



Priorsford Newsletter



August 2024

'Supporting each other to grow and learn together'

Priorsford Primary School, Marmion Road, Peebles, EH45 9BE, 01721 721236

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to my first newsletter of this academic session. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Primary 1 parents/carers as well as our new families who have moved to Priorsford Primary School from other schools. We are delighted to have you part of our school community and we hope you soon feel part of the Priorsford family.

Firstly, I would like to update you with some of safety measures that are now in place at the main entrance. We still have a secure buzzer system at the main entrance/school office and there is now a further entry system into the classroom area of the school. This is to ensure children are not able to leave via the main entrance unless accompanied by an adult. Therefore, parent volunteers helping in classes or the school library will need to get a visitor pass from the school office which will have a fob attached to it and this can be used to gain entry.

On a monthly basis I create a newsletter for parents/carers to communicate important information and share the news and highlights from our school. If you would like me to include items in my newsletter please get in touch via email with the details.

I would like to express how great the children look in their school uniform and this gives them a sense of belonging. However, we already have a large number of items in lost property that have no names on them. Can you check that your child's school clothing is labelled with their name and class so that if they do leave it behind, we can return it to them. If your child accidentally brings home someone else's sweatshirt, cardigan, jacket or even shoes (!) then please do return these promptly and we will ensure it is returned to its rightful owner.

We had a huge amount of lost property at the end of term. This is currently bagged and needs to be sorted, distributed and if not claimed then this will be cleaned to be put with the rest of our preloved uniform. If you require to look through last session's lost property you will need to come to the school office and be accompanied by a member of staff to the atrium. At this point we are unable to accept any further donations of preloved uniform until we have worked through what we currently have. If any volunteers are willing to help with this please contact me to make arrangements.

Outdoor learning is an important part of our curriculum and classes use the school grounds at the start of the school day, for soft start until the finish of the school day for learning. Please can I politely ask parents/carers to leave promptly after drop off in the morning and only enter the playground at pick up time towards the end of the school day, when our classes have finished using the playgrounds. This will ensure all our pupils, particularly our younger pupils, are safe and nobody leaves the school grounds, due to gates being opened. This would be greatly appreciated.

A huge thank you to our volunteers in the school garden and poly tunnel who kept the plants watered throughout the summer holidays. Their continued support ensures the garden is ready for classes to begin harvesting the produce they planted in Spring. We look forward to literally seeing the fruits of their labour.

Finally, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) can always be found in the playground welcoming families to school every morning. Please do come and say hello. It can often be an ideal time just to ask a quick question, as we say to the children - no question is a silly question, so please approach us if you need to. My contact details are also noted below if you need to contact me directly with any queries or questions, or you can also contact Mr Russell, Depute Head Teacher via email KRussell@scotborders.gov.uk or contact Ms. McDonald, Depute Head Teacher via email CMcdonald@scotborders.gov.uk.

Susan Woodyer
Headteacher

Peebles Beltane

Well done to everyone who took part in Beltane Saturday in June. All the children looked great and it was quite a day for our Lucy our Beltane Queen. The ladies who organise the costumes for P3-P7 for Beltane Saturday have thanked everyone who has already returned their costumes promptly and complete. If you do have any costumes still at home then please do hand them in to the school office.

School Communication

I would like to clarify our means of communication.

Any parent/carer wishing to contact their child's class teacher can do so by emailing or phoning the school. Your message will be passed to the class teacher and they will contact you at their earliest convenience.



I have highlighted below, the different ways in which our school currently communicates with parents/carers.

We are trying to minimise our paper use however, any forms with a return slip will be sent home in paper form so families can complete and return it to school.

Groupcall is the system used to send emails from the school office. We send newsletters, information from groups outwith the school and any non-returnable forms via this application.

Groupcall Xpressions App is the parent app for you to message the school regarding absences or appointments. It would be useful for parents/carers to download this from their App/Android Store.

We also use Groupcall/Xpressions App to text message on occasions. We follow up any unexplained absences with a phone call.

Our Priorsford Parents Facebook page is for highlighting our achievements, both in school and out of school. We will also share local events/clubs that families may be interested in.

There are some 'Whats App' groups that have been set up between parents/carers. These are not managed by the school. If any issues arise within these please do come and ask the school for clarification.

Parent Council Representatives for each year group/class will be agreed at the AGM in September to support communication about the work of the Parent Council. This is also a Whats App group and we will give out the detail of how parents/carers can join these groups in due course.

I hope the above information is helpful to all. I will keep you informed of any changes to our communication processes, should there be any, as necessary.

Dates For Your Diary

Fri 30th Aug	Flu vaccination letters & data check to be returned to school P4C & P5/6SL begin swimming lessons at Peebles pool for 6 weeks
Wed 4th Sept	4.30pm - 5.45pm - Meet the Teacher - See information on Page 3
Thurs 5th Sept	3.30pm - 4.30pm - Library Café open. P1-4 must be accompanied by an adult please.
Tues 19th Sept	6pm - Parent Council AGM in school staffroom - All welcome
Tues 24th Sept	P5/6 & P6W trip to New Lanark - parent helpers required
Thurs 26th Sept	6.30pm - PTA AGM in school staffroom - All welcome
Fri 27th Sept	9.20am - 10.20am Open Morning - All parents/carers are invited to visit our school during this time to see round the school and see our learning. Please enter via the school office.

Swimming Lessons

Our P3 - P6 pupils will each receive a 6 week block of swimming lessons at Peebles swimming pool. There is a small cost for these lessons and this will be paid via ParentPay. You will be notified nearer the time when your child's block of swimming will start but for your information the planned dates and times for each of the classes are outlined below. We always require parent helpers to accompany the children walking to and from the swimming pool. Information asking for volunteers will come out closer to the time of each block. We appreciate that some helpers may only be able to do this on one occasion and others may have more availability to commit to helping each week. We hope to have enough adults to accompany each class.

Dates - Fridays	9.30am - 10am	10am - 10.30am
30/08/24 until 04/10/24	P4C	P5/6SL
24/10/24 until 29/11/24	P5P	P6s from P6/7C
10/01/25 until 14/02/25	P6W	P3/4D
28/02/25 until 04/04/25	P3S	P3s from P2/3H



Donations welcome

One of our parents, Paul Aylmer is undertaking the great challenge of the Glencoe Marathon to raise funds for our school on Sunday 15th September. This will be Paul's first ever marathon and what a gruelling 26 miles this will be, through the mountains and glens of the Scottish Highlands!

Paul has decided to raise money so we can upgrade our display/presentation equipment. We use this for our weekly assemblies, staff development and to share photos and information with parents. We are truly grateful for Paul choosing to share his fundraising efforts with us and Barnardo's, a children's charity.

If you wish to donate to Paul's Just Giving page please use the link below.

[Paul Aylmer's Just Giving Page](#)

Paul will be accompanied by fellow runners/ from the Tri Club including Marina Urie another parent to pupils in our school. Best of luck to everyone running the marathon on Sunday 15th September. We know you will smash it!

Assemblies, Star Pupils & Celebrating Achievements

On Mondays for P4-P7 classes and on Tuesdays for P1- P3 we gather regularly for an assembly. This gives us time to share whole school learning, including religious observance, deliver our expectations and important messages based on our school values.

During our assemblies we also reward our pupils for their efforts in class with Star Pupil Awards. These can be given for a variety of reasons relating to our Learning Powers: readiness to learn, mastering a new concept, consistent effort, concentrating, being resilient etc. Class teachers nominate children who have demonstrated these qualities to receive the recognition and a certificate during our assembly.

We also encourage all the children to share their achievements out of school during our assemblies. We provide an opportunity to celebrate with their peers, the successes in sports, clubs/groups and competitions. Children can bring in their badges, certificates, medals, trophies and other rewards given to share with us. If they do not wish to bring these to school we would also welcome an email from parents/carers explaining what your child has accomplished. Photographs of our Star Pupil Awards and the Achievements are included in my monthly newsletter.



Meet the Teacher

We would like to invite everyone to our 'Meet the Teacher' event on Wednesday 4th September between the times of 4.30pm - 5.45pm.

The format will be informal and an opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's class teacher/s in their classroom between 4.30pm until 5.15pm. During this time you will receive an overview of the learning planned for August until December (Another overview will be issued in January). Our Class Overviews will inform you of the topics being covered in all subjects so you can support your child/ren at home. You will see some of the resources used to teach different subjects.

If you have more than one child in the school, you will be able to pop into each classroom to meet their teacher/s.



I would ask that on this occasion please do not expect the class teacher to comment on your child's individual progress. There will be parent consultation in October for this type of discussion to take place.

At 5.15pm everyone is invited to join myself and Mr Russell in the hall so we can share with you some of the changes around our planning this session. We do hope that this will give further understanding to our Class Overview and Curriculum for Excellence.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 4th.

Odd Shaped Ball

Last session, Priorsford benefitted from receiving a donation of £750 from the Odd Shaped Ball 2023, which raises money to support junior sport in Peebles.

We have ordered a variety of sports equipment and sporting kits to supplement our classes and clubs.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Odd Shaped Ball, Peebles as a beneficiary of their great fundraising efforts.



Stronger Starts

Tesco 'Stronger Starts' Project

I am delighted to announce that our Tesco Stronger Start project gained the most tokens at Tesco in Peebles. It is a scheme which gives community projects like us grants of up to £1500. We have been awarded a grant of £1322 which we plan to use to enhance our outdoor areas. Mrs Clark is already planning how we can spend this money! We are looking at looking at enhancing our garden and adding to the playground toys. Thank you to everyone who voted for us by adding their tokens to our section of the collection box.

Star Pupils



Pupil Achievements

Active Schools Olympics



Dancing



Round Table Family Weekend



Pony Racing Brand Ambassador



Peebles Library Summer Reading Challenge



Cycling



Peebles Agricultural Show Winner

