once out of the school gates. This is important for the health and safety of those in the playground. We will reiterate this rule to the children but would appreciate your support in reminding them of it.



Play Equipment

We are fortunate to have fixed outside play equipment however, you will have noticed, that some of this is currently out of use. This is due to a recent safety check which highlighted some concerns. We are currently looking into how we can get these repaired but in the meantime please **do not allow** children to play on those sections of the trim trail.



Lollipops and snacks containing nuts

In the interests of children's safety please do not provide lollipops as a snack or part of a packed lunch. As we have some children in school with nut allergies, can I ask you not to provide nut products as a snack or part of a packed lunch.



Thank you in advance for your support with all of the above.

Assemblies

Please find details below of the Class Assembly dates and times to allow you to make arrangements in advance. Please note that on occasion some dates may need to be re-arranged but we will try to give as much notice as possible of any changes. The P7 Leavers' Assembly date and time has still to be finalised but we will inform you with plenty of notice as soon as a decision is made.

In addition, we will continue to have weekly assemblies for all classes. These are for pupils and staff only but please ask your children about what they learn and do at these times.

Assembly Timetable 2018-19

Date	Class
2 nd November	Room 6
9 th November	Room 10
23 rd November	Room 9
20 th December	Nursery Concert (am) Room 1 & 2 Nativity
22 nd February	Room 5
10 th May	Room 8
17 th May	Room 3
7 th June	Room 7
28 th June	Nursery Summer Celebration

For further information, please check out our website or join us on Twitter: LawPrimarySLC

Please note that the Nursery will produce their own newsletter shortly which will have further information about their planned events.

You Said, We Did

Homework at Law

Homework plays a crucial part in your child's education and helps establish good routines and a strong work ethic which is a valuable life skill. It helps to consolidate learning and also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to engage in discussions about their children's learning. We value your support in promoting the importance of homework.



However, last session feedback from parents/ carers, pupils and staff made us realise that it is time to review and update our policy. A short questionnaire in which we seek your views will be issued next week. We will evaluate these along with staff discussions and finalise a revised policy which we will share with you once this is complete.

During our Parents Evenings, Open Days, Bistro Cafés and formal and informal discussions with parents, we receive feedback about how useful you find these events and what you would like to change.

Although Bistro Cafés were well attended we did receive a number of comments about the pressure it can put on families to take time off work to attend on multiple occasions. With this in mind, we would like to trial a new format. The following events will take place this session in the Primary department:

Thursday, 6th September at 3.30pm

Meet The Teacher

Tuesday, 6th November from 9.20- 10.20am

Open Morning

Thursday, 7th February from 3.30pm

Formal Parents' Consultations

(Nursery will have their own dates and timetable for consultations)

June 2019

Formal Reports Issued

We believe that this new format will ease those pressures and also give you an opportunity to meet your child's teacher early in the session. The move to a February Parents' Consultations also gives scope for meaningful discussions about progress made, what the child's next steps will be and how you and the school can work together to support your child. This gives time for any changes to be implemented before the final report is issued in June. This is a format that works well in many establishments, but we will seek your feedback during the year and evaluate/ review based on this making further changes for the following session if necessary.

As always, we are happy to hear from you if you have any further suggestions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirstin McNeill".

Kirstin McNeill
Head Teacher