



Sidlaw View Primary School November Newsletter



Inservice Days – School Improvement

We have just had two very successful inservice day training for staff. We have been working on our approaches to teaching writing in order to motivate our pupils and raise attainment.

Last session, we carried out a test of change in our P7 class focusing on daily writing with a specific focus on the tools for writing such as punctuation and vocabulary. This, along with the children being clear about their individual writing targets had a significant impact in raising attainment in the class. We spent our inservice day ensuring staff have the knowledge and skills to carry out this approach in all classes. Watch out for your children telling you about the 'Daily Write'. I'm looking forward to seeing children's writing improve due to this targeted approach.

School Developments – Every Dundee Learner Matters



All schools in Dundee are involved in innovative approaches to raising attainment supported by two top Professors in Education. This approach **Every Dundee Learner Matters** focusses on the 3 P's to raise attainment – **PRESENCE** (everyone being in school and learning), **PARTICIPATION** (innovative ways to increase engagement in learning) and **PROGRESS** (raising attainment for all learners).

For our Every Dundee Learner Matters development, we are focussing on pupils in P1. Our P1 children have experienced two lockdowns during their time at nursery and as a result they have potentially lost many early learning experiences. We will be focussing on 'closing the vocabulary gap' to give our P1 children the best start to their education. More detailed information will follow in the next few weeks for P1 parents.

Parents' Night

Unfortunately, we are still living with restrictions in place to reduce the spread of COVID. With this in mind, we still can't hold parents' nights in schools as we cannot have that number of people in school at the one time. We have put out a survey asking parents whether they would prefer a written report or a phone call to report back on your child's learning. We will go with the majority vote. I will keep you informed by the end of this week. Let's hope we can arrange face to face parents' nights by March next year.

Some children who require additional supports in school have an ABLe plan (**A**ddressing **B**arriers to **L**earning plan). Teaching staff are currently updating these and are in the process of arranging 1:1 meetings with parents at planned times to discuss the supports that are in place and get parental feedback. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need advice, support or have queries about your child's learning in school.

COVID update

We are still working under restrictions in school in order to keep everyone safe. Can I please ask for your support in the playground? The current policy is that all parents unless exempt should wear a mask when collecting their children from the playground. There is expected to be a rise in cases over the winter months and we are beginning to see a rise in numbers in school already. I would be grateful of your support to work together to help keep our staff, children and families safe.



Pupil Leadership Groups



We are pleased to share that we are continuing to develop opportunities for pupil leadership roles in the school. We now have a Learning Council, a Pupil Council, an Eco Group and Digital Leaders.

We are now planning to extend pupil leadership opportunities across the school by giving every child a chance to be a leader. Some ideas so far are Tuck Shop leaders responsible for advertising, ordering and selling of tuck shop goods, Reading Leaders responsible for supporting our younger children to learn to read and organising whole school reading events and Librarians responsible for organising and managing our school library.

We have started discussions with our Parent Council to gather their views of leadership roles children can have in the school. We will also be consulting with our pupils and staff as part of the planning process with the intention of starting this in January 2021. If you have ideas for pupil leadership opportunities in school, we would love to hear them. Watch this space!

Flu Vaccines

Just a reminder that the flu vaccination (nose spray) in school is on Wednesday 24th November. Please remember to return the NHS letter if you would like your child to receive this. Having the flu vaccination will help to keep our school community healthy.

Healthy Tuck Shop

Just a little reminder that our healthy tuck shop is up and running. There are a variety of snacks from 10p to 50p for the children to enjoy. It would be good to see the children choosing healthy snacks at breaktimes instead of sugary treats.



Parent Council

Our Parent Council meeting on 11th November was excellent with some fantastic contributions from all. I will shortly send out the minute of the meeting to keep you all updated. Should you wish to join the Parent Council in future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is important we all work together to gather the views of our school community to be the BEST school possible.

HMIE - Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education

We are looking forward to welcoming back HMIE on Thursday 18th November, to share our journey of school improvement. They will be meeting with our school partners, the Parent Council, pupils and staff as well as undertaking a series of class visits in order to report back on the progress of our school. I am looking forward to hearing their feedback.

Thank you for your continuous support.

**Kim Flynn
Head Teacher**



Keep an eye out for updates on your child's learning through:

The Sidlaw View Twitter Page - @SidlawViewPS