

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Chirnside Primary School,

Chirnside, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3XH

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

This session, ongoing developments and improvements to teaching and learning have continued to move our school forward on our journey to excellence.

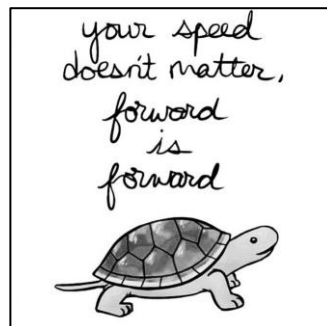
This term, we have celebrated pupils' successes as winners in the Berwickshire Rotary Quiz, winners at the Berwickshire Netball Finals, runners-up in the Borders Netball Final, and continued success and commitment of pupils in the Burns Poetry competition.

The achievements we are experiencing are a reflection of the professional commitment of our staff to influence, challenge and inspire pupils to be the best they can be.

Working in partnership with parents, we can ensure the best possible conditions for pupils to grow as individual learners, at a pace suitable to them, and to help them positively influence our community.

We are a growing school. We are moving forward and becoming better, at a pace that ensures we can build upon our successes and has a positive, sustainable impact upon pupil learning.

Working together we can continue to grow, to improve, and to become stronger as a community.



Nicholas Trussler

NA Trussler – Head Teacher

Upcoming Events

02.03.17 - Berwickshire Schools Cross-Country at Eyemouth PS

02.03.17 - Borders Burns Finals at Hawick Burns Club (P4-7 Class Winners).

06.03.17 - SSPCA Workshops for all classes.

07.03.17 - P6 and P7 Puberty Talks with Katrina Fairbairn, School Nurse.

09.03.17 - P6 Fairtrade Break Bar

09.03.17 - RHET Tractor Tour (Cheviot and P6 classes).

09.03.17 - Primary 2 Wedding in the Parish Church.

15.03.17 - Tree Planting Day with Anna Craigen

16.03.17 - Borders Schools XC Championships at Galashiels.

20.03.17 - Big Pedal Initiative for two weeks.

22.03.17 - P4 and P5 pupils attending Berwickshire Dance Festival, Volunteer Hall, Duns.

27.03.17 Parent open evening

28 and 29.03.17 Requested parent appointments.

29.03.17 - P7 Trip to Ford Castle (S1 transition).

03.04.17 - Easter Holiday begins (School Closed).

18.03.17 (Tuesday) - School reopens

Staffing

We welcome Mr. Anderson this week in his role as school janitor. Mr. Anderson has been appointed to the position vacated by Mr. Pringle earlier this term. We wish Mr. Anderson well in his new post and look forward to working with him.

Pupil Learning Council Update

Pupil Learning Council for 2017 is:

- P4: Alexander and Carys
- P5: Ollie and Heather
- P6: Ethan and Max
- P7: Ben and Robyn

In February we...

- Researched charities to nominate for Charity of the Year.
- Carried out a survey with classes to elect our Charity of the Year.

In March we will...

- Design an online survey for pupils to find out opinions about learning and how we can help to make learning even better in school and at home.

Pupil Learning Logs

Your child will bring home their Learning Log this Friday, 3rd March, to share with you some highlights of their learning so far this year. In the Learning Log you will find:

- Examples of your child's learning for August to December.
- An outline of your child's learning for this term (January to March).

Please ensure your child's learning log is returned to school on Monday 6th March.

P6 FAIRTRADE BREAK BAR

Buy a truffle or a biscuit for 50p and help people living in poverty

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of their Fairtrade topic, Primary 6 are running a Fairtrade break on **Thursday 9th March**. They will be selling Fairtrade truffles and biscuits to raise money to help farmers in developing countries.

Buying a truffle or a biscuit for 50p could help growers and their families improve their homes, get access to clean running water, healthcare and education. Please help if you can!



Duns Clubgolf Junior Coaching Sessions **4:30pm - Duns Golf Club** **Sunday 19th & 26th March 2017**

Duns Clubgolf is running two 'introduction to golf' coaching sessions on the above dates for school aged children. There fully licensed Level 1 & Level 1 Advanced Professional Golf Association (PGA) coaches will look after you. The sessions will last for an hour. (Please arrive from 4:15pm to allow time for registration).

What's included?

- You'll learn golfing skills – Putting, Chipping, Pitching, Full Swing etc.
- You'll make new friends
- You don't need to be a member of the golf club
- You don't need any equipment – we will supply it
- The "Introductory Sessions" are free
- Lots of fun, fun, fun!

What do you need to bring?

- A pair of reasonably sturdy flat soled shoes or trainers
- Appropriate clothing – please dress for the conditions
- Positive 'I'll give it a go' attitude

Additional Information

- Follow-on block sessions are planned for May/June and August/September
- Those sessions will cost no more than £3 per week
- You don't have to be a member of the Golf Club to participate
- You will have the full use of the Golf Club facilities
- Parents/Guardians can watch the children being coached

If you are interested in coming along or would like some more information please get in touch with Graham Clark at grahamclark0612@gmail.com or 07799 280360

Graham Clark, Clubgolf Co-ordinator at Duns Golf Club

sportscotland



PGA



GOLF FOUNDATION

Pupil Reports

Pupil progress reports will be sent home to parents on Friday 24th March. You will receive information on your child's progress and next steps in the areas of 'Literacy and Language', 'Numeracy and Mathematics', 'Health and Wellbeing', and 'Learning across the Curriculum'.

This report will give you a summary of your child's learning to date, and alongside the evidence contained in your child's Learning Log, should illustrate your child's learning journey so far this session.

Parent Evenings

To help illustrate the types of learning experiences your child has benefited from this session, we are holding a 'Class Open Evening' for parents and pupils on **Monday 27th March from 5pm to 7pm.**

Parents are invited to visit their child's class to look at examples of their work and learning, see wall displays, and experience some learning activities under the guidance of the children.

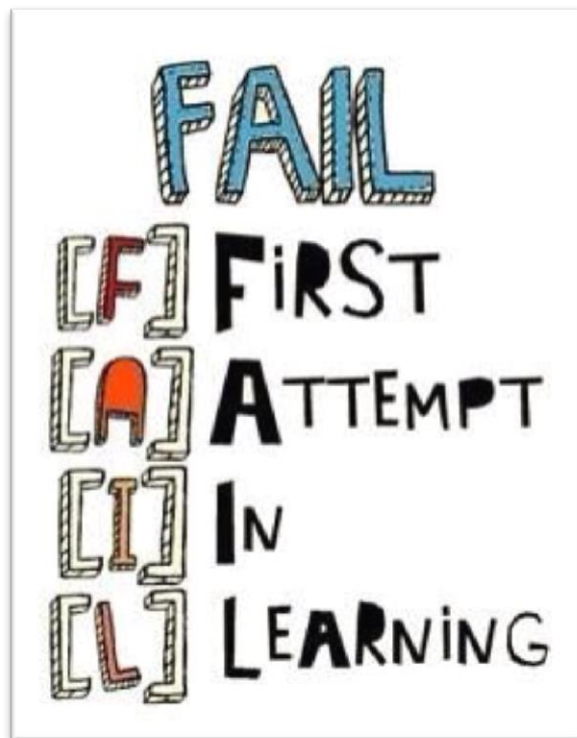
Class teachers will be in classrooms to answer any general questions around learning activities and classwork during these times.

Parent – Teacher Appointments (28th and 29th March)

This session, we are trialing a different approach to parents' evenings. For the majority of parents, the information gathered from the pupil progress report, pupil learning log and open evening visit will provide parents with an in-depth picture of their child's learning.

For those parents who wish to discuss with the class teacher **a specific aspect of their child's learning and progress**, we will provide an opportunity for you to arrange an appointment on Tuesday 28th March or Wednesday 29th March.

An appointment request slip will be sent home to parents next week for you to request an appointment with your child's class teacher if you wish to discuss a specific aspect of your child's learning.



Tree Planting

We are looking forward to the arrival of Anna Craigen from Borders Forest Trust on Wednesday 15th March, who along with our Eco Committee, will be helping classes to plant a variety of fruit trees in the school grounds. This is part of our ongoing school grounds improvement project.

Scots and Burns Poetry Winners

Congratulations to pupils who performed Scots and Burns poems in the recent Burns Poetry competition, judged by Mr. Buick and Mr. Marchbanks from Whiteadder Burns Club.

Prize winners were as follows:

- Primary 1: First – Faith Anderson; Runners-up – Martha Cochrane, Jasmine Watson.
- Primary 2: First – Eli McLeod; Runners-up – William Stewart, Millie Jane Shennan.
- Primary 3: First – Lacey Sword; Runners-up – Miley Turner, Sophie Anderson.
- Primary 4: First – Thea Maudsley; Runners-up – Naomi Trussler, Carys Snowball, Mattie Jones.
- Primary 5: First – Isla Hall; Runners-up – Sophie Pessara, Heather Little, Ella Robertson.
- Primary 6: First – India Sadler; Runners-up – Luke Simpson, Maisie Crilly, Keone Reid.
- Primary 7: First – Georgia Scott; Runners-up – Keira McGregor, Rebecca Richards, Liam Snowball.

The trophy winner for most overall points for P1-3 was Lacey Sword and for P4-7 was India Sadler.

P4-P7 class winners are travelling to Hawick on Thursday 2nd March to take part in the Borders Burns Finals. We wish them well on their adventure.

Primary 7 Community Burns Lunch

On Thursday 16th February we held our Community Burns Supper, organised by our Primary 7 pupils for their parents and our community partners.

It was a fantastic traditional experience for pupils and adults alike. To share with you a flavour of the celebrations, we have made a short film. You can view the film at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFe3PrqoZ6g>

"The whole concept [Community Burns Supper] is inspired. It is wonderful having mixed tables of children and adults all making interesting conversation together. The self-possession and relaxed maturity of the children who were at ease both with speaking to us as adults and in their performances to the gathered assembly, speaks volumes about what you're achieving in school on a daily basis. I felt privileged to be a part of it all. Thank you so much. And yes – I'm already looking forward to next year!"

- Carol Jefferson-Davies - Chirnside David Hume Group

Primary 7 Residential Fundraising

Dear Primary 7 Parents,

Every year the Parent Council raises money to supplement the school's budget and enhance the learning experience for all pupils at Chirnside Primary School. School trips have traditionally been an important part of the school calendar and one that the pupils look forward to. We know that these trips can be expensive and the Parent Council already subsidises the cost of bus travel to help keep costs down.

The P7 trip to Kindrogan is the most expensive of the trips run by the school and it has been suggested that the Primary 7 pupils and parent group may want to follow the example of some other schools and organise some fund raising events to bring down the total cost of this trip.

The Parent Council would like to invite P7 parents to a meeting at school on **Thursday 9 March at 6.30pm** to discuss ideas and to offer their support to set up a fundraising group.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas.

Kind regards,

Lynda Clark,

Chair - Chirnside Parent Council

Big Pedal 2017

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have registered Chirnside Primary School to take part in 'The Big Pedal' initiative which will run for the last two weeks of term (starting Monday 20th March).

The Big Pedal is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge that inspires pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school.



Mud Muckers Garden Club
Inspire your children to grow

NEW, Monthly Gardening Club!

Our Mud Muckers club aims to teach children new aspects of gardening every month. Within a safe environment, children will try their hand at different gardening skills.

Starts: Sunday 19th March

Suitable for ages: 4-13 Annual fee: £25

Booking forms available online
www.pearsonsofduns.co.uk

Each month children will learn about a new aspect of gardening. Within a safe environment, children will try their hand at gardening skills including, planting bulbs, creating an insect hotel and harvesting their crops.

Suitable for ages: 4-13
Annual fee: £25
Time: 11am-1.30pm (30 min. lunch break*)

*Lunch not included

Schedule

- Sun, 19th March: How bulbs grow
- Sun, 23rd April: Fun in the mud
- Sun, 28th May: Time to sow your seeds
- Sun, 18th June: Keeping your plants safe
- Sun, 23rd July: X-treme plants
- Sun, 27th August: Harvesting your crops
- Sun, 17th September: The importance of biodiversity
- Sun, 22nd October: Our feathered friends
- Sun, 26th November: The life of a leaf
- Sun, 17th December: Using plants for decorations

Powered by Sustrans and funded by the Bike Hub, the 2017 challenge will run from 20 to 31 March and is open to individual classes as well as whole schools.

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. A school's best five days will determine their final position, but they can log journeys on all ten days if they wish.

Senior Girls Enjoy Netball Success!

On the 8th of January 2017 Chirnside Primary School sent two netball teams to the netball tournament at Berwickshire High school, Duns.

Both teams did exceedingly well in their group matches, and met each other in the final with a place in the Borders netball Finals on offer to the winners.

Chirnside 'A' narrowly beat Chirnside 'B' to be crowned Berwickshire Champions for 2017 and take a place in the Borders Netball Finals, held in Galashiels.

In the Border Finals, held in February, Chirnside 'A' excelled in team work and commitment. They made their way through the group section to take place in the final against Melrose PS.

Although it was a tight game, Melrose Primary were 7-2 winners and crowned Borders Netball Champions for 2017. We are very proud of the girls who represented our school and did so well.

2017 Team: Rebecca Richards, Katie Donoghue, Maisie Crilly, Carys Runciman, Keira McGregor, Madeleine Clark, India Sadler, Natalia Malich, Ashley Girdwood and Kate Johnson.

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 and February we...

- Explored 'Thinking Routines' contained in 'Making Thinking Visible' research and theory.
- 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 with colleagues from other Berwickshire primary schools.

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.

Resilient Schools Arrangements

A reminder regarding 'Resilient Schools' (we have had snow in March before!).

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

School term dates for 2016/17

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
- Monday 29 May 2017 – Berwickshire Local Holiday
- Wednesday 28 Jun 2017 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

School term dates for 2017/18

Autumn term

- Monday 14 Aug 2017 - Staff resume, in service day
- Tuesday 15 Aug 2017 - Pupils resume
- Friday 06 Oct 2017 – Berwickshire Local Holiday
- Monday 16 Oct 2017 - All resume
- Thursday 09 Nov 2017 - Staff in service day
- Friday 10 Nov 2017 - Staff in service day
- Monday 27 Nov 2017 - St Andrew's Day holiday, school closed
- Thursday 21 Dec 2017 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Winter term

- Monday 08 Jan 2018 - All resume
- Thursday 08 Feb 2018 - Last day for pupils - February holiday
- Friday 09 Feb 2018 - Staff in service day
- Wednesday 14 Feb 2018 - All resume
- Thursday 29 Mar 2018 - Last day of term for pupils and staff

Summer term

- Monday 16 Apr 2018 - All resume
- Friday 04 May 2018 - Staff in service day
- Monday 07 May 2018 - May Day holiday, school closed
- Monday 28 May 2018 – Berwickshire Local Holiday
- Wednesday 27 Jun 2018 - Last day of term for pupils and staff