



Wednesday 21st September 2016

Dates for the Diary

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd
September

Activities week for Primary 7

Wednesday 21st Friday 23rd
September

Primary 7 at Dalguise

Thursday 22nd September

Night at the Museum sleep
over for P4-6

Evening Activities for p1-3

Friday 23rd September

P 1-6 trip to Stirling Castle

Tuesday 27th September

Grow your own loaf workshops
for p1-4

Wednesday 28th September

P5/6 Woodland Discovery Days
2016 Glen Finglas Visitor
Centre

Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th
September

Learning for sustainability focus

October

Wednesday 5th October

Parent School Improvement
Focus group

Thursday 6th October

National Poetry Day
Harvest Service led by Primary
1 / 2

October Holiday

Monday 10th – Friday 14th
October

Jeans for Genes Day - Friday 23rd September- Jeans for Genes day is coming and taking part is easy. If your child wishes to participate all they have to do is to wear a pair of their favourite jeans - they can be skinny, baggy, flared, ripped we don't mind - then make a £1 donation at school. By having a day in denim the children will be helping to make a difference to the lives of children across the UK who are affected by genetic disorders. Mrs Shanks has been in school speaking to all of the children in Primary 1-6 and explained to them a little about genetic disorders so the children are aware of the charity they will be supporting. We know we are all at Stirling Castle on Friday, but children may wear jeans if they wish with their school sweatshirts on the trip.

Arrangements for Stirling Castle Trip - We are all very much looking forward to all we have in store this week. It will be lovely to see so many of our children joining us for our evening at the Smith Museum followed by our Museum sleep over. Children who are sleeping over will be provided with a breakfast and all allergies have been catered for. These children will also require a packed lunch for the trip to Stirling Castle, this can be provided by the school kitchens and will be brought to the castle by Mrs Kinvig. If you would like to provide your child, who is sleeping over, with a lunch, Mrs Booij is accompanying us on the trip and is more than happy to bring their packed lunches with her. Please just ensure that you bring your child's lunch to the school for 9am in a clearly labelled bag. The children who are sleeping over, will not be expected to transport their luggage with them on Friday and this will be collected and brought back to school for them. The P4-7 children will return to school on the train. We are looking forward to a fun filled couple of days and we hope the children enjoy themselves.

Absence - If your child is absent from school please contact us before 9.30am. Pupils who have had sickness or diarrhoea should not be at school until 48 hours after their symptoms have gone - your support in adhering to these NHS guidelines will help prevent the spread of illness in school.

Parental Focus Group - On Wednesday 5th October from 9am - 10.30am we invite parents to join us to help with our termly review of our progress with this sessions School Improvement Plan.

First Minister's Reading Challenge:- As a school we have entered the First Minister's reading challenge. Every child in Primary 4-7 will be provided with a reading passport and be encouraged to complete this as part of the challenge. This will be supported by our local Librarians and the children's fortnightly visits to the library. All children in P4-7 are encouraged to enter the competition and challenges will be set as part of the children's literacy homework. If you would like to support your child with this and encourage them to enter any of the challenges information can be found at www.readingchallenge.scot/parents. Children in Primary 1-3 will receive literacy and numeracy bags as part of the Read, Write, Count initiative and more information will follow once these have been issued.

Learning for Sustainability:- As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we have been very fortunate to be awarded over £2,000 to support us improving our outdoor learning environment allowing our children to grow and harvest their own produce. As part of this, the children in primary 1-4 will receive a "grow your own loaf" workshop from the Royal Highland Educational Trust on Tuesday 27th September. This will result in the children planting wheat seeds in our new raised beds with a view to harvesting this in order to make their own bread.

Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th September have been dedicated to establishing our new Barrel Orchard. On Wednesday we will take delivery of ten whisky barrels that will then be filled with compost. On Thursday a wonderful range of heritage fruiting trees and bushes will be delivered and the children will be supported in planting up the barrels and becoming experts on the various varieties that they have planted. On Friday we will finish off many additional gardening tasks including building a composting area, constructing additional seating and refilling planters. On the Wednesday we are delighted to have the help of the Dunblane Development Trust, but would welcome any additional help from any of our parents. If there was anyone that is available on Friday and is happy to help support our children with the construction of flat pack garden furniture we would be exceptionally grateful. Please let the school know if you would be able to support in any way throughout these three days.

Given the work that will be on going in our school grounds please can you make sure that your children bring to school outdoor clothing that they can change into when they are participating in these outdoor tasks. This includes, waterproof jackets, trousers, sturdy footwear, tracksuit bottoms or trousers. These items will be kept in school until Friday as the children will be participating in various outdoor tasks throughout the week. We would appreciate your understanding and support as we try and improve our school grounds as we recognise that it may result in areas of our grounds not looking at their best, children getting muddy and dirty, but we hope that the outcome will provide an even richer learning environment for our children and learning community.

Retirement of Mrs Savage:- Last week we said farewell to Mrs Savage who had been part of our school team for 15 years. Mrs Savage will be very much missed by all of our pupils, staff and parents however she has promised to continue to visit us. Mrs Reid has also made a request to change her working contract and as a result of this the school will be advertising two permanent support for learning assistant posts in the up and coming weeks.

School Photographs:- We have arranged for Tempest photography to come into school on Wednesday 23rd of November to take family and individual photographs. The company has assured us that any orders placed for photographs will be fulfilled before Christmas.

Christmas Card Competition:- We have extended the date for this competition until Thursday 29th September. All parents and children have been asked to help design local Christmas cards. These could be photographs or hand drawn pictures of Dunblane and surroundings in winter or at Christmas. The winning designs, chosen by a panel of judges, will be printed with Christmas greetings and sold at the post office and the Christmas Fair.

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Weekly Events Reminder

Monday

- Violin tutor in school
- Reading café at lunchtime P1 -7 (Mrs Shanks supporting)

Tuesday

- Primary 5/6 swimming
- Badminton Club after school

Wednesday

- All classes:- Music with Karen Moore music specialist (fortnightly)
- All classes:- P1/2, P3/4 and P7 P.E with Mrs McLachlan (fortnightly)
- School Choir (Ms Johnston-Kehoe and Mrs Moore)
- Cross Country Club with Mrs Smith
- Squash at Dunblane Tennis and Squash Club
- Reading café (Mrs Kinvig and S6 pupil supporting)

Thursday

- 2.30pm Assembly with Reverend Nick Green
- Bagpipe tutor in school
- STEM Club (Mrs White, Mr Herbst and Mr Cornelliuss)

Friday All classes:- Responsibility Time Primary 6 / 7 cricket club at lunchtime

P.E Kit:- Please ensure your child has P.E Kit in school with them every day