**Kings Park Primary School**

**Newsletter**

**March 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers

There are a number of updates that I would like to share with you.

**Classes for 2016/2017**

A gentle reminder, if you have any particular concerns or requests about your child’s class for next year, please write / email me by the first week of next term. Parents who have already contacted me via the school office email should have received an acknowledgement email. Please get in touch if you have not received this.

**If you are considering private school placement for next year, I would greatly appreciate it if you can contact me regarding this too.**

More information about class structures will be issued as soon as possible. Please be aware that this is a very fluid situation over the course of the summer term as families move in and out of the area.

**Staffing**

Miss Laurie Allan joined us as the P6a teacher at the end of February, replacing Miss Mills who left in November. Many thanks go to Miss Davidson, Mrs Bissoonauth and Ms Gall for teaching the class during the recruitment process.

We have also recruited 2 new Additional Support Needs Learning Assistants. Mrs Mazurek-Figiel and Mrs Yaseen will take up their posts on 11th April.

**Parking**

The gate closure strategy in Parkside Place continues to be monitored by various staff within Midlothian Council.

I am of the understanding that a letter is being drafted by Midlothian’s School Travel Coordinator to update the school community about plans for a longer term strategy to tackle this ongoing problem. I have been asked to keep the Parkside school gate closed for the time being.

**We are actively encouraging parents to access the playground via the Park as the safest route to school. Please do everything you can to support this strategy.**

**Website**

I hope you are enjoying accessing the school website as a means of ensuring you get important information and letters as well as seeing the wide variety of things going on in classrooms. Statistical data shows we have a good balance of new and returning users. As this is a period of transition, we continue to issue quite a lot of things in paper form as well but would like to reduce this to save on costs and be more eco friendly.

**Sports Success**

There is a lot of Sports News on the website. Please take time to have a look. I am keen that the school continues to make a strong commitment to providing a range of **P**hysical **E**ducation, **P**hysical **A**ctivity and **S**ports (PEPAS). A special mention, from me, goes to the group of P6 and P7 children who represented us at a recent Active Schools Cross Country Event. I am **very** proud to say that King’s Park Primary School came first out of 12 schools and won the Team Shield!

**Musical Success**

King’s Park has a great reputation in the community for producing quality instrumentalists and choirs. This week, I have enjoyed watching amazing performances from the upper school.

The evening performance of Joseph was a credit to Mrs Kerr, the instrumental teachers and class teachers. The large number of talented children who took part were testimony to the quality of the teaching going on. Thank you to all the families who came along. It was a fun night!

The P5-P6 Easter/Spring Assembly was also a great success. Well done to the teachers and children who organised this event this year. Thank you to Rev. Mack and all the families who came along.

**Nursery Success**

I am delighted to share that the recent Care Inspectorate visit in the Nursery was ***very*** successful, with all the grades awarded being “Very Good”. We will share the key findings from the report next term. Well done to Miss Davidson and the entire Nursery Team for all the hard work that has been going on this year.

**Summer Term Services**

I am keen that we continue to hold the usual end of term events (End of Term Service, P7 Leavers Assembly). Rev. Mack and I have met to consider whether we will be able to use the church this year. It is intended that Church renovation work will be completed by early June so that should allow the Church to be used as a venue.

* **Wednesday 29th June:** End of Term Service **for all pupils and staff** from whole school. Rev Mack thinks the whole school will fit in if the chairs are removed. We will test that out ahead of time.
* **Thursday 30th June:** End of Term Service for **P5-P7 pupils, staff and parents** with usual upper school choirs and instrumentalist performances **(Once P5-P7 parent tickets have been allocated, we will offer any spare tickets out to P1-4 parents.)**
* **Friday 1st July:** P7 Leavers Assembly for parents as usual.

**Parental Feedback / Moving Forward Together.**

* The school recently held a Maths and Numeracy Open Morning. Mrs Orr and I were stationed in each building (Miss Davidson was in class that day) and asked parents / carers to provide written feedback on any topic. The responses we received were overwhelmingly positive. Overall, there was a real sense of enjoyment and interest in being able to spend time in the classroom when children are working. I will look for more opportunities to invite parents and carers in over the next school year.
* As part of next year’s school improvement plan, I intend to look at how we can strengthen parental involvement and engagement. I also intend to begin sharing some of the great foundations that I have been putting in place over the last couple of years to make sure we are getting it right for every child in our school community.
* This term, I asked you (via school bag drop and text alerts) to help us develop our Health and Wellbeing Curriculum by completing a short online survey. If you haven’t yet done so, please go to school bag drop on the website where you will find the survey by scrolling down to the entry posted on 27/01/16.

Wishing you an enjoyable Easter break with your family,

Arlene Limerick

Headteacher