



# Priorsford Newsletter

## May & June 2024

'Supporting each other to grow and learn together'



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

Dear Parents/Carers,

May is the time everything awakens and springs into action! This has certainly been happening both in and out of school for our classes. Our Summer term has outings centrally organised by Scottish Borders Council which allows classes to be out of school to join other classes from across the authority. Our P5's had a at the Countryside Day in Kelso. Our P6's also had a day in Kelso to engage them with a variety of digital activities. Thank you to all our parent helpers that accompany our classes to make these trips possible. Look out for you invite to our Volunteers' Tea Party, held to show our appreciation of your continual support.

Our PTA held a super Summer Fayre where the sun shone, and the grand sum of £2489.46 was raised. Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event, helped out at a stall or came along to spend your money! We are extremely grateful for these funds. We are planning to spend some money on Sensory Circuit resources. Sensory Circuits use sensory-based movement activities which prepare children for the day's learning and help them to achieve the 'just right' level of alertness that they need to concentrate. Sensory Circuits are made up of 15-20 minutes of activities to help with sensory regulation. We want these new resources to support our children making them more ready to learn. Our PTA will continue to provide the fruit station during Sports Day as well as our P7 Leaver's t-shirts.

We are hoping our families and friends are continuing to vote for our school's Tesco 'Stronger Starts' project by popping the blue tokens from Tesco into the voting box for Priorsford.

It is such an exciting time for Priorsford this year as the Beltane Queen has been chosen from Priorsford. Well done to Lucy Crombie who is delighted to be given this honour! Congratulations to everyone in the Court. I look forward to seeing all the children throughout the celebrations of Beltane Week.

Currently, I am working with the members of the Senior Leadership Team to prepare our classes for next session. Due to our falling roll, this session, we will be having several composite classes at different stages. Whilst we finalise the classes, I have issued a leaflet about composite classes. I hope this leaflet helps to answer some of the Frequently Asked Questions parents/carers may have about composite classes. Please do read this and if you have any further questions please contact me. I would like to highlight that class compositions can be changed up until September depending on any new enrolments.

I will inform parents/carers in due course, of the class your child is in and who their class teacher will be. I ask for your understanding and patience as we try to ensure the correct information is given to families.

Susan Woodyer  
Headteacher

## Dates For Your Diary

### Peebles Beltane



Our Beltane costumes have been fitted for all the children who are taking part in the Beltane Red Letter Day. The children will be bringing home their costumes on Monday 17th June. We would ask

that you please check the costume is complete. We are sure the children will all look great.

Please can all costumes be carefully cared for whilst the children are expected to wear them. All costumes, including hats must be returned to school on the Monday/Tuesday after the celebrations.

More information will follow to give parents/carers instructions for Beltane Saturday.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Peebles Cornet and Lass to an assembly on Monday 17th June. They will return on Wednesday to have lunch with the children.

Rehearsal timings for the Court have been given to families for the week of 17th June. The Court will go to Kingsland Primary for these.

As the excitement builds in the school, we hope the sun will shine for Beltane Saturday.

### Parent Questionnaire

We have recently sent out a link to a parent/carer questionnaire to gain feedback on the different aspects of our school. A similar survey was sent by Scottish borders Council earlier this year and we only received 22 responses. We hope many of our families will take the time to give us their opinion. These questions are in line with the document 'How Good is Our School 4' which is the quality indicators school's gradings are based on during an HMIe school inspection.



<https://forms.office.com/e/xkNYyRdj2m>

Once we have received all the responses, by Monday 24th June, they will be collated and used to give Mrs Woodyer the most up to date feedback on the processes and practices within the school and tease out our successes and areas for development. We will also be able to compare these with the results of the SBC questionnaire.

Mon 3rd June	Bikeability continued for P6 for the week P5 Health Assembly
Wed 5th June	P6 Inspired Learning at Kelso
Mon 10th June	SPORTS DAY (Weather permitting) 9.30am - 11.30am - P4 - P7 1.30pm - 2.45pm - P1 - P3
Tues 11th June	New P1 Intake Parent Information session
Wed 12th June	P7 pupils transition day at Peebles High School New P1 Intake Visits 9.15am—12pm
Thurs 13th June	P7 pupils transition day at Peebles High School New P1 Intake Visits 9.15am—12pm P4 Viking 'The Knarr' Visit in school
Mon 17th June	Beltane Principles visit to whole school
Wed 19th June	Beltane Lunch with Peebles Cornet & Lass
Thurs 20th June	House Captains Vote for 24/25 2pm—Volunteers Tea Party
Sat 22nd June	BELTANE
Mon 24th June	6pm - P7 Leavers Show
Tues 25th June	Sports Award Assembly
Wed 26th June	1.30pm - P7 Leavers Show
Fri 28th June	Last day of Term School closes 12.50pm Summer holidays begin

### Treasure or Transform

Mrs Woodyer has been gathering an overview of the school since she started at the end of January this year.

It has been important for me to hear from everyone at the school, including the staff, pupils and parents what aspects of Priorsford School they value and want to keep as well as finding out about any elements of the school that may require change.

During our Parent Consultations in March there was an opportunity for families to have their say and thank you to everyone who completed the feedback information for Mrs Woodyer to gather the views of the school community.

There are some very strong treasured themes including our library, outdoor learning and gardening, sporting opportunities, as well as our dedicated staff and their commitment to inclusion.

Parents/carers were looking for change in the following areas; More communication about learning in classes, improved school lunches, different after school opportunities in Drama or Music and more consistent communication.

We will endeavour to improve some of these aspects in the coming year. The feedback about our school lunches will be passed to the Catering department for them to hear our views.

### End of term Arrangements

As we prepare for the end of term we will be sending home children's art work and some of their jotters. Some of their work will be passed on to their next teacher,

On the last few days of term from Wednesday onwards, it would be helpful if children could bring a carrier bag each day to carry home these items.

Our classes will be finishing the term on Friday 28th June at 12.50pm. Parents/carers may wish to gather in our playground to give our Primary 7s a great send off to High School.

We hope all our children enjoy their summer break and the weather allows for the children to be outside. We will look forward to seeing our returning pupils on Wednesday 14th August.



### PTA Update

Our 3 joint chair persons of the PTA - Lynsey, Lucy and Sam, have advised the school that are not able to continue in their roles after August, due to their own family and work commitments. I must congratulate and thank all three of them for their commitment and hard work given to raise funds for our school over the years. Together they have organised a variety of successful events for our children and families to enjoy and raise a huge amount of money for the school. The work of the PTA ensures the school has an extra pot of money to request items for the school that we may not be able to afford with our budget from the council.

Therefore, the PTA is a vital fundraising part of our school community. We are open to different models of how best to engage as many people as possible rather than see fundraising events not appear on our school calendar. So a small group of parents/carers may organise one event rather than each committing to every event.

Lynsey, Lucy and Sam, are prepared to support anyone who may consider this role either on their own or jointly with others.

Please contact either Mrs Woodyer or any of the chairs to notify them of your interest before the summer break. We will also try to recruit from our new intake of P1 parents/carers.

We hope our current secretary and treasurer can gain support to be able to organise events and continue to raise vital funds for our school.

### School Communication

The feedback given by parents/carers about our school communication has mainly been about the use of a consistent platform.



Below we have highlighted the ways in which our school currently communicates with parents/carers.

Any forms with a return slip will be sent in paper form so families can return this to school.

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

We also use Groupcall/Xpressions text messaging on occasions. It would be useful if parents/carers could use the Xpressions app to report pupil absences. We follow up any unexplained absences using Groupcall.

Our Priorsford Parents Facebook page is for highlighting our achievements, both in school and out of school.

I hope this clarifies our current means of communication and we will keep you informed of any changes to our communication processes, should they change, as necessary.



## Pupil Achievements



Broughton Hill Race

## Horse Riding



## Swimming



## Martial Arts



## Skiing



## Football



## Pupil Achievements

### Dancing



### Star Pupils

