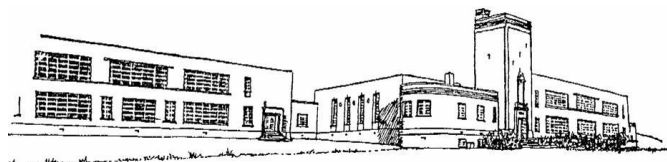


CHIRNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

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

Search for 'Chirnside Primary School'



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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

Welcome to our June 2016 newsletter.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another school year. For a school it can be a time of reflection (on what has been achieved during the current session), whilst beginning to concentrate our thoughts on exciting new opportunities for the future.

We can often forget to appreciate the here and now, and where we currently find ourselves on our 'Journey to Excellence'. We have continued to grow as a school, and to develop our curriculum and the opportunities we provide our learners. Our strength in doing so lies in the partnerships we develop together as parents, teachers, support staff and pupils. We work together with commitment and perseverance, through challenging times, to reach our goals and realise our high aspirations for all our children. This 'stick with it' attitude is at the heart of our school community.

At the end of this session, we will say farewell to Mrs Ainslie, Mrs Renton, Mrs Easton and Mrs Redden who have had a long association with our school and worked tirelessly to ensure we can be the best we can be.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Mrs Ainslie, Mrs Renton and Mrs Easton for their professional commitment as class teachers over the years, and the benefits that they have brought to our pupils. Their enthusiasm for education is infectious, and is an inspiration to their colleagues, and our pupils and parents. We wish them every happiness in their retirement and the future.

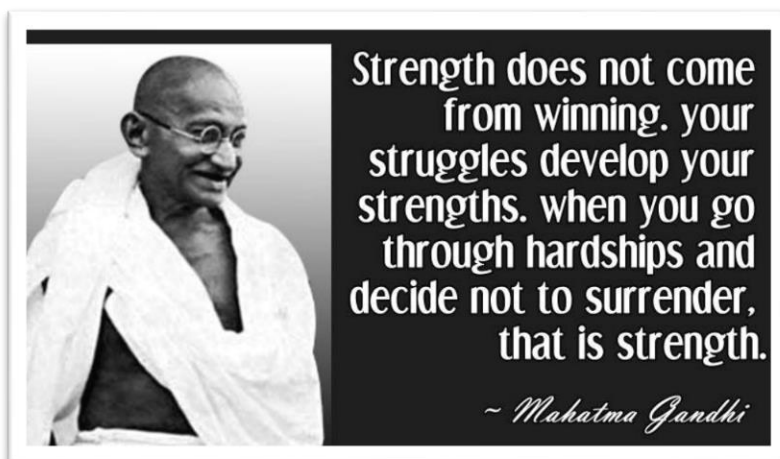
Thank you to Mrs Redden, who will retire from her post as School Auxiliary at the end of June. Mrs Redden has had a long association with Chirnside Primary School, supporting many pupils in their learning over the years. She has also been a canteen supervisor, a playground supervisor and a first aider. We wish her well for a long and relaxing retirement.

As one chapter closes, a new one begins and with it brings new opportunities! We are looking forward to welcoming two 'returning' past members of teaching staff back to Chirnside Primary School for 2016-17. I am pleased to announce we will be joined next year by Ms. S Milne as class teacher of Primary 7 and Mr S Brodie as class teacher of Primary 5.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our learning journey this year, your efforts and hard work are valued and appreciated. You make our school what it is. Have a wonderful summer holiday when it comes!

Sincerely,

Nick Trussler - Head Teacher



Teachers and Classes for 2016-17

Our current projected school roll for 2016-17 indicates that primary classes will be organised over seven stages (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7).

Class Teachers

For next session, class teachers have been allocated to classes as described in the table right.

With two primary class teacher vacancies created by the retirement of Mrs. Ainslie and Mrs. Easton, an opportunity of change of stage has arisen for some of our current teaching staff.

Mrs. Gordon will be moving to Primary 6 next session after several sessions at the Primary 1 stage.

Mrs. Reap will be moving to Primary 1, with the additional role of supporting Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). As a result of Mrs. Renton's retirement we are moving to a new model of ELC staffing. This is in light of recent Early Years staffing developments across the authority.

Our Principal Teacher, Ms. Harvey, will be moving to Primary 2 and will be supported by Ms. Johnson, who will teach the class on Thursdays to cover Ms. Harvey's management day.

New (and returning) class teachers Mr. Brodie and Ms. S Milne will teach Primary 5 and Primary 7 respectively.

Early Years (ELC) and Primary 1

Next session, Mrs. Reap will have a teaching responsibility for both ELC and Primary 1. This is in line with the Early Years model already established in Borders schools that have adjoining nursery classes.

In real terms, this will mean that Mrs. Reap will be released from P1 (one day a fortnight) to work alongside ELC staff and children. This will provide better opportunities for joined up learning and working between ELC and P1. More information on these new approaches will be shared with ELC and P1 parents in August.

Mrs Dunse, Mrs Lugget and Mrs Purvis will continue in their roles within our ELC team, with an impending appointment to the role of Senior Nursery Nurse to be confirmed.

Move Up Afternoon – Thursday 9th June 2016

To coincide with our Primary 7s visit to Berwickshire High School, our current P1 to P6 pupils will 'move up' to meet their teacher for next session on the afternoon of Thursday 9th June.

Our ELC4 pupils are invited to attend P1 with Mrs. Reap for 'move up'. They will be joined by some of our ELC staff.

ELC4 parents are invited to attend with their children for a school lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 9th June. Afterwards, ELC4 pupils and parents will gather in the school hall, where they will be met by Mrs. Reap before moving to P1 for the afternoon at 13.05.

The move up session for new P1s will finish at 15.00. Parents can collect their child at this time from the current P1 classroom, by entering the building at the main front door.

We are currently making arrangements from Mr. Brodie and Ms. S Milne to visit the school for 'move up' afternoon to meet their classes for next year.

Classes 2016-17		Number of Children
Class / Teacher		
ELC	Mrs C Reap ELC3 – 26 ELC4 - 25	51
P1	Mrs C Reap	23
P2	Ms I Harvey / Ms S. Johnson (Thursdays)	24
P3	Mrs E Bennie	21
P4	Mrs C Milne	25
P5	Mr S Brodie	26
P6	Mrs P Gordon	26
P7	Ms S Milne	21
Total		Primary = 164 Total (including ELC) = 215

PARENT COUNCIL

Dates for your diary...

**Thursday 18th August – Parent Council
meeting at 7.30pm**



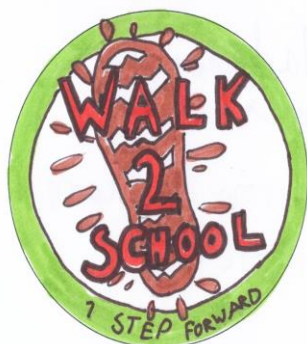
**Friday 26th August – Shorts and shades
disco**

**Thursday 22nd September – AGM at
7.30pm**

**Friday 25th November – Christmas
Fayre**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 6th June – P1 visit to Alnwick Castle
- Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th June – P7 Induction Days at BHS
- Wednesday 8th June – P6 at Coldingham Beach
- Thursday 9th June P4 Football Festival at BHS
- Thursday 9th June 'Move up Afternoon' for ELCC4 to P6 (Classes for 2016-17)
- Tuesday 14th June – SPORTS (P4-P7 AM and ELCC4-P3 PM)
- Tuesday 14th June – Summer BBQ – Change to published school meals menu.
- Thursday 16th June- P6 orienteering at Paxton House
- Thursday 16th June- P3 at National Museum of Scotland
- Friday 17th June – P7 Water Aid Fundraiser
- Monday 20th June – P7 at Torness Power Station
- Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd June – P7 Watersports (3 groups)
- Monday 27th June – Henry Gray Mile at 14.30. Parents welcome to attend.
- Wednesday 29th June – End of Year Service and Prize Giving in the Parish Church from 10.30am
- Wednesday 29th June – P7 Leavers Assembly at 13.30



Walk 2 School Week Results

Congratulations to everyone for taking part in the recent 'Walk to School Week' initiative. The winners of the P1-3 Golden Trainer for the highest percentage of 'approved' school

journeys were Primary 3. There was a draw for the P4-7 'Tartan Foot' award between Primary 5 and Primary 6. All winning classes were awarded prizes from the JRSO 'Prize Sacks' and all participating pupils were given a W2SW pencil for their efforts.

A special thank you goes to Shannon Luke and Anna Brown, our outgoing P7 JRSOs, who have worked tirelessly to promote road safety over the last two years.

Congratulations to India Sadler and Lila Duff, who were selected by interview for the position of JRSO next session. They will join Nathan Black and Georgia Scott as JRSOs for 2016-17.

We're Getting Better...

In May we:

- Explored the content of the National Improvement Framework and the impact upon School Improvement Planning
- Familiarised ourselves with How Good is Our School 4, the updated self-evaluation tool
- Used HGIOS 4 to evaluate aspects of our school performance to identify next steps in school improvement
- Launched an audit questionnaire for staff, parents and pupils using Survey Monkey. The feedback from this will inform the identification of school improvement priorities for 2016-17

In June we will be:

- Using parent, pupil and staff survey responses to support our prioritisation of improvement actions for 2016-17
- Completing our individual studies through Practitioner Enquiry
- Continuing our work on our RME progression
- Completing transition discussions for class transfers
- Continuing to develop our approaches to inclusion and equity.



A POLITE REMINDER TO PARENTS

There is no access to the building for nursery (ELC) pupils via the school drive or front gate **at any time**. Please keep your children away from the A6105 main road.

All nursery pupils and parents must enter and leave the school grounds by the pedestrian gate on the school path.

Parent parking is available at the church and on Kirkgate / Crosshill. This request is to ensure the safety of your children.

Parent and Pupil Survey Now Open



We invite parents to take part in our online survey to help us identify how we can continue to improve as a school next session. The short survey should take no longer than a few minutes to complete. The survey is open until Monday 6th June and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SS5LKVR>

There is also a direct link on the 'Parents' tab of the school website and on the school Facebook page.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete.

We also have a pupil survey that pupils can complete at home or in school. This survey has been designed by the Pupil Learning Council.

PLC representatives have shown classes how the pupil survey can be accessed via a direct link on the 'Pupil' tab of the website.

Summer BBQ

On Tuesday 14th June we are having our annual BBQ to coincide with Sports Day. The menu has been changed in ParentPay so if you had already booked in for that date you will need to log in again and re-book one of the BBQ choices. Parents are welcome to stay for the BBQ and pay £2.60 cash on the day. Any problems please ring the School Office.

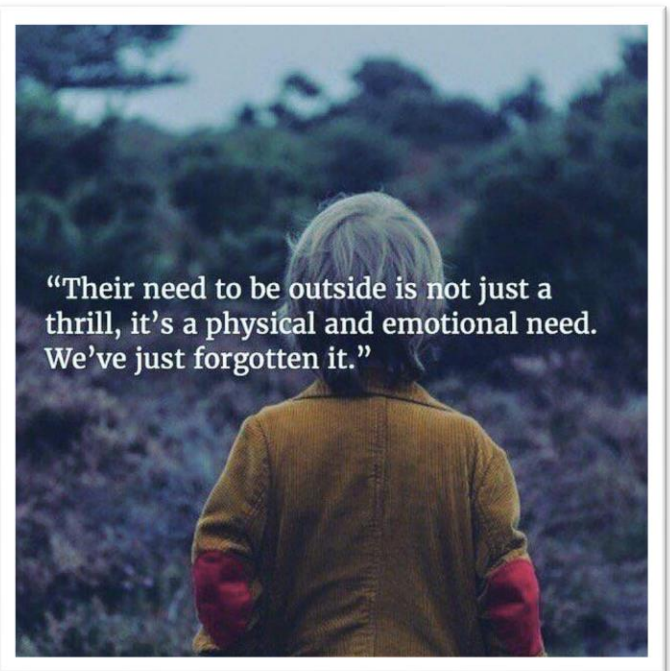


New Windows

The school will be benefiting from new windows to the North elevation of the West wing of the school (currently P1-P3) and to the canteen and kitchen areas. Initial plans are for the work to commence during the summer holidays and for it to be completed during the initial weeks of first term in August. At present, I have no confirmation of dates but have been invited to a planning meeting prior to the summer holidays to liaise with architects and contractors to ensure minimal disruption to learning for pupils. I will share information with staff, pupils and parents in the near future when it is available.

Would you like our newsletter by email?

If you would like to receive newsletters by email, please send a request to nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk



Let's Bake!

ELCC pupils and parents have been learning together through their involvement in the 'Let's Bake!' project.



Designed by Nursery Nurse Mrs Purvis, the project has provided an opportunity for practical learning in numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing, as well as offering guidance and suggestions to parents how they might develop their child's learning further at home.

Well done to everyone involved, and a huge thank you to Mrs Purvis for sharing her baking expertise!



HEALTH AWARENESS

Please can parents ensure that kiwi or nuts are not brought into school for snack or for packed lunches. We have pupils who have serious reactions when they come into contact with these foods, and appreciate your cooperation in in this matter.

A polite request to parents that they continue to inform the school if they are aware of outbreaks of infections such as chicken pox, measles etc. so that we can inform parents of pupils who have additional health needs.

Upcoming Events

Sports Day

Sports will be held on Tuesday 14th June with P4-P7 sports in the morning (9-12.00) and ELC4 – P3 sports in the afternoon (13.00-15.00).

Henry Gray Mile

The Henry Gray Mile for P5-P7 pupils will be held on Monday 27th June at 14.30 on the school field. All parents are invited to attend.

End of term service

The end of term service and prize giving will be held on Wednesday 29th June at 10.30am in the Parish Church. There will be a silver collection for the school's chosen charity for 2016, MacMillan Cancer Care. All parents and family are invited to attend.

P7 Leavers' Assembly

Primary 7 leavers' Assembly will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 29th June at 13.30. P7 parents and families are invited to attend.

Term, holiday and closure dates for 2016-17

Autumn term

- Monday 15 Aug 2016 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 16 Aug 2016 - Pupils resume
- Friday 07 Oct 2016 - Last day for pupils and staff - Mid-term holiday
- Monday 17 Oct 2016 - All resume
- Thursday 10 Nov 2016 - Staff in service day
- Friday 11 Nov 2016 - Staff in service day
- Monday 28 Nov 2016 - St Andrew's Day holiday, schools closed
- Thursday 22 Dec 2016 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Winter term

- Monday 09 Jan 2017 - All resume
- Thursday 09 Feb 2017 - Last day for pupils - February holiday
- Friday 10 Feb 2017 - Staff in service day
- Wednesday 15 Feb 2017 - All resume
- Friday 31 Mar 2017 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Summer term

- Tuesday 18 Apr 2017 - All resume
- Friday 28 Apr 2017 - Staff in service day
- Monday 01 May 2017 - May Day holiday, schools closed
- Wednesday 28 Jun 2017 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Casual holidays

Each [learning community](#) allocates 2 casual holidays for pupils and staff which are usually aligned to their local festivals.

Berwickshire

- Friday 07 Oct 2016
- Monday 29 May 2017