



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Session 2019/2020!



I hope you have enjoyed a happy summer with your families. We are settling back to routine and it has been lovely to welcome everyone to school. We'd like to extend a special welcome to all our new pupils and their parents.

All classrooms are now refurbished and there is a very calm and more spacious feel across the school. Every room has been painted and re-carpeted and new furniture has been purchased to enhance this feeling of 'newness'.

Our new Primary One pupils have had a great start all together in their joint play and learning space (our gym hall). They are also using one of our Early Stages classrooms for parts of the day. We are hoping that the 4 new classrooms will be completed by mid to late September.

We have welcomed new members of staff to our school. Mr Thomson and Ms Innes have joined the teaching team and Mr Lynch and Mr Glass are now full time, permanent members of the team.

As always, we have lots of news to share in our first newsletter and I'd also like to reinforce some of our school procedures. Please take a few minutes to read these through.

### **Visiting School/Collecting Children**

Please remember that all visitors must report to the school office when they first come in to school – thank you. Please always use the main entrance (or the entrance opposite the office first thing in the morning). We'd also like to request that children are collected and returned to the school office when leaving school during the day for appointments. Parents need to sign children in and out – thank you.

### **Absences**

If your child is absent from school please phone the school office before 8.55am to ensure this important information is passed on to the class teacher. We have a dedicated absence line where a message can be left.

We would ask that you phone us each day of your child's absence or give us a return date. If we have not heard from you we will try and contact you by telephone. If we cannot account for your child, we will need to visit your home to confirm your child's safety.

Please also note that for school records we need to know why your child is absent e.g. tummy upset rather than just 'ill'.

Holidays in school time can be authorised under special circumstances. If you wish to take your child out of school then please write to me. If you'd like to discuss a proposed holiday, feel free to contact me.

### **Parent Pay**

We are now a cashless office (apart from school uniform orders), so please ensure that you are signed up for Parent Pay. Mrs Gallacher and Mrs Campbell in our school office are very happy to help with any queries.

For school lunches, please remember that all orders must be in place by Wednesday evening for the following week. If you haven't ordered by then, your child will need a packed lunch for the following week.

### **Medicines**

Attached to this newsletter is a medical form which we ask you to complete and return to school if you have updated medical information for your child. Some P1 families have completed this already and I have also recently met with parents to write care plans and many parents have returned asthma medication forms. Please don't feel the need to repeat this information if this has already been recorded for your child.

We are always happy to administer medication for your child but relevant forms **must** be completed first. These are available from our school office or downloaded from our school website. Please note the forms are slightly different depending on whether your child needs prescribed or non-prescribed medication – and depending on the length of time your child needs to take the medication. Please contact us to confirm the correct form if you are unsure. **Please also note we can only administer paracetamol, suncream and non-steroid topical creams or emollients without a prescription. All other medicines must be prescribed and in the original box with your child's name on.** I'm happy to discuss any health care needs with you if this is helpful.

### **Email Communication**

We continue to use email to communicate with families. If you don't currently receive emails or you are a new P1 family and haven't yet completed the reply slip, please use the one on this newsletter. Please also inform us if your email address has changed. Thank you.

### **Permission slips for school visits**

Mrs McLean has issued this form which can be used for most local visits for the whole school year. If you haven't returned this to school, please do so as soon as possible.

### **Permission to use your child's photograph**

In P1, we issue a permission form for the use of images and this permission lasts throughout primary school. This has however changed this year in light of the guidelines surrounding GDPR. For this reason, every child needs a new form completed. This is attached to this newsletter if you receive a paper copy. If

you receive this electronically then the form is in your child's school or book bag. I would appreciate if this could be returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

### **Cycling**

We do encourage children (and their parents) to cycle to school. We have reinforced our cycle safety rules with the children. The children should wear a helmet and we ask the children to dismount from their bikes at the school gate and take their bikes to the racks and safely lock them up. We ask that no child or parent cycles in the playground as it is just too busy. Thank you.

### **House Captains**

Last week we had our House Captain elections. We were impressed with the prospective House Captain speeches and Mrs McLean and I were delighted to share the results with the children. Congratulations to the following children:

Bruce - Harry McLaren and Olive Teece

Douglas – Olivia Haran and Skye Valentine

Stewart – Amelia Henderson and Jack Galloway

Wallace – Tara McKelvie and Lauren Dean

### **School Assemblies**

We haven't planned our assembly programme yet as we don't have the use of our gym hall. We will share this with you when it's in place and look forward to having you in school to share in your child's assembly.

### **NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH QUEENSFERRY – INFORMAL CONSULTATION EVENTS**

The Council plans to deliver a new primary school and nursery within South Queensferry to provide space for the significant number of new pupils expected to come from new housing development in the area. A site within the proposed housing development to the south of Builyleon Road has been identified for the new school.

The new school will require its own catchment area. This will mean changes to existing catchment area boundaries and could have implications for Queensferry Primary School, Echline Primary School and Dalmeny Primary School.

The Council will be holding 'drop-in' information events to share a proposal with parents, carers and local residents before we bring forward a formal consultation in Autumn.

**Tuesday 27 August 2019 – Queensferry Primary School, 4pm-7pm.**

**Wednesday 28 August 2019 – Echline Primary School, 4pm-7pm.**

**Tuesday 3 September 2019 – Dalmeny Primary School, 4pm–7pm.**

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposal. These will be informal events and open to all, you can come along at any time to any event.

Note - Council officers will also be available at pick-up time for parents/carers of children at the school where the event is being held.

### **Flu immunisation letters**

As in previous years, all primary school aged children will be offered the flu immunization in the Autumn term. This will be taking place within our school day on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Please look out for the invitation letter and leaflet which will come home from NHS Scotland. Within this will be a consent form and these need to be returned to school as quickly as possible.

Parents can visit [www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/childflu](http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/childflu) for further information.

**Planning for camps and outdoor learning** We know how much the children gain from learning in the outdoors and on residential experiences – and we also appreciate that families need to plan for the costs of these. Mrs McLean coordinates these excursions and gives significant advance notice and payment plans. To help with your planning for this, this is a guide to the most recent excursions with the costs. Costs change due to the charges from the organisation and the cost of travel but we still hope this is helpful just now. Mrs McLean or I are available to chat about planning for these if this is useful to you.

Stage	Residential/Outdoor Learning	Cost
Primary 3	Lowport Centre, Linlithgow – one overnight stay at the centre which includes evening meal, supper, breakfast, packed lunch on one of the days and bus travel to and from Linlithgow. Visit to the palace, walk around the loch and to the canal basin.	£66
Primary 5	Ardmay House, Arrochar – three night stay (normally Monday – Thursday). Three days of activities which can include rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, forest walk, problem solving, orienteering etc The cost includes all meals during the stay and bus travel to and from Arrochar.	£225
Primary 6	Ski lessons at Midlothian Snowsports Centre, Hillend, Edinburgh – weekly lessons on a Friday morning for six weeks. The cost includes tuition from qualified ski instructors at the centre and bus travel to and from Hillend.	£69
Primary 7	Benmore Outdoor Centre, near Dunoon – four night stay (Monday to Friday). The activities which the children undertake build on the experiences that they had at Ardmay House so the level of difficulty increases to provide more challenge. Activities include the high and low ropes courses, abseiling and climbing, kayaking/canoeing, the gorge walk, biking, night walk etc. The cost includes all meals during the stay. In previous years we undertook fund raising to pay for the cost of bus travel to and from Benmore.	£315

### **Planned gas works**

You may know that SGN are about to embark on a project to upgrade the local gas supply network in the Station Road area of South Queensferry which will take approximately 14 weeks to complete. The aim is for the works to start on Monday 2 September 2019 and it will impact on routes and streets around our school.

Regular updates will be posted on their website <https://www.sgn.co.uk/our-gas-works/roadworks-your-area> and using social media and traffic bulletins to keep everyone informed. Please do look out for this.

### **The Top Ten Sites in South Queensferry**

Last term, we asked for your ideas for the best places to visit in our town. You sent in lots of ideas and Isla and Roisin (now in P6) compiled these for us in to a top 10. Mabel and Georgina helped with the design of the poster and we've attached this for you and hope that you enjoy exploring all these wonderful places. (If you don't receive a paper copy and you'd like one, just let me know.)

**Visual Support Project** We are now part of the City of Edinburgh's project which uses consistent visuals across the school to support children. I have attached a letter with information for you.

**Family Learning Events** One of our first family learning event of the new school year will be on the evening of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – please keep the date (more details will come home nearer the time).

For your information, I've attached a further copy of the **school dates** for this session. Please note the dates of the holidays next May – these were amended so that the first May holiday is now Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May and coincides with the commemoration of VE Day.

### **And finally, a couple of dates for your diary:**

Our first PTA meeting of the new school year will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30pm to 7.30pm (venue to be confirmed) and our first Parent Council meeting of the new school year will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in school.

All parents are invited to attend these meetings and new members will be made very welcome. The support and partnership which we have with parents and carers is valued.

Please remember if you would like to speak with me then I can be contacted through the school office or via my email address: [karen.macgregor@queensferry-pri.edin.sch.uk](mailto:karen.macgregor@queensferry-pri.edin.sch.uk)

Wishing all of us a happy and successful year ahead.

Best wishes,

*Karen MacGregor*

Karen MacGregor  
Head Teacher

For news and updates about school life, please follow us on our school Twitter account @QueensferryPS

# Queensferry Primary School



## School Email Communication      *update*

Child(ren)'s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Class(es): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive newsletters and flyers through email communication. My email address is

and

## Queensferry Primary School



### Session Dates 2019/2020

#### Autumn

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 Staff resume (\*in-service day)
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 Staff only (\*in-service day)
- Term starts Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 for pupils
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Autumn holiday - schools closed
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 - mid term break (this break includes two in-service days for staff\*)
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 – pupils resume
- Term ends Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

#### Spring

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January/Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – staff resume (\*two in-service days)
- Term starts Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for pupils
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – mid term break
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – staff and pupils resume
- Term ends Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

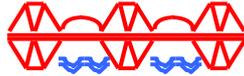
*The Easter break incorporates the following holidays*

- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Good Friday
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Easter Monday

#### Summer

- Term starts Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 for staff and pupils
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Staff only (in-service day\*)
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Day 2020 – VE Day – schools closed
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Victoria Day – schools closed
- Term ends Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Queensferry Primary School**



**Medical Records - Session 2019/2020 Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is vital for us to have an accurate picture of your child's medical needs. We would appreciate if you could complete this form and return it to school as soon as possible.

Name of Pupil \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Condition(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any other information which you feel we require:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If your child requires a course of medication we are happy to administer this as long as a parental form is completed. These will be available in the school office and must be completed before any medication will be administered.

Children with asthma require two inhalers in school. In P1-P3, one inhaler is kept with the class teacher and one centrally. From P4 upwards, the child is responsible for their inhaler and one continues to be stored centrally.

Should you wish to discuss any medical conditions, please contact me.

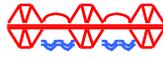
Thank you for help.

Yours sincerely

*Karen MacGregor*

Head Teacher

Parent/carer's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



August							September						
M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S
					3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- 23 Skiing begins for P6
- 27 Swimming begins for P5W
- 27 New primary school in South Queensferry – Information Consultation event (at QPS)

- 10 PTA Meeting at 6.30pm
- 16 Autumn Holiday (school closed to pupils and staff)
- 24 Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm
- 30 P7 Sports Event at QCHS

Future dates worth noting:

7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> October - Benmore for P7 pupils      Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October – first House Morning of the year

8<sup>th</sup> – Swimming begins for P5P

14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Midterm break (children resume on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October)

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Family Learning Event (Open evening for parents and carers)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November will be our Parents' Evenings.