

JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Chirside Primary School,

Chirside, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3XH

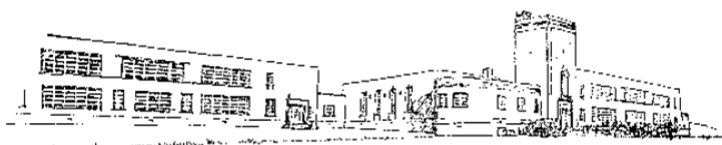
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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

I hope you had a peaceful and restful festive period. We have returned to school with a busy term ahead of us.

January is often the month where we make promises to ourselves, or resolutions, as to what we will do differently this year. With so much focus on what we would like to 'change', the temptation is to forget about what we are doing well or can make even better.

Throughout this newsletter, there are ideas and suggestions of little changes we can make to help us support our children to be the best they can be, and help us become more effective in how we do this. After all, we share the role of being teachers to our children, whether in a professional or parenting capacity, and working together in an effective partnership can impact positively on a child's learning.

Happy New Year and Best wishes for 2017.

NA Trussler – Head Teacher

**"Teaching is the
profession that
creates all others"**

-unknown

Upcoming Events

17.01.17 - P1 / P4 / P7 whole class photos

19.01.17 – P6 YMI Workshops for the term begin

24.01.17 – Champions in Schools visit to P6

25.01.17 – Berwickshire Area Netball at BHS

30.01.17 – Champions in Schools visit to P6

01.02.17 – Generation Science Workshop P6

02.02.17 – Generation Science Workshop P4

09.02.17 – Scots Poetry Judging P1-P7 with Whiteadder Burns Club

10.02.17 – Inservice: Pupil Holiday

13.02.17 and **14.02.17** HOLIDAY

15.02.17 School re-opens

16.02.17 Community Burns Lunch with P7 pupils (pm)

21.02.17 P6 visiting The Hirsell, Coldstream

28.02.17 P1 and P7 Dental Inspections

Cash for Kids Fundraising

Thank you to parents, pupils and staff who supported our fundraising day and church service collection. You have helped us to raise the fantastic total of £340 for the 'Cash for Kids' charity.

Staffing

Janitorial Position

A School Janitor vacancy has occurred as a result of Mr. Pringle's retirement. The position has been advertised on My Job Scotland website, and is on a permanent basis for 11.9 hours.

Early Learning and Childcare

We are pleased to welcome Mrs L Powner to our morning ELCC team. Due to new starts, our available places have increased from 24 to 30 in the morning session, resulting in additional staffing being allocated to mornings.

Christmas Fayre Update

Chirnside Parent Council wish to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre, held at the end of November 2016.

£1021 was raised, with these funds helping to subsidise travel costs for class trips, and refurbish our Library area later in the year.

Chirnside Xmas Factor

Thank you to everyone who bought Xmas Factor tickets for the school show, and also for buying programmes.

Your fantastic support has helped us raise £760.00. We are going to use this money to purchase some new stage lighting and special effects for our future productions.

Thank you very, very much!



ELC – Care Inspectorate Report

Our ELCC classes were visited by the Care

Inspectorate in November 2016. We are pleased to announce that we were graded 'GOOD' in the quality of service we provide.

The report from this visit has been published and is available to read on our web site and in the ELCC entrance area.

<http://chirnside.weebly.com/inspection-reports.html>

School Uniform

The official school colours are navy and gold. School sweatshirts, polo shirts and fleeces with embroidered school logo are also available and can be ordered from the school office or online.

On a daily basis it is expected that children dress sensibly and neatly for school.

Recommended uniform is as follows:

- Boys Trousers- black or grey; Shirt - white or navy; Pullover/Sweatshirt (P1-6) - navy
- Girls Skirt - navy, grey or black; Blouse - white or navy; Pullover/Cardigan/Sweatshirt - navy

It is strongly recommended that jewelry should not be worn for reasons of safety and also to avoid loss of items.

Children should wear shorts and T-shirt for all P.E. activities. As P.E. or Movement activities take place more than once a week, it would be useful if P.E. kits could remain in school, taking them home for washing at appropriate times.

Primary 7 pupils can purchase a 'Senior Pupil' sweatshirt in senior pupil colours.

All children's school clothing should be clearly named so that it can be easily identified if mislaid. Please help with this.

Clothing Exchange


We have a large amount of excellent quality second hand uniform which can be exchanged 'like for like' or purchased for a £1 donation per item through our 'Clothing Exchange'. The Exchange is situated outside the P2/3 cloakroom area at the bottom of the stairs. Please pay for items at the school office before leaving the building.

We are always on the look-out for items of good quality second hand uniform. Washed and clean donations can be made in the box in the main entrance foyer. If you are interested in helping to organise the exchange on a rota basis, please contact the school office for more information.

Absences and Late Arrivals


We are appreciative of parents who are able to notify us of pupil absence from school as early as possible on the morning of absence.


ASSESSMENT OF CHILDREN'S PROGRESS



What is it?


Assessment is part of everyday teaching - through class work as well as 'standardised' assessments






'Standardised' assessments currently vary across Scotland


New online system provides nationally consistent approach to standardised assessment







All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will be assessed

Consistent approach will help us understand how well your child is doing



Teacher will decide the best time in the year to assess your child





No homework or prep needed - there's no pass or fail

teachers

Combined with a range of other information, national standardised assessments will help teachers understand each child's progress and spot areas for development

parentzonescotland.com

We will send a Group Call message to parents asking for an absence notification if we have not received this.

We are also appreciative of parents who ensure their children arrive on time for 8.50am at the beginning of the school day. Regular lateness can result in children missing the beginning of lessons and feeling 'left out' of what is happening in class.

As part of our regular monitoring procedures, the Head Teacher is required to monitor rate of absence for each month, the absence level for the school session and the number of late arrivals recorded. When these reach a level of concern, the Head Teacher will contact the parents of pupils concerned to make them aware.

Netball

We have entered two teams in the Berwickshire area netball finals. The finals are being held on Wednesday 25th January at 16:00 at Berwickshire High School. Winners will qualify for the Scottish Borders Finals later in the term.

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have been training hard under the watchful coaching eye of Mrs Millar. We wish them every success and look forward to finding out how they get on.

February Inset and Holidays

A reminder to parents and pupils that Friday 10th February is a pupil holiday (In-service) and both Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February are mid-term holidays. School reopens on Wednesday 15th February.

JRSO NEWS...

Award Win for Chirnside Pupils

Chirnside Primary has won the Duns area Active School Travel Award!

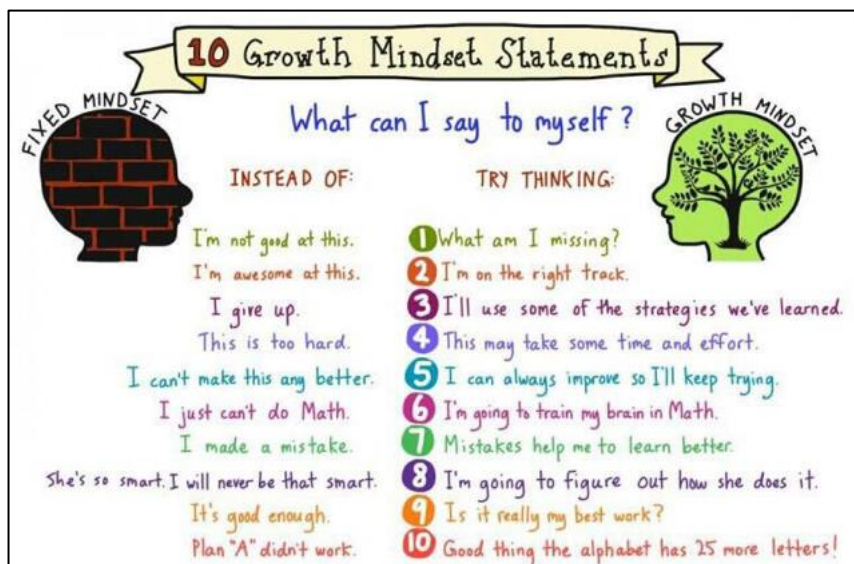
The awards are presented to the

schools with the highest percentage of pupils actively travelling to school that year. We had the highest percentage across Berwickshire High School cluster primaries.

At Primary level each high school cluster area have their own shield to compete for; while at secondary level the 9 High Schools compete for the Secondary School Active Travel Champion Award.

The schools have already gathered the information required as part of the National School Travel Hands Up Survey. This takes place annually in September when every nursery, primary and secondary school pupil is surveyed on their travel mode to school and the results are collated for every authority in Scotland by Sustrans on behalf of the Scottish Government.

JRSOs Georgia (P7) and Lyla (P6) will travel to SBC HQ at the beginning of February to collect the trophy on behalf of Chirnside PS.



Robert Burns

As the 25th January fast approaches, we are making preparations for our annual Burns and Scots language celebrations.

During the next few weeks, your child will be learning a Scots poem and exploring the language and dialect used. They will have the opportunity to perform their poem to their class, with a learning focus on expression and performance.

Whilst this learning will be led in class, we appreciate the support and involvement of parents in helping their child at home. You can do this by reading over your child's poem with them, discussing the meaning of certain words and phrases and providing your child with an opportunity to perform their poem to you.

Members of the Whiteadder Burns Club are visiting on the afternoon of Thursday 9th February to judge class finalists in the poetry competition. Winners will perform at the Burns Supper being held on Thursday 16th February and organized by our P7 pupils.

Infectious Illnesses

Please can parents continue to notify the school if they are aware of the presence of infectious illnesses such as chickenpox, mumps, measles etc. This will allow us to inform the parents of a pupil who currently has a suppressed immune system. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

We're Getting Better All the Time!

In January we will...

- Explored 'Thinking Routines' contained in 'Making Thinking Visible' research and theory.

Ways a Parent Can Help a Child LEARN TO READ

1 Let your child see you reading!

Have magazines and books in your home.

2 Look for appropriate word and reading games online to play with your child

3 Ask your child to draw a picture or write about what happens in a story.

Keep paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers and crayons available in your house.

4 When you're reading a magazine or newsletter, ask your child to look on the pages for pictures that start with a certain sound.

Do you see a picture of a thing that starts with "p"?

5 Set aside a time and place for reading -

like a comfy chair with a reading light for bedtime stories

6 Visit your public library regularly.

Find and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.

7 Enjoy reading with your child.

Laugh at silly pictures. Make goofy voices. Have fun!

8 Ask your child questions about the story as you read together:

- What is the story about?
- Why do you think he/she made that choice? Was it a good choice?
- Why did that happen?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What was your favorite part of the story? Why?

9 Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or that start with the same sound

10 After you finish reading a story, look back at a page and ask your child to find common words.

"Can you find the word ___?"

Use words like: the, me, up, and, go, run, can, to, stop

11 Teach your child to recognize his or her own name

Read out loud to your child -

books, poems, nursery rhymes, recipes, billboards, newspaper articles, ads, signs - whatever words you see!

- Continued to develop 'Critical Reading' approaches in all classes. We completed teacher visits to other classes with these as a focus.
- Developed further our approaches to pupil assessment through evaluating national benchmarks in Literacy and Numeracy.

Parent Parking Outside of School

Unfortunately, there have been an increasing number of parents who have started to park at the front of the school again to drop off or collect both ELC and primary pupils. This has resulted in an increasing number of pupils being walked along the main A6105 to gain access through both the school drive gates and the main gates in the 'D'.

Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland identified this practice as **a significant risk to pupil safety**, and requested parents with pupils must access school grounds by the pedestrian gate from the school path.

PLEASE refrain from parking at the front of the school.

"Drop and Drive" in the 'D' continues to operate before 8.50am for primary pupils.

Polite Request by the Local Community

When dropping children off/picking up on Kirkgate, can parents please refrain from parking upon the grass verge surrounding the small car park on Kirkgate, adjacent to the Church. Over previous years, during winter, this area turns into a mud bath which is then transferred onto the road making it not only dangerous but causes lasting damage to the verge. Thank you.

Resilient Schools Arrangements

As we enter into the depths of winter, we are required to make arrangements for the arrival of inclement weather and the invoking of 'Resilient Schools' arrangements. Outlined below are the procedures we will follow should Scottish Borders Council open schools on a resilient basis:

- Parents will be notified by Group Call message should Resilient Schools arrangements be put in place.
- The school will be managed by Mrs Jayne Waite, Head Teacher of Greenlaw and Swinton Primary Schools.
- Due to reduced staffing capacity the following arrangements apply:
 - Pupils who normally travel to school on school transport, or live outside of the village and travel by car **MUST NOT** attend school.
 - ELCC will be **OPEN** mornings and afternoons, Monday to Friday.



- Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 will be CLOSED Monday to Friday.
- Primary 4 will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays ONLY. Primary 4 will be CLOSED on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 will be OPEN, Monday to Friday.

As always, the final decision as to whether walking pupils attend school under resilient schools arrangements rests with the parent.

Kind regards,



Nick Trussler – Head Teacher

Advert on behalf of Scottish Borders Council

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION STRATEGY

At the last Parent Council Chair Meeting in November, there was a discussion regarding the development of the Child Sexual Exploitation strategy.

Due to the nature of the subject, it was agreed at the meeting that separate sessions would be beneficial for further discussions.

Dates and venues for these sessions have now been arranged:

- **Thursday 16th February – The Assembly Hall, Berwickshire High School**
- **Tuesday 21st February – The Assembly Hall, Peebles High School**
- **Tuesday 28th February – The Assembly Hall, Galashiels Academy**
- **Tuesday 7th March – The Assembly Hall, Jedburgh Grammar School.**

These sessions will run from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

These sessions are open to staff, parents, carers etc. – please can you make all staff and parents at your school aware that these sessions are taking place.

If there are any queries regarding these sessions, please contact Jill MacDonald in the Strategy, Policy and Performance team (jill.macdonald@scotborders.gov.uk)