



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Edinburgh
EH12 8PG

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Head Teacher: Mrs Rebecca Favier, BEd (*hons*), MEd.

23/09/2019

Newsletter No. 2

What a wonderful start we have had to the session. The children are well settled and **engaged in their learning**. As the nights start to draw in we are busy looking at the world around us; the colours on 'the hill' will shortly turn to red and gold and we are watching together to enjoy this change.

We have several **parents offering to volunteer** with us and, now we have a draft code of conduct for parent volunteers, have set the wheels in motion to use their skills and expertise to promote learning across the school. More details to follow. If you would like to volunteer with us please contact me via the school office. We would love to have you!

The **Parent Council AGM** led by chair Pippa Laing was extremely well attended and everyone appreciated the drinks and nibbles. The new constitution was approved and you can view this, along with all other Parent Council information, on the school website.

REMINDER: **30th October** Spooky Walk: a spooktacular Halloween event for the whole family organised by your Parent Council! Details to follow shortly but I can confirm that teaching staff will be attending in full costume!

There was much excitement this week when the newest member of our school community **Molly the Therapy Dog** joined us for her first visit. Molly and owner Gill thoroughly enjoyed visiting the classes and will work with us each fortnight from October.

Dress Down for the Society of St Vincent De Paul **Friday 27th September** (donation requested).

We know that 1 in 5 children in our city live in poverty and we are working hard to **poverty proof** our school and **reduce the cost of the school day**. Please remember that we can offer second hand uniform and referrals to the local foodbank should you require. We know how important and valuable **educational excursions** are to our pupils; indeed your children are telling us they would like regular opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. Unfortunately, excursions and events usually incur additional costs which can place financial pressure onto families. Going forward therefore families will be asked for a voluntary contribution for all excursions (other than residential) and events to ensure we are **poverty proofing our school**. We know that families who can pay do pay! Additionally, if you would like to make a higher contribution knowing this would support another pupil, you will be able to do this via the main office.

I am assured that all **building works** will be complete by the end of October. A new door/ window screen was installed at the backdoor to the school making a huge improvement. The gym and dining hall should be finished during the October holiday. Thank you for all your comments regarding the internal decoration and improvements.

You can find out all sorts of information about our work along with your child's weekly learning and home learning on our **website**. Please visit regularly.

Please do not **pass on messages or information to teachers or Pupil Support Assistants at the beginning and end of the school day** in the playground. Although this seems like a sensible, quick way to share information, the teachers have a number of duties at these times and are responsible for the safety of pupils and the security of the school. There have been occasions where messages were not passed on/ overlooked and this has caused unnecessary upset. Please pop round to the school office where Miss Tweedale will be happy to help you and ensure your information is shared appropriately. Alternatively, email the school office admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk or telephone 0131 339 2383.

If your **child feels unwell** within the school day they will always be seen by a qualified first aider. Often they will be offered a water or some fresh air and then closely monitored in class to ensure they are well enough for school. At other times, we will contact you because we believe your child is not fit for school and you will be asked to collect them. As we are not medical professionals we are unable to undertake any sort of medical assessments; this includes taking your child's temperature. We will ask you to collect them and seek medical advice.

All medication, whether prescribed or non prescribed, must be given/collected via the school office at the start and end of each day. All medication (creams, ointments, anti-biotics, short term medication etc.) requires a form to be completed. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY MEDICATION INTO SCHOOL VIA YOUR CHILD.**

Introducing the New Pupil Parliament

We are delighted to have been elected to serve our fellow students this session.. We have a very full school improvement plan to lead and have lots of ideas to consider, share and take forward!

Our first task however is to ask you some questions about break and lunch time. Please complete our survey coming out this week.
Thank you.



PUPIL PARLIAMENT TASK: SHARE YOUR VIEW! The benefits of being outdoors are clear. We believe that there is no poor weather; only inappropriate clothing! Please watch out for our play time and lunch time survey, created by our House Captains, coming home via the school bags next week.

We had a simply astonishing turn out for our first ever **Meet the Teacher Event** on Thursday 12th of September with over 50% of families attending. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive particularly about the following:

- the chance to meet your child's teacher but also being introduced to the larger staff team
- opportunities to see your child's classroom
- hearing about class routines both daily and weekly
- chatting to other parents and families
- hearing a little about school improvement priorities for this session
- hearing about the planned learning for the year and what is happening when!

Next session we intend to run the same event again but will perhaps tweak to ensure:

- the information about routines and school expectations are more specific to each year group
- more time is spent discussing the expectations for home learning and how parents/can help their child at home (see our website where there is plenty of advice about this!)
- that we limit the event to 'meet the teacher' and the Parent Council AGM; some parents/carers felt there was just a little too much to take in over the course of the evening and would have preferred more time to socialise informally in the hall.

If you have feedback to share regarding the Meet the Teacher event and have not had a chance to do so, please pop in or send us an email.

ATTAINMENT UPDATE

I am proud to present our pupil attainment data from last session. Our attainment is above the Edinburgh average in nearly all areas. This is the result of hard work, effort and dedication from our whole school community; pupils, parents/carers, teachers including support for learning, pupil support assistants, cluster colleagues and numerous professional partners including Speech and Language, English as an Additional Language and Educational Psychology.

Primary 1 Session 2018/2019

- almost all learners attained the expected level in numeracy
- most learners attained the expected level in reading, writing, listening and talking

Primary 4 Session 2018/2019

- most learners attained the expected level in numeracy
- most learners attained the expected level in reading, writing, listening and talking

Primary 7 Session 2018/2019

- all learners attained the expected level in numeracy
- almost all learners attained the expected level in reading, writing, listening and talking

PARENT WORKSHOP

Attunement is at the core of all positive interactions. It is being aware of, and responsive to, another. It is not always easy! This session will present a core set of principles to support and empower attuned caregiver-child relationships.

THE HUB, 9.30am-10:30am
Friday, 15th November

*Join us for a fun session facilitated by
Carmel Jacob-Thomson Educational*

Primary 1 learners have been out exploring the wider playground with Mrs Brannan this week in preparation for them moving beyond the current designated area. From next week, Primary 1 pupils will be supported by their buddies to access these new spaces during break and lunch time. Responsible citizens!

Primary 2 are learning about their local community and planning an excursion in our local area to make their learning real! Watch this space!

Primary 3 have been learning all about stars and how they are formed. They have been creating their own star constellations. Very inspiring!

Primary 4 are thinking of the 'big questions' and enjoying the feeling of 'wondering'. Sometimes linked with classroom learning and sometimes just 'because', they are nurturing their own curiosity and that of their peers. Thought provoking!

Primary 5 are busy investigating 'light' as they work to explore reflections, the formation of shadows and the mixing of coloured lights. They can use their new knowledge of the properties of light to create a shadow puppet show. Amazing!

Primary 6 had an amazing time at the outdoor learning event at Holyrood Park organised by the outdoor learning team. Team work and problem-solving skills were used skilfully to ensure you were super successful. Great work!

Primary 7 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP. The atmosphere in the classroom was electric the pupils staged a mock debate with huge 's enthusiasm! Even more impressive was Mr Cole Hamilton's tweet to Miss Glen 'Your pupils are so well informed'. High praise indeed and genuine feedback about the quality of our work. A great example to us all; well done Primary 7.

The start and end of the school day are busy times on the streets surrounding the school. May I ask that you continue to park as far away as possible and walk in to drop/collect your child; thank you to those that park responsibly. Please do not park on grass verges around the school as this is damaging the local environment. If you do happen to witness **dangerous driving or parking**, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or if urgent 999.

Wellbeing at St. Andrews

We need to be SHANARRI to make sure

Safe

Healthy

Achieving

Nurtured

Active

Responsible

Respected

Included

nurture inspire flourish

Produced by: Lois



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Produced by: Liam



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Please remember to telephone (0131 339 2383) or email (admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk) the school office if your child is going to be **late/ absent**. This information should be given to the school office rather than the class teacher, head teacher or a Pupil Support Assistant.

Many thanks to the Phipps family for **donating a lovely microwave** oven to our school; we will be baking our first cake next week!

We all have a duty to protect children, whether we are professionals or private individuals. If you think a child is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected, speak to:

- Social Care Direct by calling 0131 200 2324
- the Police by calling 101 or in an emergency 999;
- a member of staff at school;
- any Health Professional

I am keen to **speak with you** about any matter- big or small- and will always seek to offer you an appointment quickly. Please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Rebecca Favier
Head Teacher

Provisional Dates

Thursday, 26 th September 9am-10am	P1 Parent Literacy Learn Along
Friday, 27 th September	Dress Down for the Society of St Vincent De Paul (donation requested)
Tuesday 1 st October 4pm	St Augustine's High school Open Evening
Friday, 4 th October	Wear Red to School Day (no donation required): challenge racism in our society
Friday, 11 th October 9am	Parent Council Catch Up: Coffee and Croissants in the Hub
14-18 October	October Holiday: School Closed
Monday, 21 st October	School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday 22 nd October	School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday, 29 th October 3.30-4pm	Learn Along 1
Wednesday, 30 th October	Parent Council Hallowe'en Event (details to follow)
Friday, 1 st November 10am	All Saint Mass (St John the Baptist)
Thursday, 7 th November	Parental Consultations (5.30-8pm)
Friday 8 th November	Parental Consultations (1pm-4pm)
Wednesday, 13 th November	Parent Council Meeting (details to follow)
Friday, 15 th November 9.30am-10.30am	Attunement: <i>Join us for a fun session facilitated by Carmel Jacob-Thomson Educational Psychologist</i>
18-29 November	Catholic Education Weeks
Friday, 22 nd November	Dress Down Day for Canine Concern (donation requested)
Thursday, 28 th November 10am	Feast Day Mass (St Kentigern's)
Friday, 29 th November	School Fast Day Celebration
Thursday, 5 th December	Primary 1 and 2 Nativity (ticketed event)
Wednesday, 11 th December 1.15pm	Community Carols
Thursday, 19 th December	Evening Christmas Concert at St Augustine's High School
Friday 20 th December 10.45am	Christmas Service

NURTURE, INSPIRE, FLOURISH