

**Loanhead Primary School Newsletter**

Dear Loanhead Primary Community

I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the new school year 2022/2023.

As you will know, Mrs Donnelly is now the Acting Head Teacher at Danderhall Primary and I am very much looking forward to being the Acting Head Teacher here at Loanhead, in her absence, for the current academic session.

I have been working at Loanhead Primary since 1994, when I was appointed Principal Teacher then promoted to Depute a couple of years ago.

I have been fortunate to work with many wonderful members of staff and families over the years.

New beginnings are exciting and I wanted to thank you for all the beautiful messages of support which I have already received…it truly means a lot to me.

**Staffing**

* We welcome Mrs Rachel Coombs as Principal Teacher
* Mr Daniel Forbes our Newly Qualified Teacher to P6
* Mrs Lynne Lynch returns to Support Learning in classes

Mrs Cairney, our Administrative Assistant has informed us this week that she will be taking Early Retirement. Her last working day at Loanhead will be Friday 14th October. Having worked with us for 14 years, I think there might be tears all round!

**Parking**

We ask that you are respectful when parking your cars. The safety of our community is paramount, so whilst dropping off and picking up your children **NO PARKING IS ALLOWED ON ZIG ZAGS both at the bottom of the safe route and in the car park**. Please do not block other cars in the parking spaces and be mindful that the disabled bays are for blue badge holders.We know the same very small number of people cause the issues-often putting their own convenience over the safety of others.

**Safety on Engine Road**

We have received a letter from a neighbouring business, detailing their concerns about pedestrians on the way to and from school, walking on Engine Road. This is a dangerous road, so where possible please can you walk with your children through the safe route.

**Hand washing**

Children will still regularly be hand washing and using hand sanitiser. Not only are we still mindful of Covid, but with the recent closures of some nurseries in East Lothian due to e-coli, staff will continue to encourage thorough hand washing and sanitising amongst our pupils.

**P.E.**

Bikeability has started again for the P7s. This is a fantastic opportunity to help build confidence with road sense and safety. This will be offered to P6 after Easter.

We are looking for parents who may be willing to accompany P5, 6 and 7 to sporting events. If you are interested, please can you email the school office on loanhead\_ps\_@midlothian.gov.uk as information is sent home relating to each event, there will be an option for you to volunteer then also.

**Gardening**

Following from last session’s gardening tasks, our pupils are once again keen to tend the raised beds, pick litter, harvest apples etc. Mrs Libby McAdam, Mrs Poppy Kyles and Ms Daphne Groves have very kindly offered to volunteer with this fabulous project, both in the playground and the Nursery. Class teachers will add to Google Classroom when their pupils will be taking part.

**Guitar**

Dylan, once again will be offering guitar lessons for P4-7starting 5th September at £10 per lesson. Every child who was interested was given a letter. However, if you would like to find out more, please contact Dylan directly on 07813387556.

**Mandarin**

Once again, pupils in P4-7 will be taught Mandarin by a native speaker. Our teacher this year will be Ms Fu.

**Play Therapy**

Ms Yuliya Loutsenko will return this session on a Tuesday at lunch time for those pupils in P3-7 who wish to “drop-in.” P3s must have returned the parental consent letter, whilst P4-7 have previously consented.

**Spare clothes**

We would welcome any spare pants and socks for both boys and girls for the lower atrium. Our supplies have already diminished significantly.

**Nursery**

Welcome to all our new families in the Nursery and it’s lovely to see how quickly all our new children have settled. We look forward to forming a strong partnership between Nursery and home.

**Parent Council**

*The Parent Council are looking forward to getting the ball rolling on this school year! We have our first meeting on 7th Sept from 630pm (for a 7pm start). We invite anyone to come along to find out a bit more about the PC and to consider joining us. There is no obligation to come to every meeting and we are always looking for those who are enthusiastic about our kids’ journey through primary school and can also bring fresh ideas to the team. We work with the school to create fundraising ideas that can help make a difference to what is offered to our children. We also work with the teachers to create an environment that all can thrive in. We believe that everyone has something to offer so please do pop in.*

*From Kerry Crichton, Chair of the Parent Council*

*Dates for your diary*

1 September P7 trip to Risk Factory

5 September P1 Parents’ workshop on “How your child learns to read” 5.30- 6.30

5 September Guitar lessons start (Dylan will contact interested parents directly).

7 September Parent Council AGM, all welcome. 6.30 for 7pm start

8 September House Captains are voted in

Friday 16 – Monday 19th September (*inclusive)* Holiday

29 & 30 September Provisional date for individual and siblings’ photographs

4 October P6&7 Cross Country competition

12 October P5 School Camp

14 October Holidays begin at 12.25pm

24 October In-Service Day for Staff

25 October Pupils resume

7 November Flu nasal sparay

23 November St Margaret’s closing mass (more info to follow)

14 December P4-7 Brunton Theatre Panto

20 December Whole School Church Visit

24 March P4 begin swimming x 12 weeks