

Chirnside Primary School

Chirnside, Duns, Berwickshire, Scottish Borders, TD11 3XH

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another new year at Chirnside Primary School!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are ready for another exciting year of learning that lies ahead.

On behalf of our school community I welcome those parents of new pupils who are joining us on our 'Journey to Excellence' for the first time.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning experiences with you, and identifying new and exciting opportunities for you to be involved in your child's future learning.

One way for parents to be involved and support learning and the work of the school is to be involved with our Parent Council. Our Parent Council represents the views of the wider parent body on school developments and wider educational issues. Last year, the Parent Council raised funds to support pupils' learning by subsidising transport for class trips, financing ICT purchases to increase pupil access to computers in classrooms, and contributed to fabric and furnishings to some classrooms. Our Parent Council AGM is on Thursday 8th September at 7.30pm in the school. Please come along and show your support.

Parents can also support our curriculum by becoming a volunteer. We are very appreciative of parents who can give some of their time to work with small groups of pupils in classes, accompany class trips, support after school activities, help to organize and catalogue resources. If you can give a little of your time, it can have a huge positive impact upon learning and our school. If you are able to volunteer in school, please contact me for more information and a chat on how you feel you can help out.

Thank you for your past and continued support in making Chirnside Primary School 'the best in the Borders'.

Nick Trussler – Head Teacher



Upcoming Events

September 1

P6 Trip to Flodden

September 23

P7 Trip to Crucial Crew

October 8

Flu Immunisation for all primary pupils

October 10

Local Holiday
(Berwickshire)

October 13 to 17

October Holiday Week

October 20

In-service Day – Pupil
Holiday

October 21

Pupils resume

The Asymmetric Week Is Here!

This year we are organising learning within an asymmetric week for primary classes. This means four longer days (Monday to Thursday) and one shorter day (Friday). All primary schools in Scottish Borders are organising learning in this way, although opening and closing times will differ slightly between schools. Our primary classes' times are outlined below.

Monday to Thursday

8.50 – 10.30 Learning

10.30 – 10.45 Morning Break

10.45 – 12.20 Learning

12.20- 13.05 Lunch Break

13.05 – 15.20 Learning (includes 15min supervised comfort break for pupils at some point during the afternoon).

Friday

8.50 – 10.20 Learning

10.20 – 10.50 Brunch Break (Brunch available from canteen if desired)

10.50 – 12.20 Learning

NURSERY (Monday to Friday)

Morning: 8.40 – 11.50

Wrap provision available 11.50 to 12.30

Afternoon: 12.30 – 15.40

Staffing Update

Primary 5

Mr. Brodie (Depute Head Teacher) will teach Primary 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays this year. Unfortunately, Mrs. Potter is unable to return to Chirnside Primary School at present due to ill health. I am currently in the process of making arrangements for teacher cover for Wednesdays and Thursdays in Primary 5 to cover Mrs. Potter's absence. When this is finalized, I will notify Primary 5 parents.

Primary 7H

Ms. Harvey (Principal Teacher) will teach Primary 7H on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Ms. Harvey will carry out her PT duties on a Tuesday. We interviewed candidates for the Tuesday teaching position and appointed a successful candidate prior to the summer holidays.



In the Community

August 30 - Chirnside Horticultural Society Annual Show, Chirnside Community Centre

Pupils will be working on their entries for the show during the first two weeks of school. Pop in to the show and be amazed at their creativity...

September 8 - Parent Council AGM, School Hall, 7.30pm

Come along and explore new ways of becoming involved in the life and work of your school...

Unfortunately, the successful candidate has since notified me that they are unable to take up the post, leaving us with a teaching vacancy. I am currently making arrangements for teacher cover for Tuesdays in Primary 7H and will notify P7H parents of these in due course.

MR. TRUSSLER'S PARENT CHALLENGE

No.1

- I. Before the October break, come in and view a corridor display of your child's classwork and find out what they have learned in their studies.*
- II. Ask your child what they found most interesting about this piece of learning.*
- III. With your child, think of a question related to this piece of learning and see if your child's class teacher knows the answer!*

Afterwards, bring your child to find Mr. Trussler and claim your Parent Challenge No.1 prize!

Are You Up To The Challenge?

No Indoor Shoes Trial

Parents have requested we trial no indoor shoes (pupils wear outdoor shoes inside) at the beginning of this school year. We will

Give a little of your time and make a HUGE difference

Can you give a little of your time to support our pupils' learning by...

Help individual pupils or small groups?

Helping with whole school projects like Eco Schools or Bikeability cycle training?

Sharing your interests or talents with pupils through a lunch or after school club?

Helping to tidy, organise or label resources and equipment?

Helping to improve outdoor areas like gardens and flower beds and planters?

You can! Then you need to speak to Mr. Trussler about becoming a school volunteer – don't delay, do it TODAY!!

trial this approach from August to December with regular feedback to parents from gathered staff and pupil views on the impact of the trial. The trial is based on following points raised by parents:

- The cost of providing two pairs of shoes per pupil (for indoor/outdoor use) is excessive.
- Pupils wearing plimsols inside school during learning time is not conducive to supporting feet and good foot development.
- Parents are unable to monitor indoor footwear for wear and suitable fitting.
- We can increase learning time by removing the time spent changing shoes. For example, younger pupils may take up to two minutes to change shoes. At six changes a day this equates to 12 minutes. Over a week (4 ½ days) this is 54 minutes. Over a year (39 weeks) this could be up to 35hours of reclaimed learning time!



Commonwealth Games Passport Reminder

Pupils who have been taking part in the Borders Sport and Leisure Trust 'Commonwealth Passport' project in the past few months, should hand their completed passport into the school office for collection by this Friday (22nd August).

Unwanted Uniform and the Clothing Exchange



Do you have any unwanted items of school uniform at home (badged sweatshirts, plain or badged polo shirts) in good condition? Please DON'T throw them away but donate them to our 'Clothing Exchange'. We can reuse unwanted laundered items of uniform on a £1 per item basis (payable at the school office) or a like for like swap.

The Clothing Exchange is situated in the P1/P4 cloakroom for parents to use at the end of each school day once pupils have been dismissed. Please make your uniform donations at the school office. Many thanks for your support in this venture.

Chirnside Horticultural Society Annual Show

The Chirnside Horticultural Society Annual Show will be held on Saturday 30th August in Chirnside Community Centre (please see the Society's programme for further details – available from many outlets in the village).

Pupils will be working on their submissions for the show in their classes over the next two weeks. Each class will decide on their entry topic with the help of their class teacher. Based on last year's entries, we are guaranteed some wonderful and creative offerings from all our pupils. Please pop in to be inspired by our pupils' work and support the Chirnside Horticultural Society.

What Do We Plan To Be Better At This Year?

As a result of our ongoing self-evaluation processes last year, as well as recommendations from Education Scotland after inspection in October 2013, we have identified the following improvement areas for development this school year...

Area for Improvement	Planned Actions and Steps
School Ethos and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop effective leadership roles for pupils across the school. • Promote values further to permeate the work of the school and develop a culture of respect. • Review positive behaviour management strategies to achieve a shared and consistent approach across all stages. • Review structure and content of school website to reflect users' needs. • Improve co-ordination and impact of career-long professional learning for staff.
Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure 'Collaborative Learning' approaches are embedded across all stages • Continue to embed 'Assessment is for Learning' strategies across all stages. • Further develop approaches to Curriculum for Excellence assessment.
Self-evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure classroom visits focus on impact upon learning to ensure consistency of high quality practice. • Record and track children's achievements within and outwith school to ensure entitlements to a 'Broad and General Education'. • Class teachers to engage further with curriculum moderation within and across schools. • Teachers to engage in collegiate planning sessions to ensure consistency, continuity and progression in learning across stages. • Develop and implement our approach to 'Personal Learning Planning'. • Implement Early Years screening to record progression and ensure coherence of personal support.
Curriculum Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and moderate our significant aspects of learning in Literacy and Numeracy with those published nationally by Education Scotland. • Compare and moderate our significant aspects of learning in Science / Social Subjects and Technology: • Develop programmes of study for Early, First and Second levels for mental, social and emotional Health & Wellbeing • Early Years – develop writing skills across the playroom and outside, ensuring real life contexts for learners. • Develop approaches to problem solving to increase pupil awareness and use of strategies.

Digital Newsletters

Receive our newsletters and 'The Chirnside Chat' in glorious colour by adding your email to our distribution list. Simply send a request to nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk and we'll do the rest!

Term, holiday and closure dates

School term dates for 2014/15

Autumn term

Date	Details
Monday 18 August 2014	Staff resume, in service day
Tuesday 19 August 2014	Pupils resume
Friday 10 October 2014	All break, mid-term
Monday 20 October 2014	Staff in service day
Tuesday 21 October 2014	Pupils resume
Thursday 13 November 2014	Staff in service day
Friday 14 November 2014	Staff in service day
Monday 1 December 2014	St Andrew's Day holiday, school closed
Friday 19 December 2014	All break, term ends

Winter term

Date	Details
Tuesday 6 January 2015	All resume

Thursday 12 February 2015	Pupils break, February holiday
Friday 13 February 2015	Staff in service day
Wednesday 18 February 2015	All resume
Thursday 2 April 2015	All break, term ends

Summer term

Date	Details
Monday 20 April 2015	All resume
Friday 1 May 2015	Staff in service day
Monday 4 May 2015	May Day holiday, school closed
Wednesday 1 July 2015	All break, term ends

Casual holidays

Learning Community	Dates
Berwickshire –	Friday 10 October 2014
Local Holidays	and Monday 25 May 2015