

South Park Primary School

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Newsletter September 2020

www.southpark-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



@SouthParkEk



A note from Mrs McNeil...

It is great to be sending out a newsletter to keep everyone informed of what has been happening in our school since our return in August. Our children have all settled really well and have adjusted to all the new procedures admirably. The staggered playtimes and lunch breaks are running smoothly and the children are respecting all the new rules of staying within their allocated zones and playing with their own classmates. Before our return in August all staff made many videos to allow children to see the new procedures in our school. These videos are still available and new ones have been uploaded so that all families and carers can see what a typical day in South Park looks like. The link is copied in the communication section overleaf and is on our website so please have a look. As always thank you so much for your continued support, especially at this challenging time for everyone. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.



Diary Dates

As intimated by SLC the new in-service day for our authority is **Tuesday 29th September**. This means the September weekend is as follows:

Friday 25th September – Holiday

Monday 28th September – Holiday

Tuesday 29th September – In-service Day Children off school

STEM

As intimated previously Mrs Hendry is our non class contact teacher this session. The way we do cover for the teachers has changed to ensure we cut the contact each class has with different members of staff. This means Mrs Hendry is taking each class from P2-P7 once a fortnight. On the day Mrs Hendry has responsibility she is carrying out STEM activities with the children. She has lots of exciting learning planned but needs consent to enable all pupils to participate. The consent is on the Microsoft form emailed out to all families/carers. When it is Mrs Hendry's day could we please ask that the children come dressed in warm clothes and appropriate footwear for activities such as den building. The timetable for your child's STEM day was included in the Microsoft form sent out.



Family Learning Through Google

Classroom

The new family learning grids are posted on each class google classroom. These grids give each family ideas of activities to do to enhance your child's learning. Teachers are also using Google classroom for uploading learning tasks that the children can complete at home. I am sure you will agree that we all became very digitally aware and our children learned many new skills through our virtual platforms put in place over lockdown. We do not want the children to lose the skills of using technology to enhance learning and feel it is important to maintain the use of Google classroom and Seesaw in case we ever have to introduce the blended learning model. Your child should be accessing their google classroom regularly. If this is a problem for any families either with equipment or internet access or passwords then please contact me at the school so we can assist you.



South Park Tree

A very important part of being back together is re-connecting with each other and what is important to us at South Park. Last week and this week the children have been designing wooden hearts to hang on our new South Park Tree. The tree is on the wall just outside our main entrance. A tree was chosen to hang the hearts on as it symbolises how we grow together and how we remained connected during lockdown. As children join South Park their heart will be added to the tree and when they move on they will take their heart with them. This means they will always have a piece of South Park with them through their life journey. The hearts also symbolise how the children have hope for a bright future.



Chaplaincy Team

I would like to confirm that our school chaplain for session 2020/2021 will continue to be Mr Kevin McKenzie from Westwood Parish Church. Kevin has been school chaplain in South Park for many years and we value his input at our 3 main celebrations each year, i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Easter.

Our Religious & Moral Education Programme focuses on three main world religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity and teaches respect and tolerance for each other. However, under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Any parent/carer who wishes to do so, should inform the school in writing.

Mobile Phones in school

As I am sure you are aware mobile phones are not permitted in the classroom. If your child requires to bring a phone to school they MUST be switched off and kept in the pupils own bag. Children are not permitted to switch on their mobile until they are out with the school grounds. I am sure you can appreciate the strict parameters that need to be in place to ensure our children's safety. If you would like to discuss this further please don not hesitate to contact me at the school.

School Recovery Plan and Standards & Quality Report.

Our School Recovery Plan is available to read on our website. Areas on which we will be focussing on will be reconnection with our school values, pupil Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy. We plan to increase children's enjoyment and attainment with a relentless focus on literacy skills and aim to improve their skills by further embedding a love of reading and writing. Health and Wellbeing is crucial to the holistic development of our children and we have used our Pupil Equity Fund allocation to continue our work on Nurture and positive mindset . Our Standards and Quality Report and Recovery Curriculum focus will be available on our website . A video detailing all the achievements and our focus for the coming session will be available on our South Park YouTube channel soon!!

Communication



As a school we are trying our very best to keep you informed of all the updated guidance and changes that are happening in our school and community. To enable us to keep you aware of all information it is essential, especially at this time that we have updated emails and mobile numbers for all our parents and carers. Could I please ask that as a matter of urgency if you do not receive emails or you have changed your mobile number that you contact the school office. Information is regularly tweeted on our twitter account and our YouTube channel can be accessed on the link below.

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe-0qxrQshLD9WbhuvbEKw>

Twitter handle:

@SouthParkEK
@P1SouthPark