

Toward Primary School Newsletter

January 2020

Christmas

A happy new year to you all. We hope that you all had a relaxing Christmas break.

As usual Christmas was a busy time with many fun events. The children did an amazing job in their performance at the Christmas Concert; a special thank you goes out to the parents and Parent Council for providing Tea/Coffee & mince pies. A group of pupils visited Morrisons for the annual Christmas carol singing; the members of the public were very generous.



Nanny McPhee (aka Emma Thompson) stopped to have a listen to us sing. We raised £156.40. The children donated some of this to Olly's Wee Bothy as this is their chosen charity for the year and to the Church for the use of the beautiful church and hall.



Staffing

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed a janitor/cleaner. James Gray is our new permanent Janitor/Cleaner. He will be starting with us on Monday 27th January 2020.

Doreen Finlay is happy to continue to teach the P1-P3 in Mrs McGourty's absence at this time. The children are enjoying having her as a teacher and they are making good progress. We are very fortunate that Doreen has been able to provide the continuity in teaching the class.

Forest School

A reminder that Forest School is on a Friday morning. Please ensure your child brings in warm, waterproof clothing as they will be out in all weathers. During the winter months, the Forest School leaders will make the decision as to whether or not a session will take place on the day, depending on the weather.

Attendance

Please can we remind parents that all absences should be reported to the school office, by parents, by 9.30am on each day of a pupil's absence. All Cowal Schools have a minimum target of 90% attendance for all of our pupils and an expectation that we will work with parents/carers and pupils to achieve this. If your child's attendance falls below 90% we will be inviting you in over the coming weeks to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance.

Assemblies

We continue to have a sharing assembly on the first Monday of each month (see dates below). This is an opportunity for children to share their wider achievements outwith school and any homework that they have completed from the website. The website will be updated shortly to provide new homework activities for this term.

Curriculum Bulletins/Learning Goals

Assessed curriculum bulletins for your child showing last term's progress will be sent home next week. We have adapted these for this term for trialling and are now calling them 'Learning Goals'. These will also be sent home next week with a more detailed explanation.

Nuts

At present we are unaware of any nut allergies in the school. To ensure that we have the correct information please can you advise us by the 31st January 2020 if you think your child has an allergy to nuts. After this date we will send a message out to all parents as to whether or not we can allow nuts in the school.

Open Afternoon

We are holding an Open Afternoon for P1-P3 parents/carers to come in to the class to look at their child's work and join in with some activities. This will be held on Wednesday 5th February from 2.15pm until 3.00pm. We look forward to seeing you then. For all parents there will be an opportunity for you to meet with teachers before the Easter break to discuss your child's progress.

Dates for the Diary 2020

Monday 20 th January	Samba Drumming with P4 – P7 starts and continues for the next 6 weeks
Monday 3 rd February	Sharing Assembly
Tuesday 4 th February	NSPCC Visit – Speak Out, Stay Safe
Wednesday 5 th February	P1-3 Open Afternoon 2.15pm
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th February	School Closed (In-Service 13 th and 14 th)
Tuesday 18 th February	Swimming starts for both classes for 6 weeks
Monday 2 nd March	Sharing Assembly Rag Bag Collection
Thursday 2 nd April	Daffodil Tea
Friday 3 rd April	School Closes at 2.30pm for Easter break
Monday 20 th April	School Opens at 9am