

CHIRNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Staff,

The new school year is well under way. We have another busy year ahead of us in terms of pupil learning and developing our curriculum further. In this newsletter you will find information on:

- Class topics and contexts for learning for the year
- Class assembly dates (all parents and family invited to attend)
- Homework approaches and expectations for primary classes
- Upcoming events (see right) where children will take their learning beyond the school
- Learning improvement update that summarises the curriculum developments we are working on

Of course, we cannot do this all on our own! We need parents and our community to work in partnership with us to help us ensure all pupils realise their fullest learning potential.

Our Parent Council has an important role in fulfilling parental involvement in the life and work of the school. I urge all parents to attend the Parent Council AGM on Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm in the school and ensure our collective effort in improving education at Chirnside Primary School grows from strength to strength.

Kind regards,

Nicholas Trussler

Nick Trussler – Headteacher

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 1st September (for four weeks) Fit 4 Fun project (all primary classes)

Wednesday 9th September: P6 Class Trip to Norham and Flodden – History Study

Thursday 17th September: P4 Trip to The Hirsell, Coldstream – 'Farm to Fork' project.

Week beginning 28th September: Health Week - Respectful Relationships and Positive Behaviour

Wednesday 30th September: P5 Rugby and P6/7 Hockey Festivals – Berwickshire High School

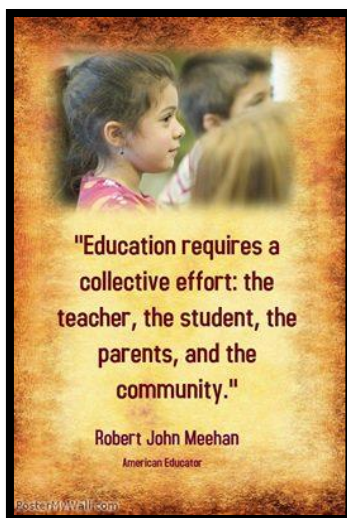
Thursday 1st October: Parent Council AGM – 7.30pm in the school.

Wednesday 7th October: Flu Immunisations (Primary Pupils).

Friday 9th October: Berwickshire local holiday – school closed.

Monday 12th to Friday 16th October – Holiday – School closed all week.

Monday 19th October: School reopens for pupils and staff.



Pupil Roll and Class Structure 2015-16

To the right is a summary for our current projected roll for this session.

We have a number of free pupil places at all stages, and therefore I envisage that we will remain at 7 primary classes for this session.

Our current total pupil roll is 188.

Building Works Update

I am attending a site meeting with architects and building contractors this Wednesday 9th September, to discuss ongoing building works at the school. Currently, the situation is:

- P4-P7 toilets are now fully refurbished.
- P1-P3 toilet block and canteen store under construction but 3-4 weeks behind schedule. Site meeting on Wednesday 9th September at 9.30am.
- P1-P3 girls using temporary toilet accommodation at rear of school.
- P1-P3 boys using standard accommodation.#

If you have any questions or points you wish to be raised, please email (nick.trussler@scotborders.gov.uk) or telephone me and I will raise these at the meeting.

Senior Lead Officer

As a result of a restructure of senior education staffing at Headquarters a number of new posts of Senior Lead Officer has been created for each high school and associated primaries. These posts have different assigned responsibilities for across the authority, with some Senior Lead Officers having an additional responsibility of overseeing schools in clusters.

Our SLO for Berwickshire (Berwickshire High School and associated primary schools) is Mrs Liz Wharton, who was previously Head Teacher at Duns Primary School. Mrs Wharton is keen to meet Parent Council members in the future and has asked for a list of future meeting dates so that she can coordinate her visits with other schools.

Stage	Pupil Numbers
ELCC3	11
ELCC4	20
Total ELCC Roll	31/2= 15.5 (16)
P1	23
P2	21
P3	23
P4	25
P5	28
P6	23
P7	29
Total Primary Roll	172
<u>Total School Roll</u>	<u>16+172=188</u>

Improving Learning Update:

This month we will be:

- Using a new literacy and numeracy skills progression to ensure a shared understanding of standards within our school and also with other primaries in Berwickshire.
- Using these progressions as a planning tool for Literacy and Numeracy this session. It is expected that Scottish Borders Council will produce authority wide progressions which all schools will adopt in the future.
- Beginning to use PLPs to record pupils' wider achievement in September. Information regarding parental and pupil involvement in this process will be sent home week beginning 21st September.

Health Week:

We are holding a Health Week during the week beginning 28th September. The purpose of the week is to build on the childrens' learning from the 'Fit 4 Fun' project currently running in primary classes. We will also focus on Respectful Relationships and Climates for Learning during this week, culminating in the launch of our revised 'Positive Behaviour Strategy'.

Class Teachers will plan the content of lessons and activities for Health Week on Monday 14th September 2015.

We are also embarking on 'Rights Respecting School Award' this year. Ms. Harvey is attending training on Wednesday 16th September, in Stirling on this award and will lead the initiative in school.

Road Works A6105:

I have received clarification from PMK Civil Engineers that road works on A6105 outside of school will be carried out during October holiday (Friday 9th – Monday 19th October 2015) to avoid congestion during drop off and pick up times.

PARENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Parents - you can raise money for Chirnside Primary School when ordering online with many large retailers!

Register with
www.Easyfundraising.org.uk
and when you shop with some of over 2700 retailers a donation from the retailers goes to our Parent Council.

It's so simple just sign up, shop online and you can raise lots of money for the school at no extra cost to you!

We are registered as Friends of Chirnside Primary School.

Please support us.

We will put a link on Facebook so make sure you like our School Facebook page too!

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.

Our Approach to Homework

Printed below is our approach to homework for your information.

We are implementing this approach this session in Primary 1-7. Our homework statement has been formulated from Parent Homework Survey responses (in November 2014) and outcomes from a teaching staff audit (April / May 2015).

The purpose of the statement is to ensure clarity, consistency and progression in terms of the purpose and expectations of homework.

We will evaluate this approach with parents at our November Parents Evenings (23-25th November 2015). The implementation of homework will be monitored as part of our planned self-evaluation activities this session.

Approaches to Homework

In order that we can support our pupils in fulfilling their learning potential, we recognise the crucial importance of an active educational partnership between home and school. Homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning.

What is the purpose of homework?

Regular, well planned homework can:

- Involve parents in their children's learning on a regular basis ensuring consistent support for a child in their learning.

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	Primary	Secondary
Registration	09.30	12.30
Race times*	P3 - 10.00 P4 - 10.25 P5 - 10.50 P6 - 11.25 P7 - 11.50	S1 - 13.00 S2 - 13.30 S3 - 14.15 S4-S6 - 15.15

*Race times are approximate

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- Consolidate children's learning further, out with the school environment, providing opportunities for children to link the relevance of their learning to their wider life experiences.
- Develop appropriate levels of pupils' independence towards their learning.

What is homework?

Homework is an extension of learning. There may be occasions when some tasks are more challenging or difficult than usual, as homework plays a positive role in raising a child's level of achievement and attainment through appropriate challenge.

We also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development.

We see homework as encompassing a wide range of possibilities. The following list gives just a few examples:

- reading and discussing a variety of texts with a parent or adult
- a visit to a local museum or place of interest
- finishing off or improving class work
- undertaking individual research for a project
- numeracy activities including learning number facts
- both written and verbal literacy activities
- being an active member of a sports club, community group or youth organisation

It can be seen from this list that homework can be a two way process. Teachers may ask for tasks to be done at home, but are delighted to learn about children's success in other aspects of their lives. We will seek to recognise this in school through the recording wider achievement in a child's Personal Learning Plan.

When teachers set homework they will ensure that:

- It is always clearly related to current areas of study within the classroom.
- The task is made clear to children and matched to their abilities, especially for those pupils with additional support needs.
- Homework is supported by a homework diary in which children and parents can note successes and record any problems encountered.
- Time scales for completion and submission are explicit.
- Work is marked as promptly as possible.
- Problems or difficulties encountered by children are dealt with swiftly.
- Regular completion of homework of a high standard is recognised and celebrated.
- All children will be expected to complete tasks. They will be given an opportunity to succeed in this through using a homework session in school leisure time if they continually fail to complete it.

Types and amount of homework

Types and amounts of homework that we give the children develop as they move through the school and are proportional to their individual needs and abilities.

Curriculum for Excellence Level	Class Level	Average Amount of Time Per Day (Monday – Thursday).	Types of Homework Tasks Set
Early	Primary 1	5-10 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading and associated discussion; letter sounds and phonics; key word recognition etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – number recognition; counting on and counting back; mental skills: adding and subtracting; number games etc.</p>
	Primary 2	5-10 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading and associated discussion; letter sounds and blends; key word recognition etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – number recognition; counting on and counting back; mental skills: adding and subtracting; number games etc.</p>
First	Primary 3	15 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading and associated comprehension and discussion; practice of phonic blends and spelling rules; key word recognition; sentence writing etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – mental skills: addition and subtraction; mental skills: multiplication tables; number games etc.</p>
	Primary 4	15 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading and associated comprehension and discussion; practice of phonic blends and spelling rules; key word recognition; sentence writing etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – mental skills: addition and subtraction; mental skills: multiplication tables and associated division; number games etc.</p>

Cont//.

Curriculum for Excellence Level	Class Level	Average Amount of Time Per Day (Monday – Thursday).	Types of Homework Tasks Set
Second	Primary 5	20 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading preparation, associated comprehension and discussion activities; practice spelling rules and specialist vocabulary related to topics and areas of study; sentences and short pieces of writing etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – mental skills: addition and subtraction; mental skills: multiplication tables and associated division; tasks developing understanding in other mathematical areas etc.</p>
	Primary 6	20 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading preparation, associated comprehension and discussion activities; practice spelling rules and specialist vocabulary related to topics and areas of study; short pieces of writing or research related to topics etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – mental skills and agility: addition and subtraction; mental skills and agility: multiplication tables and associated division; tasks developing understanding in other mathematical areas etc.</p>
	Primary 7	20 minutes	<p>Literacy – Reading preparation, associated comprehension and discussion activities; practice spelling rules and specialist vocabulary related to topics and areas of study; short pieces of writing or research related to topics etc.</p> <p>Numeracy – mental skills and agility: addition and subtraction; mental skills and agility: multiplication tables and associated division; tasks developing understanding in other mathematical areas etc.</p>

Children who do not complete their homework may be asked to stay in to do so at the teacher's discretion. If a child persistently does not complete homework then the teacher will contact the parents to work in partnership for the benefit of the child.

The role of parents

Parents need to discuss and agree with their children the following questions:

- When is it a good time to do homework?
- Where is the best place for homework to be done?
- What helps you to concentrate best?
- How long should your homework take?
- What kind of help or assistance might you need?

It is vital that parents display a positive attitude to homework and value its importance. It is also important for parents to recognise that, with their support and encouragement, it is the children's responsibility to complete the tasks set.

If parents have any problems or questions about homework, they should, in the first instance, contact the child's class teacher.

Pupils with additional support needs

We set homework for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a child has additional support needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way.

Monitoring and review

Our approach to homework will be evaluated with parents, staff and pupils at the beginning of each school session to ensure we meet the learning needs of all our pupils, as best we can.

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor pupil homework regularly as part of their ongoing self-evaluation work during the school session.

Mr. N. Trussler

Head Teacher

September 2015

Class Assembly Dates

We have set the following dates for class assemblies this session (see table right).

Please note that all class assemblies will be held on Thursdays **and not Fridays** as in previous years. This is to allow time for parents and pupils to enjoy refreshments and discussion in the canteen after assembly.

Grab and Go

If your child intends to take 'Grab and Go' for lunch, please mark their lunch envelope with 'G+G' on the days that they wish this option.

Lunch envelopes should be returned by Wednesday of the preceding week to ensure lunch orders can be made.

Primary 1 – 3 pupils continue to enjoy the privilege of 'Free Lunch Entitlement' as part of the Scottish Government initiative.

Class	Date of Class Assembly
P1	Thursday 04.02.16 at 9.15am
P2	Thursday 21.02.16 at 9.15am
P3	Thursday 17.03.16 at 9.15am
P4	Thursday 03.06.16 at 9.15am
P5	Thursday 21.01.16 at 9.15am
P6	Thursday 03.03.16 at 9.15am
P7	Thursday 29.10.15 at 9.15am

TOPIC OVERVIEW 2015-16

CLASS	BLOCK 1	BLOCK 2	BLOCK 3	BLOCK 4	BLOCK 5
ELCC	Topic: All about me Focus: Health and Wellbeing	Topic: Dinosaurs Focus: Social Subjects and Science	Topic: Traditional Tales Focus: Literacy	Topic: Pirates Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: The Seashore Focus: Science
P1	Topic: Minibeasts Focus: Science	Topic: Dinosaurs Focus: Numeracy and Social Subjects	Topic: Materials Focus: Science	Topic: Castles Focus: Literacy	Topic: Rainforests Focus: Expressive Arts
P2	Topic: Pirates Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: Solar System Focus: Science	Topic: Ancient Egypt Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: Senses Focus: Health and Wellbeing	Topic: Holidays Focus: Social Subjects
P3	Topic: Transport Focus: Technology and Social Subjects	Topic: Celts Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: Recycling and Litter Focus: Science	Topic: The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark Focus: Literacy	Topic: Olympics Focus: Health and Wellbeing
P4	Topic: Food and Farming Focus: Health and Wellbeing / Social Subjects	Topic: Electricity Focus: Science	Topic: Romans Focus: Social Studies	Topic: Plants/ Growth Focus: Science	Topic: Chirnside Focus: Social Studies
P5	Topic: Ourselves / The Body Focus: Health and Wellbeing / Science	Topic: The 60s Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: Scotland: Borders/Island Comparison Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: Forces / Electricity Focus: Science	Topic: Plants and Animals Focus: Science
P6	Topic: Our Border Story Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: The 60s Focus: Expressive Arts / Technology / Social Subjects	Topic: Fairtrade Focus: Technology / Social Subjects	Topic: Materials Focus: Technology / Science	Topic: Seashore Focus: Social Subjects / Science
P7	Topic: WW II Focus: Technology / Social Subjects	Topic: The 60s Focus: Expressive Arts / Technology / Social Subjects	Topic: Energy Focus: Science	Topic: Malawi Focus: Social Subjects	Topic: John Muir Focus: Social Subjects