



18th August 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the new school session everyone! What an amazing first week back we've had. The classes have all settled well and teachers are really pleased with how well the children have returned and adapted to school routines again. Our new P1 pupils have been in full days from the start and have been wee troupers, taking the week in their stride. They have been ably supported by our amazing P7 buddies who have supported them with patience, kindness and understanding. I am immensely proud of all our pupils this week and have genuinely missed them!

I thought you would appreciate some early information and reminders. Please note that we send parents a full school calendar each year with all the dates you will need, to stick on your fridge and refer to throughout the year. We may add other events/dates as the year progresses, but the main events are all in there.

Meet the teachers as per our message on Tuesday, you are invited to pop into school this Friday at 3.15pm – 4pm to meet your child's teacher and have a look around the classroom. This is the first time in a good while we have been able to do this, so please come along! It is a fantastic opportunity to put a face to a name and make that initial contact that makes future communications easier. It is a great opportunity to also see our new library space. The leadership team are also around and will be based in the library with teas, coffees and refreshments. The class teachers will dismiss the children as usual at 3.15pm then doors will be open for everyone to come in, your children will be able to show you where to go.

Senior Leadership Team – Our school leadership team:

Headteacher – **Mrs Karen Emmett** (overall leadership and direction of the school)
Depute Headteacher – **Ms Fiona Ballie** (P4-7 responsibility, Attainment, Digital Learning)
Principal Teacher – **Mrs Laura Clark** (P1-3, Nurture and Support for Learning)
Principal Teacher – **Mr Stuart Johnston** (Child Protection, Active Schools, Young Carers)

PE days – During covid times we allowed children to come into school on PE days in leisure wear as we were not able to allow children to access changing facilities. Staff found that this was a helpful approach and meant that the children had more time in their PE lesson being taught and less learning time being wasted. Due to these benefits we have decided to continue this approach this year and teachers will let you know via SEESAW when the class have PE so that parents can help prepare their children accordingly. We expect school uniform to be worn on any non-PE days. Please remember that football strips/colours are not allowed, even on PE days.

Communication between parents and school – we use a variety of methods to communicate with you throughout the year.

- ✓ **SEESAW** – this is the main communication tool between you and your child's teacher. We also send whole school messages via SEESAW. If you need help to set this up, please let the school office know. Teachers have all agreed to share weekly updates about what is going on in the classroom including photos and examples of learning, as well as messaging if things are going well (or not!). Please use the messaging service to let us know if things aren't going well – we run on the premise that getting in touch early is helpful, fixing little things before they become big issues is always easier!

If you have trouble understanding English please contact the address below

اگر آپ کو انگریزی سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آتی ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے درج پتے پر رابطہ کریں:

नेकर बुगानुँ दिवालिस सभसठ दि'च कठिनाई हुंसी चे डा' दि'पा कवके साबे' नाक चेठा सिचे पडे चे संपरक वठे।
Jeżeli masz trudności w zrozumieniu języka angielskiego, skontaktuj się na poniżej podany adres:

如果你對英語理解有困難，請聯絡以下地址:

Dundee Translation & Interpretation Service, Mitchell Street Centre, Mitchell Street, Dundee DD2 2LJ.
Tel: 01382 435825 Fax: 01382 435805

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- ✓ **TWITTER** – I often 'tweet' about things that are going on in school and celebrate the successes of the school and our pupils. Please follow us, our 3 Twitter feeds are - [@DownfieldPS](#) [@DPS_Nurture](#) [@DownfieldEYC](#)
- ✓ **EMAIL** – We use email for most communications to save paper, money and time! If you aren't getting our emails, please check we have the right details for you on the system, Vicky will be happy to check and update anything for you. If you don't get our emails, you will miss a lot of important information! The QR code in the top right take you straight to your email.
- ✓ **EXPRESSIONS and TEXTS/GROUPCALL** – Periodically we use this, particularly for emergency communications such as school closure, changes to school crossing patrollers etc. Again, if you need help with this Vicky in our office can help you.
- ✓ **SCHOOL WEBSITE** – we store lots of useful information here, particularly good if you are new to our school and want to know more about us! www.downfield.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk The QR code at the bottom takes you to the website.

P7 Residential- Our P7 pupils will be attending their residential experience in 2 weeks' time. The children will be based around Dundee, with a variety of activities being undertaken including rock climbing, speed boating, sailing and gorge/hill walking. Last session the children had fun and we had rave reviews from staff and pupils. The children sleep over at the Sea Cadets Centre at the docks and are driven in minibuses to various locations around the Dundee area. They prepare their own lunches and are taken out to tea in a restaurant. Anyone who wishes more information about the residential trip should contact Ms Ballie, DHT.

School Improvement Priorities – Every year the school evaluates its work with a view to identifying areas for improvement. This year the school will work on developing a number of areas:

- ✓ Continue to develop our Digital Learning curriculum (led by Ms Ballie and Mr Solomon)
- ✓ Develop our STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Maths) curriculum (led by Ms Da Silva, Mr Solomon and Miss Sievwright)
- ✓ Development of Literacy, including a review of our delivery of Literacy (led by Ms Gordon), Reading Schools (led by Ms Watson and Mrs Park), develop our delivery and assessment of Listening and Talking (led by Ms Bremner, Mrs Phimister and Mr Dolan)
- ✓ **Trauma Informed Practice** (led by Mrs Clark, Mrs Hampson and the Nurture Team)

We will keep you updated on our progress with these developments and if you are interested in hearing more, please join discussions in our Parent Partnership meetings or contact the school office.

Our new library is up and running and we have a pupil group led by Ms Watson and Mrs Park who plan to work to develop its use and to encourage children within our school to read for enjoyment. We have a couple of names of parents/carers/grandparents who wish to help us with the library, particularly coming in at lunchtimes to read stories to the children or help support paired reading sessions (where older children support younger readers). If you have any spare time and would like to help with this, please call the school office on 01382 307800 and leave your contact details and we will contact you soon!

Kind regards,



Mrs Karen Emmett
Head Teacher

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ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਗਲिश سمجھਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕठिनाई ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਡਿਊਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਣਾ ਚਿਠੇ ਪਤੇ ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।
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