

NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

CHIRNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

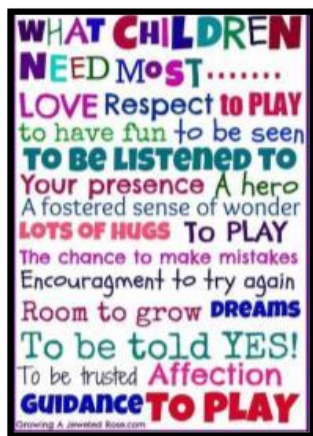
Our term is well under way and Christmas is fast approaching! As well as the festive preparations, learning and social activities we have planned, our teaching staff continue to develop our curriculum further to meet the needs of our learners.

I am often asked what curriculum means, what it is and how it meets learners' needs. Our curriculum is made up of four key components:

1. Curricular subjects,
2. Interdisciplinary learning (learning joined up from different curriculum areas and sometimes project based),
3. Personalisation and choice,
4. The life and ethos of the school.

Our curriculum is the range of learning experiences we offer pupils across these four key components. We arrange these experiences in blocks of learning across the year.

All our children are unique and have needs which are unique to them. We take these as the starting point for your child's learning. In a broader sense, there are a range of needs that all our children have (see right), and we all have a responsibility to meet these needs together working in partnership with you.



Kind regards,

Nick Trussler Nick Trussler – Headteacher

Upcoming Events

9th November – Focus Learning Week 1

11th November – Wear something red for Remembrance Day

11th November – Basketball Club P5-P7 starts at 15.20

12th and 13th November – In-service Days

20th November – Children in Need

23rd November – Road Safety Week

23rd November – National Book Week

27th November – Christmas Fayre starts 6.30pm

30th November – St Andrew's Day holiday

7th December – Rag Bag collection

8th December – National Dental Inspection P1 and P7 pupils

9th December – P4-7 60s Performance (afternoon)

10th December – Pantomime: 'A Christmas Carol' (morning)

10th December – Christmas Lunch

10th December – P4-7 60s Performance (evening)

14th December – P1-3 Christmas Party

15th December – P1-3 Nativity

16th December – P4-5 Christmas Party

17th December – P6-7 Christmas Party

18th December – Christmas Service in the Parish Church at 10.30am

Focus Learning Week

Our first 'Focus Learning Week' for this school year will start on Monday 9th November. During the week, pupils will record evidence of their learning in their Personal Learning Plan. Your child's Learning Plan will come home prior to Parent Evenings for your information and for you to discuss with your child

We will be developing the use of Personal Learning Plans further this school year to include 'Learning Overviews' for each of block of learning that will give parents and pupils a flavour of the learning planned at the start of each block of learning. With the help of parents, we will also begin to use Personal Learning Plans to help pupils record their wider achievement and successes out with school.

Nursery Garden Makeover

The nursery garden has under gone a major make over in recent week. Under the expert guidance of Mr and Mrs Watson, the weeds and undergrowth have disappeared, and in its place are well maintained beds with a variety of plants designed to stimulate the senses of touch, smell and vision.

On behalf of the pupils, parents and school staff I'd like to thank Mr and Mrs Watson for their hard work and the time that they have committed to this project. We'd like to invite any interested parents who would like to help Mr and Mrs Watson in future



PARENT COUNCIL

Meeting



November 2015

At 7.30pm

In Chirnside Primary School

All Parents Encouraged to
Attend

Work Experience Pupils

Next week, Monday 9th November to Wednesday 11th November, we are having five of our former pupils return to take part in a block of work experience. Two pupils of the Berwickshire High School pupils will be working with Mrs Miller in PE. The other three pupils will be placed in nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2.

Children in Need

As Children in Need day falls on Friday 13th November (In-service) this year, Primary 7 will be organising a variety of fundraising activities for the morning of Friday 20th November for Primary 1-7 pupils.



In-service Days

Next week, school is closed to pupils on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November for In-service.

Book Week



A celebration of reading commences as part of 'Book Week' on Monday 23rd November. As part of Book Week, Primary 1 pupils will receive a free 'Book Bug' bag, containing books, games and ideas to support parents in nurturing a love of books with their children. These book bags will come home with Primary 1 pupils at the start of the week.

Parent Evenings

Parent evening appointments are planned for Monday 23rd November, Tuesday 24th November and Wednesday 25th November from 5pm to 7pm. Appointment times will be organised by Mrs Gregory in due course.

Mr Paterson, our Kitchen Manager, will be providing an opportunity for parents to sample some dishes from our Dinner Menu as well as answering any questions parents may have around school meals.

Whizzkidz After School Care will also be present in the canteen to share with parents information about their service.

Mrs. Lugget and Mrs. Purvis will also be available to share information on the Wrap Around service that they provide to nursery parents.

Road Safety Week

Our Junior Road Safety Officers, Nathan, Georgia, Anna and Shannon will be promoting road safety with pupils in the run up to Road Safety Week, starting on Monday 23rd November. Some of their attention will be on promoting 'Be Bright, Be Seen' with pupils and 'Responsible Parking' with parents. More details to follow...



St Andrew's Day Holiday

Monday 30th November is the annual St Andrew's Day Holiday for pupils and staff. Please note school is closed for Monday 30th November and will reopen on Tuesday 1st December.

Christmas Arrangements

P1-3 Nativity

This year, Primary 1-3 pupils will perform their nativity on Tuesday 15th December at 14.00
Doors open at 13.30, with a silver collection at the door for charity. The title of the nativity remains top secret at the moment, but all will be revealed nearer the time!

P4-7 Performance

This year, Primary 4-7 will be performing a dramatisation based upon their learning in their 1960s topic. There will be two performances times for parents to choose from:

Afternoon performance: Wednesday 9th December at 13.30 or

Evening performance: Thursday 10th December at 18.30

More information to follow...

Parties

Christmas party dates have been set as follows:

P1-3: Afternoon of Monday 14th December

P4-5: Afternoon of Wednesday 16th December

P6-7: Afternoon of Thursday 17th December

If children wish, they can bring party clothes in the morning to change into after lunch. **Please note this is not compulsory.**

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff will be held on Thursday 10th December. There will be a change to options on lunch envelopes for this day. Details will come home the week before on Tuesday 1st December.

Church Service

The end of term Christmas service will be held in the Parish Church on Friday 18th December, starting at 10.30am. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Pupil Learning Council

Homework survey

Members of our Pupil Learning Council will be gathering pupils' opinions on homework tasks over the next few weeks to evaluate the impact of the new homework approach launched earlier this school year. Results from the survey will be shared with parents at Parent Evenings (23-25th November) where parent views on the new homework approach will also be surveyed.

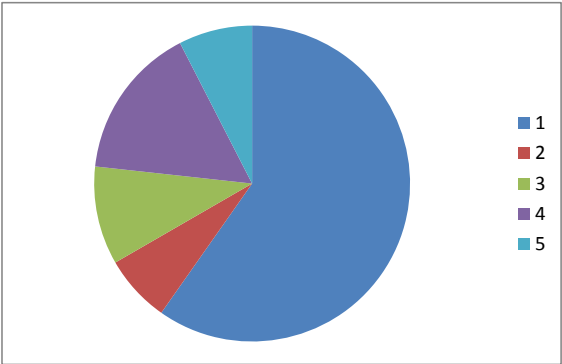
New Stage Curtains

The Pupil Learning Council has carried out a survey of pupils to gauge their opinion on a colour for some new stage curtains for the hall. The results were as follows...

- 1. Midnight Blue
- 2. Purple
- 3. Plum
- 4. Red
- 5. Orchard Pink

Midnight Blue was the colour chosen for new stage curtains by P1-P7 pupils.

Mrs Simpson is now going to start work on the new curtains!



Wear Something Red Day – Wednesday 11th November



Wednesday 11th November is Remembrance Day.

Everyone is encouraged to wear a red item for the day to acknowledge and remember those who have given their lives in conflict.

We will observe a one minute silence at 11am on Wednesday morning.

Curriculum Network Update

Our curriculum computers in classroom will be updated next week, with work commencing on Wednesday 11th November and continuing on the in-service days. This arrangement will help to keep inconvenience to pupil learning to a minimum.

Polite Request

Due to the health needs of an individual pupil in school, it would be appreciated if parents could inform the school if they are aware of any occurrences of chickenpox, mumps, measles etc. within their family.

Building Works Update

The new infant toilet and canteen store build is due to be completed week by the end of November. If you have any questions or points you wish to be raised [regarding the ongoing works](#), please email (nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk) or call on 01890 818274.

Breakfast Bar

~~Last term we ran a Breakfast Club for pupils to gauge interest and need for this service. It proved to be very popular with pupils. As a result of this market research, we have decided to reopen our Breakfast Bar in the canteen on a term by term basis.~~

~~Opening times for the Breakfast Bar are 8.30am – 8.50am (last serving at 8.45am). On offer are cereals, fruit, milk and water. There is a small charge of 20p per pupil per day for this service.~~

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Improving Learning Update:

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Last month (October 2015) we:

- Attended training on Modern Languages teaching with other Berwickshire primary schools.
- Developed a Modern Languages progression and have begun to trial this with pupils.
- Developed approaches to sharing planned learning with parents and pupils through learning overviews ready for implementation in Personal Learning Plans in January 2016.
- Developed a progression for teaching spelling in primary classes. This will be piloted by a working group of teachers with their classes in January 2016 before implementing in all classes for April to June 2016.
- Developed a mental agility progression for numeracy for all classes. This will be piloted by a working group of teachers with their classes in January 2016 before implementing in all classes for April to June 2016.

This month (November 2015):

- Mrs Reap will be working with other primary teachers from Berwickshire cluster schools on 'Critical Reading' approaches. She will be using these approaches on a 'test for change' basis with her Primary 5 class to develop a wider range of reading skills with her pupils.
- A group of teachers will continue to use 'Practitioner Enquiry' approaches to develop an aspect of their teaching practice and evaluate the impact of this upon pupils' learning.
- A group of teachers will continue to develop a teaching and learning progression for Religious and Moral Education.
- Some teaching staff are attending a twilight Child Protection Training Refresher at Ayton Primary School.

School Staffing Update

We are pleased to inform parents that Mrs. P Purvis has been recommended for the vacancy of Childcare Worker in our Wrap-Around Service. Mrs Purvis has been covering the post temporarily since the summer.

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



Chirnside Whizzkidz have recently launched our Facebook page with great success. It has information about upcoming events, advice and a taste of the activities that the children have done. You can also contact us through the page and we will do our best to help. If you get a chance, have a look and like us!!

The children have been very busy at Whizzkidz lately. From creating Mosaic Tiles, Melted Wax Art, Dream Catchers, and much, much more. These works of art are on display in the Whizzkidz room. We would invite parents and children to come along and have a look at what the children have achieved.

The children have also been cooking and baking up a storm, a real favourite. Our latest efforts were bonfire cupcakes. They looked and tasted amazing!!



If you would like any further information you can contact us on 07950216858, call in and see us (just follow the orange arrows) or leave us a message on facebook. Registration Forms are available at the school office. And look out for the weekly leaflet with the following weeks' activities.