



# Newsletter October 2018 *Respectful, Responsible, Resilient*

With the nights now drawing in and the winter weather making an early appearance we look forward to a busy term ahead. The second term of the academic year is always full of so many exciting learning experiences and opportunities for our children to continue to grow, learn and thrive.

## Our School Values

We have been working with staff and pupils to look at our school values. These are the key values that we wish to promote and install in our children through our school ethos, learning, achievements and in the wider life of the school. Our school values are:

### **Responsible**

For my learning, for my actions and for the wider world

### **Respectful**

Towards myself, and others

### **Resilient**

To be able to deal with the ups and downs of life

Over the course of this year we will be working together to promote our school values. We have now introduced our Values Awards each week during our whole school assembly where we celebrate children in each class who have demonstrated our values.

## In- service Days

A reminder that school will be closed for all pupils on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November for staff in-service days.

## School Car Park

We are continuing, alongside SBC and Police Scotland to monitor the school carpark situation. It is disappointing that some people are still using the car park in an irresponsible manner. Please remember that priority must be given to our school buses that require full access to and from the school carpark. Please do not park in the marked school bus bays. Our school buses also require space to turn when exiting the carpark therefore we ask that all drivers pay particular attention when entering to ensure that our buses are able to leave the carpark.

We now have speed bumps in place within the carpark and more signing is in the process of being installed.

Please note that there is no parking for parents provided on the primary school campus. The car park at the top of the hill is for staff only. There is **no access** to the road leading up to the swimming pool / school staff car-park **between 8:30 to 9:00am and 3:15 pm to 3:45 pm (Monday to Thursday) and 8:30 to 9:00am and 12:45 until 1:15pm (Friday).**

## School Equipment

Children require a water bottle, snack and coat everyday. Now that the weather is changing please ensure your child comes to school with a coat every day. Unless the weather is extremely wet children will be outside at break and lunch.

To help with lost items of clothing and lunch boxes it is helpful if these are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

## Parent Consultations

These will take place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 5.00pm-7.30pm** and **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 3.50pm-6.30pm**. Our online booking system is open until Friday.

## Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair takes place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**. There will be a large variety of stalls - an ideal opportunity for some Christmas shopping. Our school choir will also be performing. Make sure you save the date!

## Curriculum Overviews

These have been sent home this week outlining key learning for this term.

Duns Primary is a Rights Respecting School



Article 28: Children have the right to an education

### School Security

To ensure the safety of all pupils we have strict security procedures in place. All parents and carers **must enter the school via the reception**, which is located at the front of the building opposite the swimming pool. A member of staff will then grant access. All visitors must sign in and ensure they are wearing a visitor's badge. Please note there will be no access inside the school building via any other door. This includes the double doors at the back of the building facing BHS. At the end of the day we would appreciate it if parents and carers do not enter through this door.

### Halloween Disco

A huge thank you to FDPS for organising such a fantastic Halloween party for our children and to everyone who helped out on the night. The night was a huge success and we raised £450.

### Financial Education

During the week beginning the 26<sup>th</sup> November we will all be learning about finances and budgets. If any parents run their own business or work in the finance sector and are able to do a short talk for children, please get in touch with school.

### Website

We are currently looking at re-vamping our website. If any parents are particularly IT literate and would like to help in the planning of this please contact Mrs Stewart

### Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need this year on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. Further information to follow.

### Class Assemblies

Over the course of this year each class will be leading an assembly showcasing their fantastic learning to which all parents, carers, family and friends are warmly invited. Our assemblies take place on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30pm. Parents are invited to join the staff from 2.00pm for tea, coffee and a blether. Below is a list of dates for class assemblies this year.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018- P7A

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018- P4

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019- P6A

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 - P4/5

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019- P3B

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Mar 2019- P6B

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 2019- P7B

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019- P3A

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019- P2A & P2B

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019- P1A & P1B

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019- P7 Leavers Assembly.

### Dogs in the Playground

We have a number of children who have a fear of dogs. We therefore ask you to please not bring dogs into the playgrounds. Thank-you for your support in this.

### Poppies

Our Primary 7 pupils will be selling poppies over the course of the next week for a donation. All money will go to Poppy Scotland.

### Attendance

As you are aware, we are required to monitor pupil attendance throughout the year. Regular attendance is a contributory factor to pupils reaching their potential in school and also helps to promote a sense of 'belonging' within a class and social group.

We monitor attendance on a weekly basis and those children whose attendance falls below 90% becomes a cause for concern

90% Attendance is roughly the equivalent of:

$\frac{1}{2}$  a day off per week,

19 days off per year,

247 days off over a school career of 13 academic years,

Which is equivalent to over 1 year lost education

**Consider what this equates to for 80% and 70% attendance.**

The Senior Leadership Team will be in contact with parents whose child's attendance is showing cause for concern over the course of the next few weeks. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues with your child's attendance please contact the school office who will arrange a time for you to discuss with Mr Maunder (DHT)



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