

Chirside Primary School,

Chirside, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3XH

Web; [www.chirside.weebly.com](http://www.chirside.weebly.com)

FaceBook: Search for [Chirside Primary School](#)

Twitter: [@ChirsidePS](#)

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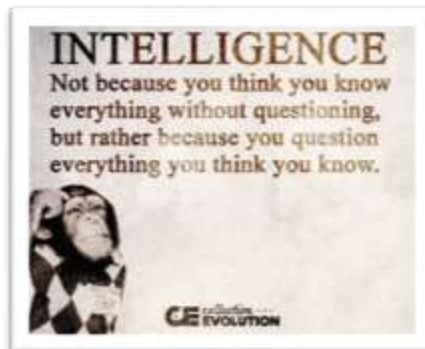
Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

***I had the pleasure of accompanying Primary 7 pupils last Tuesday evening to Selkirk High School. Our pupils had qualified for the Borders Rotary Quiz Final and were representing Berwickshire Schools. They had earned this privilege by winning the Berwickshire Schools Final in February. There were eight rounds of five questions, testing children's knowledge about the world.***

Several head teachers were present, including myself, and we were getting quite competitive as each round progressed. However, I'm not sure that a quiz or a test is the most reliable method of assessing intelligence (I was third out of four head teachers, by the way).

One of our development focuses this session has been to 'Make Thinking Visible'. Educational research tells us that how pupils' think is a vitally important component to children's learning. We have been developing approaches in classrooms to develop children's thinking abilities, leading pupils to develop their capability to question what they think they know. This in turn promotes better engagement in learning, develops pupil confidence, and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Therefore as teachers and parents, encouraging our children to question the world around them, helps them to develop a deeper understanding of it and a growing interest in learning, not to mention ensuring an increasing number of future quiz champions!



Kind regards,

Nick Trussler  
Head Teacher

### Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – P5 visit to Borders Countryside Day, Kelso.
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May – P7 PE Day at BHS
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May – P4 Class Assembly 9:15am
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – HOLIDAY: Berwickshire local holiday for pupils and staff.
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May – P5 Trip to Ford Castle
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – P6 Residential to Ford Castle
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Shorts and Shades organising meeting for parents – 18:30 in school
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – P2 Class Assembly 9:15am
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June P7 Canoeing Grp 1
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – P4 Trip to Roman Melrose
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June – P7 transition days at Berwickshire High School.
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June – P5 visit to the Hirsell, Coldstream / P6 Visit to Lindesfarne / ELC4 Visit to P1 (am) and parent lunch / P7 Sailing Grp 1
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June – P7 Canoe Grp 2
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June – P7 Sailing Grp 2
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – P1 Class Assembly 9:15am
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day – P4-7 am / ELC4-P3 pm
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Sports provisional date
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – P6 Class Assembly at 9:15am
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Final Day of Term.
  - Church service at 10:30am.
  - P7 Leavers' Assembly 1:30pm
  - School closes at 3:20pm.

## CLASS ASSEMBLY DATES

Parents are invited to attend the following class assemblies:

- **P1** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 9:15am
- **P2** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9:15am
- **P4** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 9:15am
- **P6** Friday 23rd June at 9:15am

## Classes for 2017-18

At present, our school roll for 2017-18 has increased slightly, meaning that we should move from seven classes to eight classes in August. This means we may structure classes as follows:

Class	No of Pupils
P1 a	13
P1 b	13
P2	25
P3	26
P4	24
P5	25
P6	24
P7	25



We will keep parents updated on the plans for classes as we near the summer holidays, as this is dependent upon roll numbers for next session not decreasing in the near future.

Parents of **Primary 1 pupils for 2017-18** will shortly receive information regarding a transition morning on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June. During this morning, new P1 pupils will spend the morning with Mrs Reap in the P1 classroom. At the end of the morning session, pupils can stay with their parents for lunch in our canteen.

**Primary 2-Primary 7 pupils for 2017-18** - we have in the past arranged a 'Move Up' afternoon, where all classes move to meet their new teacher. Due to the potential number of anticipated teaching changes, we will endeavor for each class to meet their new teacher before the summer holidays, on an individual basis.

## Au Revoir Mrs. Bennie!

Mrs Bennie has intimated her intention to retire in June, at the end of this current session. Mrs Bennie is a long serving member of our teaching staff, and has taught many of our pupils (and some parents), both past and present. Her contributions to school life during this time have benefited pupils, parents and colleagues and are appreciated and valued immensely.

On behalf of our school community, I thank Mrs Bennie for her professional commitment during her time at Chirnside Primary School, and wish her well for her future.

## ELCC Senior Nursery Nurse

Congratulations to Mrs Lugget who has been successful in her application for the position of Senior Nursery Nurse in our Early Learning and Childcare class. Mrs Lugget will begin her position as from August 2017.

## New Teaching Staff for 2017-18

At the moment, we envisage the following teaching vacancies to be filled for August 2017:

- Vacancy (Mrs Gordon's position) – we are interviewing for this post on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June. We hope for the successful candidate will start in August 2017.
- Vacancy (Maternity Leave) – Ms. Milne, currently teaching P7, is due to begin her maternity leave at the beginning of next session. We will appoint a temporary class teacher to cover this vacancy for the duration of Ms. Milne's leave. We are hopeful that this appointment will be confirmed by the end of June.
- Vacancy (Mrs. Bennie's retirement) – I can confirm that we will be joined by Mrs P Lannagan, as class teacher next session, to fill this vacancy.
- Vacancy – additional class (dependent upon school roll numbers not decreasing) – a class teacher to be allocated by the authority before the end of June, should we move to eight classes.

Once teachers have been confirmed, I will write to pupils and parents informing them of the particular stage teachers will be assigned for next session.

## Primary 7s Rotary Quiz Final

Last Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, Rebecca, Georgia, Alfie and Liam travelled with Mr. Trussler to Selkirk High School to represent Berwickshire Schools in the Borders Primary Rotary Quiz Final.

There were 7 other teams in the final. Rounds included questions on Literacy, Numeracy, World Religions, Science and Technology, People and Place as well as pot luck.

Team Chirnside came in a very credible fourth, behind Priorsford PS, Melrose PS and Yarrow PS. Well done to our competitors for their efforts.

## Shorts and Shades Organisers' Meeting

Parents are invited to attend a Shorts and Shades organizing meeting, to be held on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6:30pm** in school.



Please contact the Parent Council email address ([chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk](mailto:chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk)) to confirm you are able to attend, or that you can help on the night of the Shorts 'n' Shades disco (the evening of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June).

### **Pupil Equity Fund**

In August, Chirnside Primary School will receive Pupil Equity Funding of £37,200. This money is awarded to schools by Scottish Government. The purpose of the funding is to support developments and approaches designed to close the gap between lowest and highest achieving pupils in schools. Each school is required to submit a plan to show how they will use the additional funding to address their attainment gap.

Our main proposal is to use our PEF to recruit two part-time classroom assistants, to work under the direction of our Support for Learning Teacher and Class Teachers. Classroom Assistants will deliver targeted support in Literacy and Numeracy to identified individuals and small groups, on a little and often basis (short sessions on a daily basis).

### **"Alert to Parents - Blue Whale Challenge"**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised by PC Sharon Lackenby to share the following information with parents regarding a dangerous online game called the Blue Whale Challenge.

The Blue Whale Challenge is an internet based game that has resulted in many deaths in several countries; Russia has attributed over 130 deaths to this. The challenge is believed to be spreading across Europe; Belgian and French police officially warned parents and teenagers after three cases were reported in Belgium recently.

The administrator / curator of the challenge picks on vulnerable children and adults and gives them 50 challenges over a period of weeks, which culminates in suicide (challenge number 50).

The majority of the challenges involve self-harm followed by sending a picture to the curator as proof. If a child is identified within these challenges please get advice immediately, contact the school, the police or Children's Services

### **School Uniform**

A reminder to parents regarding school uniform orders for next session went home last week. Parents can order via the school office or online. Orders to the office should be made by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Orders on line can be made up to 5<sup>th</sup> June. All orders made during these times can be delivered to school for collection. Any orders placed after these deadlines can be delivered to school and collected on 14<sup>th</sup> August (Inset) or 15<sup>th</sup> August (Pupils return to school).


School uniform at Chirnside Primary School is as follows (from school handbook):

- Boys: Trousers- black or grey; Shirt - white or navy; Pullover/Sweatshirt (P1-6) - navy
- Girls: Skirt / Trousers - navy, grey or black; Blouse - white or navy; Pullover/Cardigan/Sweatshirt - navy
- Primary 7 pupils should purchase a 'Senior Pupil' sweatshirt in grey.
- Children should wear shorts and T-shirt for all P.E. activities. Shirts worn in school should not show any advertising for alcohol. 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.
- Each child should have a painting / craft smock e.g. old shirt, apron.
- All children's school clothing should be clearly named so that it can be easily identified if mislaid. Please help with this.



**DISCUSSIONS**

**MARY SOMERVILLE**  
**SELF-TAUGHT WOMAN OF SCIENCE**  
 Illustrated talk with Isabel Gordon



Discover how Jedburgh's scientist extraordinaire, Mary Somerville, transformed herself from a young woman with an extremely limited education into a renowned mathematician, bestselling science writer and astronomer who helped detect Neptune!

**KELSO LIBRARY CONTACT CENTRE**  
 BOWMONT STREET, KELSO TD5 7JH

**WEDNESDAY 24 MAY - 2.30PM**

**BOOKING REQUIRED**  
 CONTACT LIVE BORDERS LIBRARY HQ: 01750 726400  
 EMAIL: [LIBRARIES@LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK](mailto:LIBRARIES@LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK)

FOR FESTIVAL TICKETS, INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK)

LIVE BORDERS

**THEATRE**

**TWITAWOO**  
 By Vision Mechanics



Owl, Badger, Squirrel, Pine Marten and friends all live in the woods. They love it there and they especially love Gerry, the Forest Ranger, who has a hard time looking after them and managing the forest.

Gerry wants to win the tidiest forest in Scotland competition but there is a lot of waste to clear up. Meanwhile an owl in the nearby forest has gone missing... Join the fun to find out what adventures the forest friends get up to!



**CRANSHAW VILLAGE HALL**  
 Cranshaw, Duns TD11 3SJ

**SATURDAY 20 MAY - 2.30PM**

**BOOKING REQUIRED. PAY WHAT YOU WISH. POST-SHOW COLLECTION.**  
 TEL: 01361 890384  
 EMAIL: [wendy.dawson-young@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendy.dawson-young@hotmail.co.uk)

Children under 8 accompanied by an adult please

FOR FESTIVAL TICKETS, INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK)

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**PUBLIC PROG.**

**ANIMATION WORKSHOP**  
**FABULOUS FROGS with SIMONE RUSSELL**

Join Simone Russell and she will help you create your very own stop frame animation about frogs, their transformation from frog spawn to tadpoles and the adventures you think they get up to!

There will be googly eyes and crafty materials and you'll even get to do a voice-over for your froggy characters!

**Bring a drink and refreshments**

**EYEMOUTH LIBRARY**  
 MARISE ROAD, EYEMOUTH TD14 5JE

**SATURDAY 20th MAY 10am – 1pm**

**Ages 7-11 Children under 8 accompanied by an adult please**

**BOOKING REQUIRED: Admission £3 per child**  
 CONTACT LIVE BORDERS LIBRARY HQ: 01750 726400  
 EMAIL: [LIBRARIES@LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK](mailto:LIBRARIES@LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK)

FOR FESTIVAL TICKETS, INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK](http://WWW.LIVEBORDERS1.ORG.UK)

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### BORDERS SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Borders Science Festival takes place this month. There are a number of science based activities for all the family planned. Some are in the local area. See individual adverts for more details.



# HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

A chance to meet up with other parents and discover you're not alone in some of the highs and lows of parenting

**DATE:** THURSDAY 1ST JUNE FOR 4 WEEKS


**TIME:** 7.30-9.30pm

**VENUE:** TBC

**COST:** £10 includes refreshments

**BOOKINGS/ENQUIRIES:** [parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:parentspace4p@gmail.com)

[Parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:Parentspace4p@gmail.com)  
[www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com](http://www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com)



# HANDLING ANGER IN THE FAMILY

Four sessions for anyone who knows that anger is normal, but can be difficult to manage. Suitable if you have children aged 5-16 years.

- WEEK 1:** Managing our anger - Part 1
- WEEK 2:** Managing our anger - Part 2
- WEEK 3:** Helping children manage anger - Part 1
- WEEK 4:** Helping children manage anger - Part 2

[Parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:Parentspace4p@gmail.com)  
[www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com](http://www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com)



# PARENTING IN THE PRIMARY YEARS

Six weekly sessions for anyone parenting 5-11 year olds

We know how busy life can be and so we've taken the best of our six week series and put them into four. Join us over coffee and cake.

**Date:** Wednesdays from 31st May

**Time:** 1-3pm

**Venue:** Duns Parish Church Halls

**Cost:** £10 payable on the first day, includes handbook and refreshments each week.

**Bookings/Enquiries email:** [parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:parentspace4p@gmail.com)

[Parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:Parentspace4p@gmail.com)  
[www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com](http://www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com)



# PARENTING IN THE PRIMARY YEARS

Six weekly sessions providing a space to explore ideas and information for you and your children. Suited to those parenting children aged 5-11 years

- WEEK 1:** Why it's tough being a parent
- WEEK 2:** Building an emotional bank account
- WEEK 3:** Feelings and listening
- WEEK 4:** Boundaries and parenting styles
- WEEK 5:** Keeping children safe online and in other ways
- WEEK 6:** Building strong families

[Parentspace4p@gmail.com](mailto:Parentspace4p@gmail.com)  
[www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com](http://www.parentspace4p.wordpress.com)

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**School term dates for 2016/17****Summer term**

- 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