

Low Port Primary School: Where you are given opportunities and leave with happy memories.

## Newsletter September 2016

Welcome back! I do hope you all had a lovely summer break. I'd like to give a special welcome to our new families joining us in P1 and across the school.

### Staffing

We would like to welcome Miss Kirsty Tully, who is working with P4T alongside Mrs Ramsay this session. Mr Fraser Snaddon is a MA student with a placement mainly with P7 for a large part of the school session. We would also like to welcome back Mrs Kate Logan (formerly Miss Newman). Mrs Logan is assisting with assessment and development work until she commences maternity leave in September.

A reminder of staffing is as follows -

P1	Mr McRae
P2	Miss Cuthbert
P3	Mrs McGilliard
P4H	Mrs Henderson
P4T	Miss Tully/Mrs Ramsay
P5	Miss Paton
P6	Miss Smith
P7	Mrs Johnston

### PTA, Parent Council and Education Trust Fund AGM

The Parent Council, Education Trust Fund and PTA AGM is next Wednesday 31 August at 7pm in the school hall. All are welcome and we would love to see any parent/carer interested.

### Meet the Teacher

Meet the teacher will be held on Tuesday 6 September 6.30-7.30pm starting in the school hall and then moving to your child's classroom. This will offer families an opportunity to meet the new teacher working with their child(ren) as teachers set the scene for the year ahead.

### Allergies

We have a few children with severe allergies in school so it would be much appreciated if snacks containing nuts could be avoided at playtime or in packed lunches. It would also be helpful if you could remind your children at home, as we do in school, to avoid sharing snacks and lunch items due to allergies. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our children safe and healthy.

For these reasons, we are unable to distribute sweets, treats or cakes if it is a birthday. Please save these items for home.

### P1 literacy workshop

On Wednesday 14 September there will be a P1 literacy workshop straight after school in the P1 classroom. A creche will be in operation while parents and carers attend this session should they wish. This short session will allow you to see some of the approaches we use to teach literacy at the Early level.

### P1 PMP

P1 children will be learning through the Perceptual Motor Programme (PMP) on Thursdays from this week. PMP is a programme which aims to develop the child's perceptions of height, space and pattern through movement. Mr McRae will be working with Mrs Lesley Malone, a former PE specialist, in delivering the programme.

### Bikeability

Bikeability training for P5 will commence on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September following bike checks on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. A list of key dates has been issued.

### Vertical Learning Groups

Vertical Learning Groups will begin later this term. Staff are in the process of agreeing their VLG and preparing a slide to promote this so that children may make an informed choice in their preferred VLG.

### Opportunities for Wider Achievement

As part of Low Port Primary School Working Time Agreement, all teachers will offer an extra-curricular activity for a minimum of 8 weeks. Clubs will be targeted at specific stages, for example, construction club for infants. Details of what is coming up for a specific stage will be sent home ahead of the term when the club will take place.

Some clubs are run by parents and carers or external PVG checked volunteers/teachers. These include choir, chess, Scripture Union and any clubs supported by our Active Schools Coordinator. Again, information will be sent home in due course.

### Playground Update

In order to make our playground as safe as possible, all pupils have been asked to avoid slide tackles when playing football and have been reminded that football is a non-contact sport.

On a daily basis, Pupil Support Staff inspect the grassy areas to ensure that these are dry enough for all children to play on safely. This is communicated to the children by a red / green card system in the porch entrance and verbally.

May we please ask that any dogs brought to school be tethered to the fence before entering the playground. **Dogs should not be brought into the school grounds at all.**

Last session the PTA and parent body worked incredibly hard to raise enough funds to replace our play equipment outside. It had been hoped that this might have been installed over the summer break. The project management and procurement of the equipment is in the hands of PPP Management and my understanding from the latest update is that the delay is down to planning issues. Although Low Port is a stunning school in a stunning location, we are classed as a

historic building on a historic site which has complicated implications for any changes to the building and grounds. I will keep the PTA updated.

### Diary Dates

I am attaching separately an annual calendar with key dates for the whole school session identified for longer term planning at home. I hope you may find this of use. Please note that some dates may be added in as the session progresses so keep checking the newsletter, class blog and website calendar for updates!

Wednesday 31 August	PTA, ETF and Parent Council AGM 7pm Hall
Monday 5 September	Bikeability P5
Tuesday 6 September	Meet the Teacher 6.30-7.30 Hall
Monday 12 September	Bikeability Family and individual photos - details to follow
Wednesday 14 September	P1 literacy workshop 3.20-4pm P1 classroom
Monday 19 September	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 20 Septmeber	In Service Day
Thursday 22 September	Shakespeare workshop for P5-7
Friday 30 Septmber	P7 Assembly - families welcome 9-9.45am