

OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Chirnside Primary School,

Chirnside, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3XH

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

October brings the end of first term and an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in all our learning journeys (pupils, staff and parents included!).

However, learning can be messy, and more often than not, never takes a 'straight path! With this in mind, it is important to remember the message contained in the illustration (right).

This week you have had the opportunity to **focus** on some examples of learning with your child contained in their Learning Log. As the school year continues, these and additional pieces will **capture** the amazing steps that your child will take on their **developing** journey with us this session.

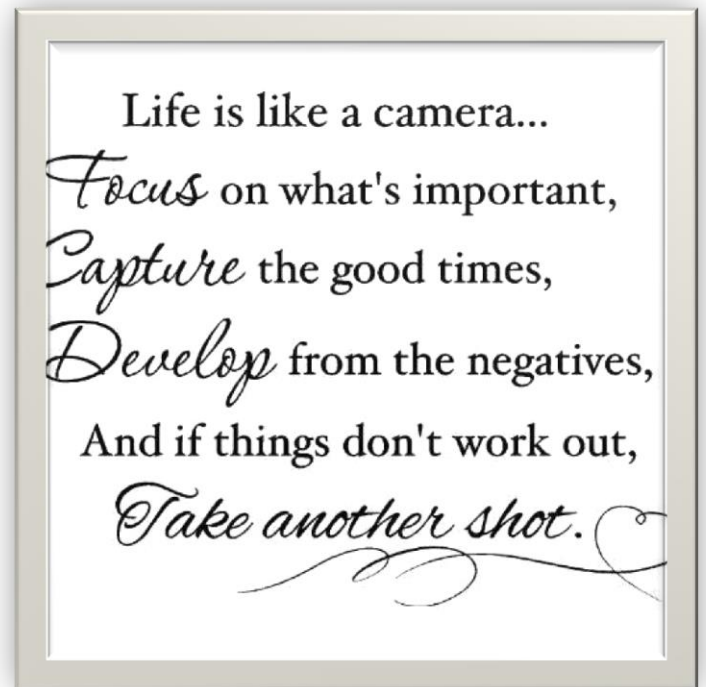
We asked you to add your own examples of your child's successes from home to their Learning Log. The time you spend with your child talking about and praising their achievements will develop your child's confidence in their own abilities and create responsibility within them towards their own learning, both now and for the future.

Most importantly, when learning becomes difficult and success is not so easy to come by, your children will need our and your time, support and encouragement to **'take another shot'** and persevere with their efforts.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Trussler

Nick Trussler – Head Teacher



Staffing Update

- **Support For Learning** – Mrs McGregor retires from her post as Support for Learning Teacher this Thursday (6th October). I wish to thank Mrs McGregor for her longstanding professional commitment to our learners, and supporting them and their families on their learning journeys during her many years here at Chirnside Primary School. We wish her well on her new adventures, and hope to see her in the not too distant future as one of our growing supply teacher team!
I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Caroline Smith to the position of Support for Learning Teacher as of Monday 17th October. Mrs Smith is an experienced Support for Learning Teacher and we have welcomed her into school this week, when she has met with pupils who she will be supporting next term.
If they wish, parents of pupils who are receiving learning support are invited to make an appointment to meet with Mrs Smith after the October holiday. Please contact the school office to make arrangements.

Replacement Windows

During the October break, Scottish Borders Council contractors will be replacing windows to the rear of the East Wing of the school (Primary 6 and 7 classrooms upstairs, ELC downstairs, senior pupil toilets downstairs and hall corridor).

Infectious Illnesses

Please can parents 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.

Upcoming Events

07.10.16 Berwickshire Local Holiday
– School Closed

10-14.10.16 October Holiday Week
– School Closed

17.10.16 School reopens for pupils and staff.

17.10.16 P7 Swimming block commences at Duns Pool

20.10.16 and 21.10.16 School Photographs – Yid Photography.
(Parent helpers required – see article)

24.10.16 BHS Pupil Work Placements for the week.

10.11.16 and 11.11.16 Inservice – School closed to pupils.

Community Groups

Mondays – Rainbows and Brownies
5.45pm

Wednesdays – Toddlers meet in the Community Room 9-11am

Parent Evenings

We held our parent evenings on the 19th, 20th and 21st of September. Attendance was excellent, with an overall attendance rate of 88%. Individual attendances are displayed below for your information:

	Class Roll	Attendance	% Attended
CLASS			
P1	23	22	96%
P2	25	24	96%
P3	21	18	86%
P4	26	21	81%
P5	26	25	96%
P6	27	20	74%
P7	19	16	84%
Overall	167	146	88%

If you were unable to make your appointment, please contact the school office to rearrange a convenient time to discuss your child's learning with their class teacher.

Through our 'Exit Survey' we surveyed parents to find out their preference for the timings of parent appointments. The results are printed below:

	September	November	No Preference	Total Returns
Returns	64	24	7	95
%	67%	25%	7%	88% of families

The majority of parents preferred the earlier opportunity provided in September to meet with teachers, rather than the traditional appointments at the end of November. Those preferring the November option highlighted that later timings provided a better opportunity to view more examples of their child's work, whilst acknowledging that September did provide parents with an opportunity to meet with their class teacher earlier than had been the case in previous years.

Some suggestions for improvement included tea and coffee, examples of pupil learning in trays for parents to view prior to their appointment and visual displays of learning on corridor and classroom walls.

Thank you to everyone for sharing their views. These will be shared with parents at the Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 17th November, in the school at 6.30pm for further discussion and suggestions for next year.

Polite Parking Reminder

Parents are politely reminded that there is **no parent parking facility at the front of the school at the beginning or end of the school day or ELCC sessions**. All Early Learning and Childcare and Primary pupils and parents must **enter and leave the school grounds by the pedestrian gate** leading onto the school path.



- **There is no access at the front of the school for parents to bring children into or leave the playground at the beginning or end of the school day or ELC session.**
- **Do not bring your children from the A6105 into the school grounds. Please use pedestrian pathways leading to the school from the village.**
- **Primary pupils can be dropped off in the 'D' at the beginning of the school day, but vehicles must not be parked or left unattended in the 'D' at any time.**

We appreciate your continued support and adherence in this matter to ensure the safety of all our pupils by keeping them away from the busy A6015 at the front of the school.

Parent Council – Halloween Party and Christmas Fayre Planning Meeting

All parents are warmly invited to attend an organizing meeting for a pupil Halloween Disco and our Christmas Fayre.

The meeting is on **Thursday 6th October at 6.30pm in the school**. If you are unable to attend but can still help to organize and run both or either of the events, please email your details to our parent council chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk or pass them on to the school office.

Parent Council – AGM 2016

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Council AGM. The following parents agreed to form our Parent Council for 2016-17:

Emma Jones (P4 and P6), Joy Hope (ELC and P6), Beata Kedra-Jones (P4), Jo Stewart (P2 and P5), Chloe Anderson (P1), Janine Baron (P1 and P3), Lynda Clark (P6) Katrina Reynolds (P6), Catriona Craze (P6), Lesley Thomson (P5), Julien Lake (P1 and P3).

The following parents agreed to these positions:

- Chairperson: Lynda Clark
- Secretary: Lesley Thomson
- Treasurer: Julien Lake

Next Parent Council meeting will be Thursday 17th November at 18.30 in the school. Agenda items can be sent to the parent council email address chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk or handed into the school office by Monday 7th November. The agenda will be posted and sent home to parents on 10th November.

Don't forget the Halloween Party and Christmas Fayre planners meeting on this evening (Thursday 6th October) at 18.30 in the school.

#manyhandsmakelightwork

ELCC Enrolment

Enrolment for nursery places for 2017-18 will be held in November. Precise dates of enrolment week will be published in the press in due course. Start dates for 3 and 4 year olds are outlined below:

Stage	Date of Birth	Start Date
ELC4 (N5) – 4 Yr Olds	1/3/13 – 28/2/14	August 2017
ELC3 (N4) – 3 Yr Olds	1/3/14 – 31/8/14	August 2017
ELC3 (N4) – 3 Yr Olds	1/9/14 – 31/12/14	January 2018
ELC3 (N4) – 3 Yr Olds	1/1/15 – 28/2/15	April 2018

Class Assembly Dates for 2016-17

This session, class assemblies will be held on Fridays, **starting at 9.15am** and finishing at 9.45am. Parents are invited to attend and to stay afterwards to visit classes to see their child's learning journey and classwork examples.

- -Primary 1 - 27.01.17
- -Primary 2 - 02.06.17
- -Primary 3 - 17.03.17
- -Primary 4 - 26.05.17
- -Primary 5 - 24.02.17
- -Primary 6 - 05.05.17
- -Primary 7 - 25.11.16

School Photographs – Parent Helpers Required!

School photographs with Yid Photography, from Duns, will take place on **Thursday 20th October and Friday 21st October**. We **urgently** require the help of parents who will be able to help out on part of each day to collect pupils and siblings from classes for their photograph.

Please contact our Parent Council to indicate your availability to help at chirnsidepc@aol.co.uk or Mr. Trussler nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk.

We're Getting Better All the Time!

In September we...

- Began our study of 'Making Thinking Visible'. This three year project focuses on developing 'Thinking Routines' to extend and deepen pupils' thinking and become part of the fabric of everyday classroom life. This will promote improved pupil engagement with their learning.
- Planned the use of 'Critical Reading' strategies in all classes for next term. These approaches are designed to deepen pupil's reading experiences and develop reading skills for the world of work and life-long learning.

In October we will...

- Continue to explore the key concepts behind 'Making Thinking Visible' research and theory.
- Implement 'Critical Reading' approaches in all classes. Use these approaches as a focus for teachers to visit each other's classrooms to evaluate the impact upon pupil learning.