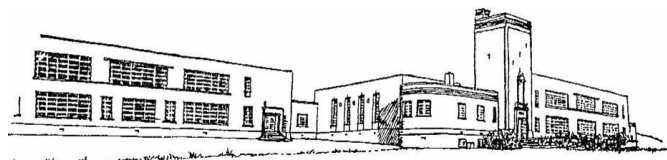


# CHIRNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

<http://www.chirnside.scotborders.sch.uk>

Search for 'Chirnside Primary School'



Email: [nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk)

T: 01890 818274

Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2016!

It is hard to believe that we find ourselves nearly half-way through this academic year. At this time of year, many of us will be thinking about 'new starts' 'resolutions' or 'changes' we are going to make to make our life a little better. You may have indeed made a change already and are thinking about the daunting journey ahead to achieve your goal. For some of us we might not have made the progress we had hoped. Maybe we were thinking 'too big'!

As adults, we find ourselves in the same position that many of our children do at times in their learning journey. The challenge can appear to be too much at times and we can't see the way forward. The temptation is to give up or convince ourselves we need to settle for something a little less ambitious!

As teachers and parents, our responsibility is to support our children in their learning journey. We can do this by encouraging them to think big, to have high aspirations for their learning and to support them to learn in smaller achievable steps (or one bite at a time) as they progress towards achieving their 'big' goals.

Together in partnership, we can:

- Support our children to 'think big' by having high aspirations for them ourselves.
- Help them to realise their learning potential by encouraging them to take manageable steps towards their learning goal and continue to encourage them on the way.
- Celebrate and appreciate their effort on the learning journey. Show them that their effort, progress and achievements are important to us.



Let's 'Think Big' in 2016!

*Nicholas Trussler*

Kind regards,

Nick Trussler - Head Teacher

### Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – School reopens for pupils and staff
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Childline Workshops for P6 and P7.
- Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January – ELCC (Nursery) enrolment for all 2016-17 pupils. Forms available from office.
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – SSPCA Workshops for P4-P7 Classes.
- 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – Parent Council Meeting at 7.30pm in the school.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Scots Poetry judging P1-P7
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Burns Lunch and P7 Burns Celebrations
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – In-service day – Pupil Holiday
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February – HOLIDAY
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Generation Science Workshop P6
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Berwickshire Schools' Cross Country Championships
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Generation Science Workshop P1
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Generation Science Workshop P5
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Rag Bag Collection

## Resilient Schools Update

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As winter sets in and the threat of adverse weather increases, Scottish Borders Schools are planning their Resilient Schools arrangements. The purpose of Resilient Schools is an attempt to keep the economy moving and essential services open as part of a wider Scottish Borders response to the effects of adverse weather.

In the case of adverse weather, a decision will be made by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team to invoke Resilient Schools across the Borders. In this event the following procedures will be put into action:

- Parents will be notified by 'Group Call' that Resilient Schools arrangements are in place. This is the responsibility of staff at Head

Quarters. Information updates will be available via Radio Borders and the SBC Website. **Please ensure we have the most up to date mobile number for you and contact the school office with your new number.**

### What does this mean for Chirnside Primary School?

Due to expected resilient schools staff being available on a vastly reduced basis, should Resilient Schools be invoked, the following arrangements have been planned for:

- Mrs. Jayne Waite, Head Teacher of Swinton and Greenlaw Primary Schools will manage the school.
- Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 stages will be open Monday to Friday.
- Primary 4 will be open Tuesday to Friday only.
- ELCC (Nursery) will be open Monday to Friday.
- Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 will be closed.
- **Only pupils who usually walk to school should attend.** The final decision for these pupils to attend lies with the parent.
- Due to reduced staffing numbers because of available Resilient Schools staff, we are able to open P4-P7 based on the known walking pupil numbers. Therefore, pupils who usually travel on school transport, or with parents from outside the village, **should not attend school**.
- A number of home-school learning activities are available for parents and pupils to download from the school website at the following links:
  - ELCC and Primary 1: <http://chirnside.weebly.com/nursery-and-p1-learning-activities.html>
  - Primary 2 – Primary 4: <http://chirnside.weebly.com/p2-p3-and-p4-learning-activities.html>
  - Primary 5 – Primary 7: <http://chirnside.weebly.com/p5-p6-and-p7-learning-activities.html>

## Mrs Watt makes the New Year Honours List

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Many of you will remember Mrs Watt, who had a long association as a part time class teacher here at Chirnside Primary School in the past. We are very proud to announce that Mrs Watt has been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours List for her services to the Children's Hearing System in Scotland. We look forward to hearing from Mrs Watt about her trip to the Palace later this year!

## ***Teaching Student Placement***

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We are pleased to welcome Ms. S Devanney, a 4<sup>th</sup> Year BEd. teaching student to Chirnside Primary School. Ms. Devanney is studying at the University of Edinburgh and will be on teaching placement in Primary 3 from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March with Mrs. Bennie.

Ms. Devanney visited us prior to the Christmas holiday to meet Mrs Bennie and Primary 3 and is looking forward to starting her placement.

## ***Parent Council Update***

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### **Contacting Chirnside Parent Council**

The Parent Council has a set up new email address. If parents would like to receive communications from the Parent Council such as minutes from our meetings or request discussion items to be added to meeting agendas, please send an email to the following email address - [Chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk](mailto:Chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk).

Parents can also receive information from the Parent Council by liking the school Facebook page.

### **Next PARENT COUNCIL Meeting**



**Thursday 28th January 2016  
At 7.30pm**

In Chirnside Primary School  
All Parents Encouraged to Attend

## ***Breakfast Club***

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Breakfast Club is open to all primary pupils from 8.30am to 8.50am (last orders 8.45am). Breakfast Club is free to all pupils who wish to attend.

On offer is cereal, fruit, milk and water.

## ***Uniform***

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Our pupil uniform provides an opportunity for pupils to feel included as part of the 'team' here at Chirnside. It also promotes our whole school identity, and supports our shared vision of inclusion for all. Another benefit of school uniform is that 'latest fashions' do not need to be considered, and everyone is equitable in their appearance.

Low cost uniform is available from the Clothing Exchange (situated in the Primary 1 cloakroom). We have sweatshirts, polo shirts, trousers and skirts for free exchange (like for like swap) or for purchase with all items £1.

School uniform is as follows:

- P1-6 – Navy sweatshirt / cardigan / jumper
- P7 – Royal blue sweatshirt / cardigan / jumper
- All pupils – White or navy polo shirt / blouse / shirt



- All pupils – Grey or navy or black trousers / skirt / pinafore

If you have any unwanted items of school uniform, please consider donating these to the Clothing Exchange. Donated items can be handed in to the school office.

## **Food Allergies**

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Currently, we have a number of pupils who have a food allergy or intolerance. On occasion, foods that they are intolerant or allergic to are brought in by others for packed lunches or snacks. In the interest of pupils' health needs, please could parents ensure that their children refrain from bringing the following foods into school:

- Kiwi fruit
- Peanuts and other nut related products
- Boiled sweets and lollies can also be a choking hazard, please ensure these are not brought to school.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

## **Childline Workshops for P6 and P7**

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As part of our Health and Well Being curriculum, Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have the opportunity to work with the Childline charity on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a general introduction to the work of the charity, followed by individual workshops for each class. Further information about the charity and services can be found on their website ([www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)).

## **Olympic Passport Launch**

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To celebrate this year's Rio Olympics, Active Schools are running an 'Olympic Passport' project to promote sport and active lifestyles to pupils across the Borders. Primary 6 at Chirnside Primary School has been asked to represent Berwickshire schools at the official launch of the scheme in Galashiels on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The four lucky pupils who were randomly selected to attend are Millieanna, Georgia, Jonathan and Carys. They will be travelling to Galashiels with Mr Trussler. Marianne O'Brien, Active Schools Co-ordinator will be explaining the scheme to all pupils at assembly on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Below is a summary of her presentation.

### **What's it all about?**

Following the success of the 2014 Commonwealth Passport, Borders Sport and Leisure will be launching an Olympic Passport in January 2016. The aim of the Passport is to encourage as many young people as possible to get active, whilst trying out a range of Olympic sports in the lead up to the Rio 2016 Games.

All P1-7 pupils will be given an Olympic Passport at the start of the 2016 calendar year and will be encouraged to attend as many Olympic sport sessions as possible from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016. Pupils will be awarded points for each

of the sessions they attend and will be asked to record attendance in their Passport. To qualify for the points, sessions attended must be extra-curricular (taking place before school, at lunch-time, after school or at the weekend). All sessions will be advertised to pupils through school notice boards, assemblies, newsletters, flyers, Active Schools Facebook pages and the Borders Sport & Leisure website.

Unfortunately sessions that take place during the school curriculum cannot be used to award points. If sessions are taking place in curriculum PE, with a class teacher or as part of an Active Schools project, the pupils should be directed to the local club or Olympic session that is being delivered. We would like the project to create a lasting legacy with the hope that pupils continue to attend local sport clubs after the project is over.

Pupils have up until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to attend any sessions and will be expected to return the Passport to the school office by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016**.

### **What will the school need to do?**

We would like all schools to fully back the project and encourage pupils to take part in the Passport. We will be looking for the school to:

- Allow Active Schools to launch the Olympic Passport at the 1<sup>st</sup> assembly in January.
- Allow Active Schools to access additional assemblies between March-June to reinforce the Olympic Passport project.
- Advertise Olympic sports sessions in the school newsletter, on notice boards and directly to pupils.
- Hold a medal ceremony at an assembly in the new school term. (September/October 2016) to award pupils with the appropriate medals or allow the distribution of medals to pupils if an assembly is not possible.

### **What will the class teacher need to do?**

- Issue pupils with the 2016 Olympic Passports.
- Advertise Olympic sports sessions to pupils in their class.
- Encourage pupils to take part in the Passport and try new sports.

We look forward to delivering this exciting project in partnership with schools, and thank you in advance for your support and commitment to helping us make the 2016 Passport a huge success.

Should you have any questions or queries regarding the 2016 Olympic Passport, please contact your local Active Schools Coordinator: Marianne O'Brien      07887471133      mobrien@bslt.org.uk

## Burns Festivities

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We are moving quickly into 'Burns Season', with many classes already discussing and choosing their Scots or Burns poems for this year.

We have arranged with members of the Whiteadder Burns Club for the judging of pupil recitations to take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

This year's Burns Lunch will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a menu change on this day for all pupils. Primary 7 will be holding their Burns Lunch for visitors from 13.15. This year we would like to invite parents of Primary 7 pupils to attend and join in the festivities with their children. Invites will be coming home shortly!

## Early Learning and Childcare (Nursery) Enrolment for 2016-17

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Children born between 1st March 2012 and 28th February 2013 will be eligible for a free Early Learning and Childcare place from August 2016

**We can confirm that the week for parents to apply for a place will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016**

The table below gives information on start dates for 4 and 3 year old ELCC pupils from August 2016:

Age	Child's birthday	Starts from
4 year old	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2012 and 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	August 2016
3 year old	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2013 and 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2013	August 2016
3 year old	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	January 2017
3 year old	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 and 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	April 2017

Enrolment forms and information will be available from the school office from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Please note, parents of current ELCC pupils who intend continuing in ELCC for 2016-17 must complete an enrolment form for 2016-17.

## Class Assemblies this Term

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A reminder to parents that we have moved class assemblies to Thursday mornings this year to avoid clashing with Friday brunch time in the canteen. Dates for this term are as follows:

- P5 – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 9.20am
- P6 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 9.20am

We look forward to having parents in to share learning with their children and the top quality refreshments afterwards!



## ***New School Menu – January Term 2016:***

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**Please see attached** new school menu which will start in Primary Schools on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The menu has a number of small changes being trialled, including the offer of a 'Selection of Vegetables' with some dishes; this will be Cooks Choice of salad or vegetable as per the preference of the children and we hope this will encourage cooks to engage with any growing activities in the school to incorporate local grown produce into the menu.

We are also introducing some new fish finger products from our supplier Green Gourmet; these fish fingers are wheat free, dairy free and gluten free and will be offered to all pupils and should support inclusion for those pupils with special diets that would otherwise have required a different product.

Feedback is always appreciated and if you have any comments that will support the development of future menu planning please contact me by email [gillian.fleming@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.fleming@scotborders.gov.uk) or by telephone 01835 825059.

## ***Would you like our newsletter by email?***

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If you would like to receive newsletters by email, please send a request to [nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk)

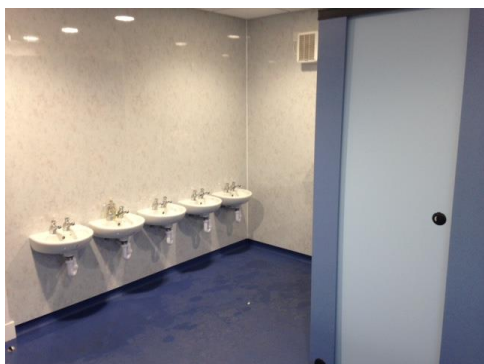
## ***Building Works Update***

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The new infant toilet and canteen store build was completed on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. As you can see from the photographs, pupils are now enjoying bright, modern and fresh toilet facilities throughout the school.

Work has started on the old boys' toilet block as the space will be refurbished as additional storage space in the school.

If you have any questions or points you wish to be raised regarding the ongoing works, please email ([nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk)) or call on 01890 818274.



Boys' toilets (right) and girls' toilets (left) are now finished!



## ***Term, holiday and closure dates for the remainder of 2015-16***

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### **Winter term**

Tuesday 5 January 2016	All resume
Thursday 11 February 2016	Pupils break, February holiday
Friday 12 February 2016	Staff in service day
Wednesday 17 February 2016	All resume
Friday 25 March 2016	Good Friday, school closed
Friday 1 April 2016	All break, term ends

### **Summer term**

Monday 18 April 2016	All resume
Friday 29 April 2016	Staff in service day
Monday 2 May 2016	May Day holiday, school closed
Wednesday 29 June 2016	All break, term end

**Casual holiday: Berwickshire**  
Monday 30 May 2016