

SPRING TERM NEW INITIATIVES

Attendance Initiatives

We have been monitoring and tracking the school's attendance. It has been identified that pupils are likely to miss school on a Monday and Friday. Therefore, we are putting into place a number of whole school initiatives to raise our attendance and ensure all pupils are encouraged to come into school everyday so that they do not miss out on an exceptional education.

From January 9th 2024, the following attendance initiatives will commence:

| | Monday | Friday |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 | <p><u>Show and Tell Sessions</u></p> <p>Pupils can bring in an object/item/toy from home that they get to play with for up to 20 minutes of the day. Different pupils will be chosen each week to show and talk about their item to the class.</p> | <p><u>Take a Teddy Home</u></p> <p>Every Friday a pupil from each class will be chosen to take their 'class teddy' home for the weekend. Pupils will write a short diary entry into 'Teddy's Diary'. Teddy is expected back on Monday so that the diary entry can be read out. Every child in the class will have a turn so please be patient for your child's turn.</p> <p><u>Lunchtime Disco</u></p> <p>Every Friday for 15-20 minutes of lunch playtime, pupils will enjoy a 'lunchtime disco'.</p> |
| Y3-Y6 | <p><u>Games Sessions</u></p> <p>Pupils will be allowed to bring in a card game</p> | <p><u>Lunchtime Disco</u></p> <p>Every Friday for 15-20 minutes of lunch</p> |

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| | (Match Attax, Pokemon cards, playing cards) or they will be given a chrome book to access Kahoots and Time Table RockStars. Pupils will enjoy a games session for up to 20 minutes of the day. | playtime, pupils will enjoy a 'lunchtime disco'. |
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There will also be:

- Weekly attendance and rewards assemblies
- Attendance Parties and non-uniform days for classes with the best attendance each half term-parents will be notified via the MCAS app if your child's class has won the attendance party.
- Certificates for pupils with 100% attendance each half term
- Best attendance classes named in the newsletters

Soft Start Approach

To further support our attendance initiatives and to raise our whole school and individual pupils' attendance we will be starting a '**soft start**' approach to the school day. This is a slow and gentle start to the school day. Children are welcomed to their classroom with a warm smile from their teacher and support staff and are able to complete low stakes, calming activities, often to some gentle music.

The school gates will open from 0845am as usual. However, classrooms will also be open from 0845am. This will allow parents to drop off their child/ren straight to class, 10 minutes earlier, without having to wait around in the playground. Pupils will have 10 minutes extra to settle into their school day. The bell will ring at 0855am as usual-this will indicate class registers are open. The main entrance will close by 0910am. **Parents do not need to stay in the playground after they have dropped off their child to their class.**

Entrance and Exit via Kirkmichael Road

Due to a number of reasons, parents will no longer be able to exit/enter via the Kirkmichael Road.

This decision was made due the following reasons:

- Support staff need to be readily available in class to support class teachers for the start of the school day. In addition, with the new 'soft start' approach staff need to be in class by 0845am.
- Due to the staff-pupil ratio across EYFS, staff are unable to be released to open and close the gate as this has had an adverse impact on classes across the EYFS especially for pupils with additional needs or SEND.
- Limited premises staff in the morning and they have been allocated to the main entrance along with a member of the Leadership Team and Inclusion Team.

The Kirkmichael Rd gate will only be open during the following times:

- 12.00pm: Nursery am parents to collect their child
- 12.30pm: Nursery pm parents to drop off their child
- 3.00pm-Full time Nursery parents to collect their child

All parents will use the main school entrance at 0845am and 3.30pm. The main entrance will be monitored every morning and afternoon by a member of the premises team, Inclusion Team and a member of the Leadership Team.

We appreciate your continued support with these changes for the term ahead.

Yours Sincerely

Tahreena Ward

Principal