

September Newsletter

The first few weeks of school have flown by so quickly! Our new Primary 1 children have settled in beautifully and are a delight to have in school. Primary 7 have shown a great deal of maturity and are enjoying the responsibility of buddying. Primary 4 have also successfully made the transition from lower to upper school. With the welcome addition of some new pupils in both classes, our number stands at 38 children this session!

Our Priorities for 2015/16

At Deanston Primary School we aim to develop every child to reach their fullest potential by providing quality learning and teaching in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. To achieve this we plan for continuous school improvement and work with children, parents and the wider community at the same time being supported by Stirling Council's Children's Services. This session, our priorities are to:

- develop children's confidence using reflective language to assess their learning
- involve children in target setting / identifying next steps in learning
- undertake paired reading training with P6 and P7 to allow them to share their expertise with lower school
- involve some upper school children in developing talking and listening programme with East Plein PS
- provide opportunities for children to work with teachers to develop success criteria for lessons
- develop and enhance role of Pupil Council/Eco and introduce Health Committee - each committee to have an area of responsibility
- introduce iPad Minis for all learners; using 'apps' to help support acquisition of mental maths and spelling skills
- develop E-portfolios of work for each child
- identify upper school 'Digital Leaders' to support IT across the school
- use GLOW (Scottish Government Education Web System) to develop children's IT skills
- continue to develop our self-evaluation skills
- involve all stakeholders in audit of 'How Nurturing is our School'
- ensure Getting it Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) Legislation is embedded in school
- investigate and implement aspects of 'Growth Mindset' principles and practice
- introduce 'Friends for Life' resilience programme
- develop our quadrangle as an outdoor teaching area

In addition, here are just a few of the exciting opportunities on offer for our children in the year ahead:

We will be taking part in a Scots Song Project. This project has been running for over 7 years now in primary schools across Stirling, with great success, now having reached over 2,000 children. The opportunity is free to schools as it is funded by the Youth Music Initiative and managed by the Tolbooth. Local singer, Amy Lord will work with both classes teaching a range of Scots songs as well as giving information on the language and the history of the songs. The project will culminate in an afternoon performance by the children, as well as special guest musicians, either in the Tolbooth or in The Albert Halls dependent on numbers. This will give them all the opportunity to perform in front of each other and friends and family. This is a great incentive to perform to their maximum ability.

P4-7, led by Mrs Nicolson, will also participate in Active Stirling 'Think Dance!' project which will culminate in a performance on 24th February (TBC) at MacRobert Arts Centre. Mrs Nicolson is also undertaking a 'Science on the Menu' initiative with P4-7.

Consultation

The National Improvement Framework for Scottish education is a Framework to drive improvement in our education system. It will bring together a range of key performance information to improve outcomes for every child in Scotland. It sets out the Government's vision and priorities for Scotland's children, particularly for the most disadvantaged, and the drivers of improvement which support those priorities. It builds on the

best practice within Curriculum for Excellence in using a range of data and evidence to report and plan improvements for children.

It will ensure that our education system is continually improving and that all children are being equipped with the skills they need to get on in the world. Most importantly, it will ensure that we are making progress in closing the gap in attainment between those in our most and least deprived areas. The Framework will promote consistency and transparency and support diversity, and give room for innovation in schools.

There will be a series of consultation and engagement events to gather views and discuss the detail.

Please find below the link to the Scottish Government information on the National Improvement Framework and the link to engagement events.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework>

Safety Guidelines

We are delighted that so many children choose to bring their bikes or scooters to school. We have the bike rack at the front of the school where children can leave their bikes or scooters (which should be chained up for security). We would always advise that children wear a helmet when travelling to school and would suggest that lower school children are accompanied by an adult as it is not until Primary 4 when our children undertake Level 1 Bikeability Training in the Summer Term.

Communication

As well as this monthly newsletter, please remember that there are weekly reminders and updates on the Parent Council Facebook page. In addition, we can be found on Twitter - @deansps

Out of School Achievements

We again have our 'Out of School Achievement' board in the school entrance hall. Please provide details of anything your child has achieved e.g. cub badges, attending clubs, learning to tie shoe laces, tell the time etc. and we will make sure that it is recognised.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th October

Monday 12th October - Friday 16th October

Tuesday 20th October

Tuesday 27th October

Rag Bag Collection

Mid-Term Break - School is closed

Flu Immunisations

P4 'Meet the Teacher' (details to follow)

We hope you have a lovely October break!

Angela Maxwell 

Gemma Nicolson