



## Downfield Primary School Newsletter OCTOBER 2021

With our new school session now well under way I thought you would appreciate some information about how things are going this term. Our **Citizenship Groups** are almost up and running again, the children have chosen their leadership roles and activities and the groups will meet fortnightly after the holidays .

✓ School pupil newsletter

- ✓ Digital Leaders
- ✓ Intergenerational projects
- ✓ Outdoor Education
- ✓ Health Promotion
- ✓ Pupil Council
- ✓ Equalities group
- ✓ Eco Schools/COP26
- ✓ Building an outstanding reading school
- ✓ Active Schools
- ✓ Safe travel/Bike ability
- ✓ Languages/BSL
- ✓ Social skills
- ✓ Learn an instrument & Glee
- ✓ Developing young workforce



### Fridays with a difference!

We have built a Friday learning programme for this year that promotes pupil choice and allows children to focus on learning they wish to be involved in. We have **Citizenship groups** each fortnight, interspersed with **FIT Fridays** and **House activities** ranging from cooking afternoons to singing and Karaoke, all chosen and planned by the children! All these activities promote and capture aspects of our Curriculum and allow children to apply skills in real life contexts, as well as a range of Health & Wellbeing learning outcomes. **info will be shared after the Oct break detailing House Events plan, as well as overview of dates week by week. Please note that due to unforeseen events and covid guidance, these dates may be subject to change. We will keep the children informed if this happens!** We thought you may appreciate an overview of the year at a glance to stick on your fridge- it'll be emailed and put in school bags next term 😊

**HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES @ Downfield PS:** Unfortunately we are unable to hold our usual Halloween discos. My team have planned an afternoon spooky activities for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October instead - toilet roll mummies, doughnuts on a string, dooking for apples (safe and covid compliant!)...and a range of fun activities will take place. Each class' activities may be a little different but one thing is assured - lots of fun! That day will also be a dress down day. We are asking that kids either dress down, come in their pyjamas or dress up - whatever they want to do is ok by us!



**Keep yourself in the loop!** – We send out as much info as we can to keep you updated, but as with any large busy school environment sometimes we get it wrong, think we have told you already or things change last minute. We....

- Send newsletters, texts, emails, seesaw info & messages, Put information on our website
- Social media updates

To keep you in the loop and to be informed of any last minute changes, please sign up to our twitter updates and Facebook, as well as each teacher's SEESAW account for up to date class info. If you need help with SEESAW, please let us know!

**twitter.com** @downfieldps **FB** Downfield Parent Partnership

## School Improvement

**Plan:** We are delighted to be welcoming our new Education Officer Lawrie Stewart to our school after the holidays to discuss our school improvement plan and self-evaluation work. This year we have a focus on building our school back even better post-lockdown, re-establishing things we had in place prior to lockdown and building on the great work developed in areas during lockdown e.g. digital learning. Our key

priorities for improvement:

**Pedagogy & Assessment – reestablishing our high impact teaching strategies**

**Improvements in Nurturing Approaches, including Life-skills work (part of our Every Dundee Learner Matters Strategy)**

**Improving Attendance (part of our Every Dundee Learner Matters Strategy)**

**Digital Learning**

The full plan and school improvement report on session 2020-21 will be available on our school website soon. If you would like a paper copy, please let our office staff know.

## SENSORY ROOM

Our Sensory room is back in full use again by children identified as requiring this input as part of their educational plan. **All children** will visit the room next term to experience the benefits of the space and we look forward to showing parents too, when we are allowed to have you all back in our building! It is a wonderful space, funded by our pupil equity funds from Scottish Govt.



*Dates coming up – tear this off and keep!*

### October

- 8<sup>th</sup> School closes end of term 1 at 3.15 for 2 weeks
- **25<sup>th</sup>** School reopens for term 2
- **27<sup>th</sup> Individual photos**
- **29<sup>th</sup> Halloween activities and dress down day**

### November

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Flu vaccinations
- 8<sup>th</sup> – P1 eye checks
- **11/12<sup>th</sup> Inset Days – sch closed to pupils**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> Parent Council 6pm**
- **P4 SNSA Assessments**

### December

- **w/b 13<sup>th</sup> – interim pupil reports to parents**
- **w/b 20<sup>th</sup> class parties**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> – End of term 12pm finish**
- **Return to school for term 3 on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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