Castlehill

 Newsletter

September 2024

**Dear Parents /Carers,**

Welcome to our September Newsletter. A first version of Diary Dates for the year is attached. We will keep communicating via Groupcall about changes to dates and about new activities and events as they are arranged.

You can contact the school or myself about any matter or if you need any further information. If you would like to contact your child’s class teacher, please do so through the school or myself.

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Richard Long, Head Teacher

**Start of the Year**

Well done to all of the children for how well they have started the year, particularly our Primary 1 class for how well they have settled in during their first term at school. Please do visit our Facebook page for glimpses of some of the learning that has been taking place in classes.

**Visits and Visitors**

Primary 7 have already had the opportunity to experience learning beyond the school a numbe of times. They have recently visited Campbeltown Grammar School for a performance of Smoke Free Me, a drama production put on annually for local schools by a visiting company, warning about health issues relating to smoking. They have been to the Picture House to see a showing of Kensuke’s Kingdom, a novel they will be reading during the year, and, with P6, they have visited Campbeltown Museum to take part in a project linked to National Comic Book Day and organised by the CHARTS (Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly for Argyll and Isles) organisation, designing comic strips based on exhibits in the museum.

Primary 1 and 2, have recently invited in visitors as part of their People Who Help Us topic. The RNLI visited to teach them about what lifeboats do and Louise Millar came to school to talk to the children about the role of a vet as well as letting them meet some ducklings!

**Responsibilities and Pupil Voice**

Primary 7 pupils are taking the lead in the Primary 1 library, helping the Primary 1s to choose and enjoy books from the library, and they have also recently started leading lunchtime clubs for Primary 1 and 2 children.

Primary 6 have also started the year working hard both in classroom responsibilities and as recycling and dining hall monitors.

Pupils from all classes have recently started being part of a litter-picking rota.

We have a number of groups set up in which representatives from classes can contribute to the life of the school:

Health and Wellbeing Ambassadors, working with Mrs Cairns.

Chatterboxes, our Pupil Council, working with Mrs McMillan

Eco-schools Committee, working with Mrs McManus

Our Sports Council will be also be set up shortly.

**Friends of Castlehill AGM**

Our Parent Council AGM will take place at 7.00 pm today (Tuesday 24th September) in school. Please come along to contribute to school fundraising activities and to discussions about school matters.

**Flu Immunisation**

Flu immunisation, organised by the health team, will be taking place in school this week on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September.

**Glasgow Science Centre**

**Learning Lab**

Along with other local schools, we are very fortunate to have been offered a visit to the school by the Glasgow Science Centre Learning Lab project on Wednesday 23rd October. Learning Lab will be providing shows for the children, on The Air We Breathe for the P1 to P3 and Bodyworks for P4 upwards, and workshops for classes in the afternoon. The visit is fully funded by the Edina Trust.

**Into Film**

We have arranged for P3 to P7 to visit the Picture House for screenings of Kung Fu Panda (P5, 6 and 7 classes on Tuesday 12th November) and Harold and the Purple Crayon (P3 and P5/4 classes on Thursday 14th November) as part of Into Film’s November Film Festival. On this occasion we did not feel that the films on offer were appropriate for children in P1 and P2 so these two classes will enjoy equivalent activities back in school.

**Clubs**

Staff are looking forward to re-starting clubs this year. Mrs Cairns has already started a Tuesday lunchtime Drama Club for P6 and P7. Mrs McShannon is planning to run STEM Clubs again this year, starting with P5 to P7 between October and December. Lunchtime Virtual Games will also run for different age groups during the year, starting with P6 and P7 after the October holiday. Miss Barbour and Mrs MacKay are planning to run their lunchtime Ceilidh Club before Christmas. We are also grateful to the parents who have expressed an interest in re-starting a football club this year.

**Cauliflower Cards**

The children will be bringing home their ‘Cauliflower Cards’ Christmas Card designs this week. Please follow the instructions for online ordering and return the designs by Monday 30th September so that we can meet our collection date deadline.

**School Lunches – iPayimpact**

A reminder that it is always helpful if you can complete the orders for your child’s school meals in advance on iPayimpact to ensure that they are aware of their choice of meal for the day. If you need any help in accessing iPayimpact, please contact the school office

**Visit Permission Forms**

For very local or short visits out of school, we do not issue permission forms, in line with Argyll and Bute’s guidelines. For out of school trips and activities that we do require permission forms for, we are very grateful if the forms are returned promptly. Please be aware that, unfortunately, a child is not able to go on a trip if their form is not returned on time.

**School Website**

Our website has moved to <https://www.castlehill.argyll-bute.sch.uk>

