

Dear Families

I hope this update finds you all well. This has been a busy first term for us all at Laurencekirk School with lots of successes and achievements. I am always proud of the work we do, but I am particularly proud of the way we have made the most of our wonderful grounds this term to enhance our curriculum. Our teachers have engaged in significant professional learning with our local Forest School to help even further with this.

Toys at Break

Our children have really missed the toys at playtime. We have not been able to utilise these for some time now due to Covid restrictions. Our PSAs came up with a super idea to enable our children to have some resources to liven up playtime. They have provided each class with a holdall style bag which the children have filled with a variety of resources for their own class to use at break. This is going really well and we have seen a variety of games, books, hoops and pens being enjoyed outside. I met with our Pupil Council this week and they were keen to tell Mrs Carnie and I how much they value toys at break. To help with this, our PSAs have gathered an assortment of 'off shore' holdalls no longer required from people in the industry. These bags are robust, waterproof and ideal for this purpose. We don't have enough for each class so if you do have any old ones lying around taking up space, I know our PSA Team would be delighted to take them off your hands.

Shoebox Appeal

P7b and Miss Easton have decided to support our local Rotary Club with their shoebox appeal again this year. Our children are collecting items and will create shoe boxes of treats and necessities for distribution across some parts of Eastern Europe. They would be very grateful for your support and will collect any donations each morning next week from each classroom. I have popped a reminder down below of suggested items:

For Boys & Girls Cars

trucks, etc, balls, complete jigsaws, action figures, colouring books, pens, crayons, lego blocks, yo-yo, bubble blowers, wooden and plastic toys, building blocks, pencil case, pencil sharpener, dominoes, play-doh / plasticine & cutters, fluffy toys, dolls, stickers, writing pads, skipping rope, scarf, mittens / gloves, hat, harmonica, games, cards...

Teenagers

Sportswear, scarf, gloves, socks, hat, football memorabilia, writing materials, games, playing cards, tennis ball, tooth brush & paste, roll-on deodorants, comb, mirror, costume jewellery, make-up, hair brush, toiletries, school stationery, clothing repair kits, sketch pad, coloured pens / pencils...

For older folk & families

Scarves, gloves, hats, wrapped soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, disposable razors, shampoo, soap flakes, pan scourers, antiseptic cream, bandages, face or body

creams, cosmetics, pens, writing pad & envelopes, T lights, candles, sewing kit, scissors

Baby ~ Age up to 12 months

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, baby blanket, small soft toy or plastic rattle...

What NOT to include in boxes: ^[11]_[SEP] Food, sweets, chocolate & drinks, battery operated toys, conflict related items, matches, inflammable liquids, inflammable aerosols, seeds or any other living material, automatic washing machine powders.

P7b are making a presentation at assembly on Friday to raise awareness of their campaign and I am looking forward to learning more about this.

Our School Values

At our weekly assemblies, we continue to explore our school values and what these mean to us. At Laurencekirk School, we value respect, responsibility, relationships and resilience. Over the last two weeks we have considered what responsibility means. We have been thinking about how we are responsible for the things we say and the choices we make. Last week, at the request of our House Captains, our school staff acted as Secret Detectives. They looked for pupils who were making responsible choices in terms of their words and actions and secretly informed the House Captains who awarded these pupils a token at assembly. I would like to say well done to our House Captains for organising a special initiative and an extra special well done to all of those children who make responsible choices every day in school. You are all amazing.

Parents Nights

We are looking forward to meeting with our families after the October break to discuss progress and achievement thus far. We will conduct our parent consultations via Teams. We will not be able to offer face to face parental consultations. More information (including times and joining instructions) will follow next week, but I wanted to share the dates with you for your future planning. Each family will be offered a 10 minute consultation on the 10th and 11th of November 2021. Of course, technological support can be given to those who require it.

Adverse Weather

The weather is definitely getting colder and we have had some wet days of late. On wet days, I would urge you to drop your children off at school as close to 9am as possible as there is no shelter in the playgrounds. We do try to ensure our children go out at break and lunch time where it is safe to do so, therefore a coat is needed daily.

As we move into the Winter months, we have plans in place to provide a service in most weathers, however, we do respect your decision to send or not send your child to school if you deem their safety is at risk when travelling. Please contact the School Office if your child is not attending due to inclement weather.

We do endeavour to ensure our school remains open, however, there are occasions when it may not be safe to do so. In these circumstances, information shall be shared as outlined below:

Aberdeenshire Council Website

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

There is also the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school(s) updates their closure status:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>

Laurencekirk School Website <https://laurencekirk.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

School Facebook Page – Laurencekirk School

School Twitter Page - @Laurencekirks

School Information Line

Tel: 0370 054 4999 then 022060.

If the school is closed then learning will be provided via your child's Class Teams page by the Class Teacher or an appropriate substitute. More information will follow about this after the October break. There is also learning on the school website that can be accessed if required until there is work shared on this page. This can be found under the heading Contingency Learning.

Autumn Raffle

Many thanks to our wonderful friends at Laurencekirk Primary Partnership who have kindly offered to donate prizes for an end of term raffle. This has become a bit of a tradition in our school at the end of term and it is a lovely way to send our children off for a well deserved rest. If you would like to watch our raffle live, you can do so by clicking on the link below. You would be very welcome!

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

This will start at 1110 on Friday 15th October 2021 and you will be able to watch our winners LIVE!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Jill Smith

Head Teacher