

CORNBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

3rd October 2016

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FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW SCHOOL SESSION

This is the first of this session's school newsletters. Every term there will also be a class/nursery newsletter which tells you about your child's class, what they will be learning as well as class routines, special events etc.

A very warm welcome back to everyone at the start of another school session, especially our new pupils in Primary 1 and those starting in our Nursery this term. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all new pupils and their families who have just joined our school community. We all hope that you have settled well and are very happy at Cornbank. A huge welcome also to our new members of staff: Mrs Stacey Murray - Learning Assistant, Mrs Michelle Kelly, Mrs Anna Leask and Mrs Carol Tweedie who are our new Child Care and Development Workers working in our nursery this session. We are also delighted to welcome two Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) this session - Miss Emma Hopkirk in P2b and Miss Megan Pearston P7. For me, this is always an exciting time of the year as we look at our plans and ideas for this new school session.

We have had a very busy month of September with lots of learning happening at Cornbank Primary School. During our Establishment Phase there has been a focus in every class about creating a class charter as we work towards being a Rights Respecting School. At our Update Monday gatherings we have been launching our focus for the week, this has included:

Rights Respecting Schools, Cornbank Toolkit Revision, What is a Midlothian Learner, Roald Dahl's 100th Birthday and the First Minister's Reading Challenge.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Over the summer we had our lighting replaced, so hopefully children and staff have noticed a difference! Some painting work will be undertaken during the October school break where the new lighting has been installed. We are absolutely delighted to see that our new trim track has been installed in our infant playground as is accessible to our nursery pupils too. A huge thank you to the Cornbank School Partnership for working so hard to help improve our outdoor area. We are looking to complete our outdoor maze using natural materials. P2 classes have been busy collecting branches with parental support but it has been more challenging than we first thought! This is a work in progress and will be working hard to ensure that the fully completed maze is created with as many natural materials as we can gather! Anyone who can support us with this please contact the school office.



MEET THE TEACHER



Many thanks to everyone who attended this very successful event. The feedback from the many parents and children that I have spoken to about the evening has been very positive. Parents appreciated sharing the meet the teacher with their child(ren) and learning about their class and the learning which is taking place. We hope you all managed to notice our Rights Respecting Charters in each class. This show cases all the fantastic learning which has been taking place and our real awareness of our rights and the global community.

Our teachers also enjoyed welcoming families into their classes too, and having the opportunity to talk with you. There will be an opportunity for one to one consultations at our Parent Consultation Meetings on 1st and 3rd November. Letters about our appointment system will be issued shortly.

SICKNESS



At this time of year, children are off with sickness bugs which can spread easily if we do not take a proactive approach to containing the germs. We do what we can in school by encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times, and by sending sick children home as soon as they are unwell.

I would urge you not to send your child to school if they have sickness or diarrhoea or if they are showing symptoms of these. They should not come to school for 48 hours afterwards so it is completely out of their system. This way we can avoid it spreading. We appreciate your continuing support with this issue.

ASSEMBLIES

This year again, every class or year group will hold their own class assembly, during which they will share with you their learning. We would like to invite parents and carers of the children performing to attend these assemblies on Friday mornings at 9:15 am. The Cornbank School Partnership offer tea and coffee for parents in the dining hall before each class assembly. Further information has been issued in our annual calendar and is also available on our school website.

Well done to our P5/6 pupils who delivered the first class assembly on Friday 30th with a Rights Respecting focus. Our nursery pm class will be invited along to the dress rehearsals on a Thursday afternoon for a sneak preview.

Our next school assembly is our first House Assembly where children are invited to wear their house colours and the winning house for this term will be announced and the house treat will be shared. Mrs Stevenson will lead our final assembly this session where the children will be learning all about Harvest. All children are invited to bring in a donation which will now go to the local Food Bank. A letter with more information will be issued regarding this.

To find out when your child's class is presenting their assembly, please visit our website where you will find the annual calendar with essential dates for your diary this session.



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COATS AND LABELLING OF CLOTHES

As Autumn has arrived could you please make sure your child comes to school with a waterproof jacket or coat. They will be outside playing during most break and lunch times. Please make sure all clothes are clearly labelled and if your child comes home with clothing that doesn't belong to him/her then please return it to school the next day. We have lost property boxes in each block if you are looking for any lost items of clothing.



ROLE OF THE HOUSE AND VICE CAPTAINS



Our House and Vice Captains play an integral role throughout the school session. Every Thursday morning they have the very important job of collecting, counting and recording all of the house points gained by our children throughout the week. They then announce the points collected at an assembly every Friday.

As a school we have recently purchased and are awaiting the arrival of our new house points tokens and also storage for the points. This will be located in the foyer of our school so children can visually see the house points being collected across the whole school. We think this will help to encourage children to earn more points for their houses. We hope this will be in place for our parental consultations in November so you can see how each house is doing.

JRSOs

This stands for Junior Road Safety Officers and we have a pupil voice group who are working on keeping our children safe. We were happy to be involved in the JRSO launch at Woodburn Primary School in August. Two of our JRSO's accompanied Mrs Turnbull to the launch and they returned to school with lots of great ideas and very excited about how they can implement these ideas at Cornbank.

As part of their work, they will help us to make sure everyone takes a safe route to school, cycles safely and support us with our future Parksmart Campaigns, ensuring that our parents and carers use all of the correct designated places for picking up and dropping off.

They are busy promoting our Walk to School Week which begins on Monday 3rd October.



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS - KNIGHTS FOR RIGHTS

We are busy working towards our First Level Award so we will keep you up dated when we have further information. A few of our 'Knights for Rights' pupils visited George Watsons College on Friday, with Miss Gordon, to share their learning with other schools working towards Rights Respecting Schools accreditation.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our children to hear about the journey other schools have taken. Our Knights for Rights Pupil Voice Group has a very important role to play every session, but especially this session as this group of children will be leading our school towards gaining our Level 1 award. They will be working closely with Miss Gordon and Mrs Stevenson to ensure everyone knows about their rights.

We hope that children are sharing their learning at home and can explain why they have created their own class charter.

HOUSE CAPTAINS



Our House Captain and Vice Captain Election campaigns concluded with election speeches from each of the candidates at a whole school assembly.

We were delighted that our MP for Parliament, Mr Owen Thompson, was able to attend the assembly and offer his advice to the potential candidates.

The speeches and accompanying media films were absolutely fantastic and our pupils had a difficult job in deciding who to vote for. The votes were cast and then counted by Mrs Stevenson and we are delighted to announce that the House Captains for Cornbank this session are:

Eagles - Reagan, Falcons - Sophie, Kites - Ben and Ospreys - Aimee

Our Vice Captains are: Eagles - Jennifer, Falcons - Beth, Kites - Murray and Ospreys - Holly

ANNUAL DATA CHECKS



Thank you to all parents and carers who have returned their annual data check with up-dated contact information, or confirming that the information we have is correct.

If you haven't already done so, please return your form so that we can up-date your details.

CORNBANK SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



Our School Partnership held its first meeting on Wednesday 31st August. At the meeting a number of parents were elected to new roles within the School Partnership.

We are delighted to have elected Claire McEwan Muir as our new Chairperson of the Cornbank School Partnership along with Pauline Pender our new Vice Chair. Continuing in their roles are Trisha Watt as Treasurer and Lynsey Weir as Minute Taker.

We would like to offer our huge thanks and appreciation to Jenny Sprott for all her work in supporting Cornbank staff, pupils and parents in her role as the Chairperson. We look forward to her continuing support this session as she remains part of the Partnership.

Please come along to the next meeting on Tuesday 11th October at 6:45pm at Penicuik High School to find out about all the different ways in which our Cornbank School Partnership helps to support the work of the school and how it raises lots of money to help us buy equipment and resources which benefit all of our learners.

Our Parent Council are also holding another Coffee Den on Friday 4th November from 8:50am in the practical area. It would be lovely to see you all there! Apologies for any confusion, that there was a typo in the annual calendar regarding this!

Minutes of all previous meetings are on our website.



CELEBRATING WIDER ACHIEVEMENTS AT CORNBANK

We are always very keen to share and celebrate our children's achievements outside of school. We do this on a daily basis through our twitter feed and also at our Update Monday gatherings. If your child has celebrated an achievement, no matter how big or small, then please e-mail the school at Cornbank_ps@midlothian.gov.uk or complete the slip below and hand it in to your child's teacher. We look forward to hearing about all of their achievements and sharing their successes.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Child's Name:

Class:

Details of achievement:

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd October

- Walk to school week
- LOLs issued to P2-7 pupils

4th October

- Nursery am drop in session 9:00am
- P1 Local Area Walk
- Midlothian Swimming Gala at Dalkeith Campus for P6/7 pupils
- Nursery pm drop in session 1:00pm

5th October

- P4 Swimming
- Coffee Den in dining hall from 8:50am - 9:15am for P1-3 parents
- Shared start 9:15am - 9:45am for P1-3 pupils/parents

6th October

- P2b Bushcraft Outdoor Learning
- P4 Visit to National Museum of Scotland - Vikings

7th October

- House Assembly
- Christmas Card order deadline

10th October

- Drumming for P3, P4, P6 and P7
- P7 Get Connected - Midlothian Science Festival

11th October

- Coffee Den in dining hall from 8:50am - 9:15am for P1-3 parents
- Shared start 9:15am - 9:45am for P1-3 pupils/parents
- P7 Trip to Risk Factory
- Cornbank School Partnership Meeting at Penicuik High School 6:45pm

12th October

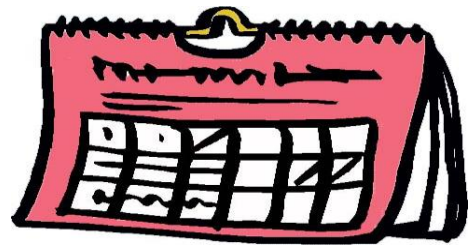
- Flu Immunisations
- P4 Medieval Buildings and Lego - Midlothian Science Festival at Rosslyn Chapel

13th October

- Pupil Voice Groups
- P6/7 Girls Football Tournament at Penicuik Astro 1:30pm - 3:15pm
- Science Ceilidh for P3 and P5 - Midlothian Science Festival

14th October

- Harvest Assembly - donations for Penicuik Foodbank
- Winning House Treat



NURSERY NEWS

We have had a very busy month of September. We welcomed lots of new boys and girls and their families to our Nursery. All of our children have settled in really well and they are beginning to learn the Nursery routine. Our pre-school children have been supporting our younger children, helping them to find their way around our Nursery and discovering all of the exciting opportunities that are on offer.

We all enjoyed taking part in our One Planet Picnic organised by the Eco Pupil Voice group supported by Mrs McCaffery and Mrs Stevenson. We had a great time eating our healthy snack in the practical area. We have also created our own Nursery Charter.

As you may have noticed our large planter in the Nursery outdoor area is being transformed into a pirate ship with the support of Mr McEwan Muir. We are very grateful for all his help in support in helping to transform the ideas into reality. Nursery staff has gathered some great ideas/suggestions about how to develop the outdoor area - ideas from children for children!

We are currently using the outdoor space in a very creative way and are getting ready to participate in a new initiative organised by Penicuik Rotary Club called 'Grow your Own Crocus'. During October, packs of crocuses, along with compost and pots will be delivered to Cornbank Nursery Class. Nursery children will work with Primary 7 pupils to plant and grow the crocuses.

NURSERY DROP IN SESSIONS

Miss Daly is really looking forward to meeting parents/carers for her Nursery drop in sessions on Tuesday 4th October. It will be lovely if you can make it along for 9:00am or 1:00pm. We hope to see you there!

NURSERY INFORMATION

You may have already noticed but we are currently updating our Nursery Information. Outside the Nursery you will find a weekly responsive plan so that you know what your child is experiencing at Nursery. We have also updated photos of the new Nursery Team!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, pupils and parents and families for making me feel so welcome. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Cornbank Primary and I'm looking forward to next term. I hope you all have a lovely October holiday when it arrives.

Best wishes, Yvonne Gemmell, Acting Head Teacher