

Chirnside Primary School

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2015. Our new term has got off to a busy start, with a number of exciting and interesting projects planned for pupils from January to June 2015.

In the world of sport, Primary 6 will be working with Para Olympian Stephen Payton on the 'Champions in Schools' initiative to help set themselves some goals for improvement in the year ahead. Primary 5 will be embarking on a block of 'Club Golf' in an attempt to relive the successes of the 2014 European Ryder Cup team. Our senior pupils will be participating in the Berwickshire Netball Championships and the Scottish Borders Cross Country Championships. Primary 1-4 Multi-sport sessions have started on a Monday from 3.20pm being run by Active Schools.

In music and performance, P4-P7 pupils have the opportunity to take part in choir with Mrs. Walker at lunchtimes. Mrs. Millar is running a P4/5 Scottish Dance class on Mondays at lunchtime in preparation for taking part in the Berwickshire Dance Festival in March. All primary pupils are beginning to turn their attention to Scottish poetry recital in preparation for our Burns' celebrations in February, culminating in our annual Burns Supper on the 10th February, organised by P7 pupils.

This is just a flavour of the many things we have planned on our learning journey for the remainder of this school year. We look forward to sharing pupils' successes and achievements in the near future.

Kind regards,

Nick Trussler - Head Teacher

Upcoming Events

15.01.15 Parent Council Meeting
7.30pm in the school. All welcome.

20.01.15 P5 Golf starts

27.01.15 Berwickshire Netball finals
at BHS 16.00-18.00

29.01.15 Scottish Borders Cross
Country Championships at Gala

30.01.15 P1/ P4/ P7 class photos

31.01.15 Bug Busting Fortnight –
see attached information from
school nurse for more information.

06.02.15 P1 Class Assembly at
9.15am

03.02.15 P7 Library van

04.02.15 P1-P7 Burns judging
(afternoon)

10.02.15 Burns Lunch (whole
school 12.20/ P7 and guests at
13.15)

13.02.15 In-service Day

16.02.15 and 17.02.15 Holiday

15.03.15 Zumbatonic for P1-P4
begins. More details to follow.

26.03.15 Berwickshire Dance
Festival, Volunteer Hall, Duns

30.03.15 / 31.03.15 / 01.04.15
Parents Evenings (17.00-19.00)

02.04.15 Final day of term: Church
Service 10.30am

20.04.15 School reopens

Chirnside Parent Council Meeting

Please come along to our first meeting of 2015. All welcome!

Where: Chirnside Primary School

When: 7.30pm on Thursday 15th January 2015

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY

In December we have been...

...auditing the frequency and amount of homework set across primary classes.

In January and February we will be...

...continuing to develop our approaches to behaviour management.

...developing our knowledge of SEEMIS database in order to produce pupil progress reports for the end of March.

...completing mandatory fire safety training.

PARKING AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Thank you to all parents who continue to avoid leaving their car unattended in the 'D' at the front of the school when dropping off children at the beginning and the end of the school day. The safety of all pupils has been ensured by parents adhering to this request, and has helped to avoid congestion for all users at the busiest times of the school day.

If you are using the parking spaces at the front of the school at either side of the 'D', please be aware that:

- Disabled parking bays are for the use of



In the School

P4 and P5-7 Choirs

At lunchtime for P4 on Tuesdays and P5-P7 on Thursdays with Mrs. Walker in the Community Room

Scripture Union

For P5 and P6 on a Wednesday at lunchtime in the Community Room

P1-P4 Multi-sports

On a Monday 3.20pm – 4.15pm in the school hall run by Active Schools. Starts Monday 12th January to Monday 23rd February. No club on Monday 19th January. Contact Marianne O'Brien for more details (mobrien@bslt.org.uk or 07887471133).

In the Community

Rainbows and Brownies

Meet in the school on Mondays from 5.45pm

Cubs

Meet in the school on Wednesdays from 5.45pm

Ladies Netball

Meet in the school on a Thursday from 7.30pm

Tina's Drop In

For parents and young ones. Meet from 9.00am every Monday in the Community Room.

Toddlers

For parents and young ones. Meet from 9.00am every Wednesday in the Community Room.

disabled badge holders only at all times.

- Drivers parking their car at the end of the school drive should ensure that their car is parked in a bay and not encroaching on the drive entrance or restricting the view of drivers leaving via the school drive (taxis accessing rear playground for disabled entrance and kitchen deliveries).

Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring sensible parking and keeping all our pupils safe.

'Bikeability' Trainers Needed!

We are looking for interested parents and family members who are interested in becoming Bikeability trainers to deliver cycle safety training to pupils. We have delivered this programme for the last four years, with most of our P6 and P7 pupils achieving Bikeability 2 awards in their final primary years. In the last year we have delivered Bikeability 1 training to P5 pupils, in preparation for Bikeability 2.



Interested volunteers will be invited to attend a one day training course, hopefully to be organised and delivered here in Berwickshire in the near future.

This programme is worthwhile in terms of teaching pupils how to cycle safely and develop the bike handling skills required to do so. More information can be found at: <https://bikeability.dft.gov.uk/>

If you are interested in becoming involved in this project, please contact Mr. Trussler for more details as soon as possible.

Keen Photographers Required!

We are in discussion with the David Hume Group, who are making plans for their celebration weekend on the 25th / 26th April, to involve P5-P7 pupils in a photography project entitled 'Alternative Views of Chirnside'. The focus for the project is to encourage pupils to look at everyday aspects of Chirnside and surrounding area in different ways.



We would like to enlist the help of any photography enthusiasts in our community to help support pupils understanding of basic photography skills and possible digital enhancement of images. If

you have an interest in this area, or you know of someone who does, and would be able to visit a

class to help out, please get in touch with Mr. Trussler to discuss initial ideas and for further information on 01890 818274 or email: nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk

Illness in the Family – Please let us know!

In order to support pupils and staff who are vulnerable to infections because of personal health circumstances, we encourage all parents to notify us if they are aware of the following illnesses in their family – chickenpox, measles, mumps etc. We will then let staff and parents of pupils affected know that the infection is present in the school population. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Nursery and P1 Enrolment for 2015-16

Enrolment week for Primary 1 (2015-16) was week beginning 17th November 2014. However, it is not too late if you have missed enrolment week.

Your child is eligible for nursery if born 1st March 2011 to 28th February 2013. Your child is eligible for P1 if born 1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011. Please collect an enrolment form from the school office. Completed enrolment forms should be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

Anyone Know a Piper?



The annual P7 Burns lunch will be held on Tuesday 10th February at 13.15. We are looking to engage the help of a piper to pipe in the haggis as part of this celebration. If you know of a piper who may be able to help us on the 10th Feb, if you can ask them to get in touch with Mr. Trussler.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to the parents who helped to run the book fair at the Parent Evenings in November. We have been awarded £76 in commission, and will add this to previous commissions to spend on books to top up class libraries.

LEARNING LOG PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all parents who took part in the learning log survey during parent evenings at the end of November. The results below show parents feel that our Focus Learning Week and Learning Logs launched in November are positive steps in terms of sharing their child's learning regularly and involving parents. We will continue to develop our Personal Learning Planning processes before the summer.

| Sharing learning with others | Agree % | Disagree % | Not sure % |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| I understand more about what my child is learning. | 99.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| I understand more about how my child is learning | 90.8 | 1.0 | 8.2 |
| I understand more about the kinds of support my child receives to help them in their learning | 86.7 | 1.0 | 12.2 |
| Talking with my child | Agree % | Disagree % | Not sure % |
| My child was able to discuss with me what they were learning during Focus Learning Week | 94.9 | 2.0 | 3.1 |
| My child was able to discuss with me how they were learning during Focus Learning Week | 82.7 | 4.1 | 13.3 |
| My child was able to explain what they had enjoyed about their learning | 98.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |

Other comments / ideas / suggestions for improvement

- Perhaps put some short explanations at the start of sections with a little background info as to what was asked / expected to achieve (refers to Q2)
- Really enjoy reading and learning about the contents of the log book
- All very positive
- Seems happy and almost "proud" of showing his work. Keen to show and discuss topics
- Interesting to see how and what they are learning. Very happy.
- I think these are a great idea!
- No, all very acceptable
- My child was very keen to share & explain her learning log so perhaps we can have this on a more regular basis
- The learning log is greatly improved. I have enjoyed reading with the boys & discussing with them what they are learning.
- A fantastic way to learn more about my child's learning and how I can support her.
- The learning logs showed some of the children's best work, I found it helpful as you don't always know what they are doing. (Idea) online access to your child's work / progress.
- My child is happy to discuss things with us, but only when prompted – so the journal is a good tool for prompting discussions. As usual both my child and we feel positive about the school in general.

- It would be good to have the learning journal home every time there is a change of topic.
- It's good that students can talk about their work at home.
- Good to see what work they are doing.
- Think it's a good idea bringing the log home as it's good to see how my children are progressing and enjoy reading their stories.
- My children have enjoyed doing their learning logs and telling us all about it.
- My child was very proud to show us her learning log. Fully support this idea.
- Very good work. Keep it up ☺
- Maybe a parent's comment sheet for us to leave remarks, about what we have discussed.
- I hope it is a regular thing as I love seeing what my kids are doing. My kids were excited to show me what they have been up to. Learning Log is a great idea ☺
- Fantastic and lovely insight into school goings on. Great idea and looking forward to seeing more.
- Would like to see more in the learning logs
- Happy with everything about the school and it's learning.
- Nice to see the progress that's being made. Kept informed.
- Great idea, great to see what our children are learning.
- Lovely idea, lots of great work, hope didn't add too much to teachers' workload!!
- Good idea to see what the children are working on. My child was keen to share it with me which opened up discussion
- Very happy with both girls progress in school.
- Great communication idea between parents and teachers to understand how and what our children are learning.
- Good format – facilitates discussion and is nice to see kids proud of their work. Maybe more teacher comments would be useful.
- Great to have an insight into my child's learning.
- Nice to see their work!
- Really like this idea
- Too early to tell if learning log contains enough information about learning.
- Didn't know about 'Focus Learning Week'. Children tell us about their learning on a regular basis anyway.
- More explanation about it being a snapshot of a week's learning and another week's comparison will be done in spring.
- It's a great idea to send the log book home. Let's us understand what's happening in class.
- Did not know about Focus Learning Week until the learning log came home. We then discussed learning. More notice about the week including its aims in advance would help support our children during their learning week.
- Very pleased with learning.
- Not much in it. It did make me stop and talk about class work though
- Better explaining before coming home would have been better.

To Create a Nit Free Zone – Bug Busting in January 2015

We will soon be organising a Bug Busting Blitz throughout the school for two weeks, beginning on Friday 31st January. This is in response to the many incidences of Head Lice we have to deal with in school and at home.

Hitting the Problem on the Head!

Bug busting is a method of cleaning head lice from wet hair with a bug-busting comb. It is easiest to detect them with the Bug Busting comb straight after ordinary hair washing. Children can fill in a chart at home with the family.


So – starting on Friday 31st January and every third night afterwards, we are asking whole families to follow the Bug Busting regime – **Wash – Rinse – Condition – Comb**. If all head lice are removed, your child will come to school without fear of spreading or catching them.

Cases of head lice have been reduced by 90% where Bug Busting has been tested. By holding this awareness campaign, we hope to reduce the head lice problem in school. You can easily buy head lice combs at local pharmacies and they only cost a few pence or you can apply to get the Nitty Gritty comb on the minor ailments scheme run by pharmacies. Conditioner does not need to be an expensive brand either.

If you wish any further advice about Bug Busting please contact Katrina Fairbairn – School Nurse for your child's primary school on 018907 50363.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Fairbairn - School Nurse





Head Lice

Wet combing ('Bug Busting') technique

A good way to detect head lice & get rid of the lice if done regularly

- Wash the hair and then dry until damp with a towel
- Make sure there is good light. Daylight is best
- Untangle with a normal comb and then wet with conditioner
- Examine for nits and lice with a special head lice comb
- Begin at the root of the hair to the edge of the hair
- Work round in sections. This may take 15 minutes or longer to do properly
- After each stroke, look closely at the teeth of the comb for lice. If necessary use a tissue to wipe the conditioner off the comb and look for lice in it. Head lice are small insects, often not much bigger than a pin head, but can be the size of a sesame seed
- Stick a moving living louse to a piece of paper and cover with clear adhesive tape. Show this to the nurse, pharmacist or GP for confirmation and advice if you wish to use a chemical method to kill them
- Clean the comb under the tap. A nailbrush may help
- Do this every 3 days for two weeks if a louse is found
- Continue if live lice are still found after two weeks. Seek advice from local pharmacist, school/practice nurse, community nurse, health visitor or GP
- Report any infection to a school or playgroup
- It is not necessary to wash sheets or pillow cases



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