

Welcome to, or back to, Claypotts Castle Primary!

Newsletter 1: P3-P7

What a brilliant first week back we had!

It has been great to see our children back in school, seeing their friends, meeting new staff and getting stuck into their learning.

There has been a lovely feeling around the school this week.

Playground Drop Off and Pick Up

Not only do the children have to get used to Mr Murray dressing to impress, we also have to be mindful that a lot of our children are noticing there are a lot more big people in the playground this week. We want the children to feel safe in the playground so have put the arrangements below into place. Please help our children by sticking to this arrangement.

From Monday 31st August, we will be asking all parents/carers of P3-P7 to drop children off at the gate in the morning so they can make their own way to their line. Mr Murray, Mrs McKay, Mr Stewart and Mrs Stewart will be on hand to help.

At the end of the school day, P3-P7 should be collected from the gate of your choice as is the usual arrangement and they will be accompanied through the playground by members of staff.

Any parents who have previously agreed a different drop off arrangement last session due to difficulties with transition in the mornings or as part of a planning discussion please stick to this.

Communication With the School

As always please communicate with the school through email. If it is an update, please mark it as update and if it is a concern, please mark it concern. Please let the school know by parent portal of any illness or if you are unable to do this please phone the school office 01382 307770. If we do not hear from you in regard to your child's absence, we will contact you for an update.

Seesaw

Please be advised that Seesaw is for broadcast of school messages only. This is why we are asking for anything to be sent directly to the school office. You will receive update reports from a new central system each term on your child's learning. You will also receive the traditional End of Year report and there will be two parent evenings this year to discuss your child's learning.

PE Information**PE days for classes 2026/2027****Important Information:**

On PE days, there is no access to changing facilities and so children should come to school wearing their PE Uniform - **Black leggings/joggers/shorts; White T-Shirt; Royal blue jumper/hoodie/cardigan and trainers.**

Unfortunately, if children do not have trainers or gym shoes on PE days, they will not be able to take part in PE lessons.

For PE, **all jewellery and earrings must be removed for PE lessons.** If earrings are within the 6 week period of the piercing, they can be taped with micropore tape/plasters but should be removed for PE after the 6 weeks. Please provide tape/plasters for your child to use.

The children will also take off their jumpers when PE lessons are inside.

Class	Teacher	Session 1	Session 2
ESA	Ms Fitzpatrick	Monday	Wednesday
P1a	Mrs Dalziel	Monday	Friday
P1b	Miss Kerr	Monday	Wednesday
P2a	Miss Cox	Monday	Thursday
P2b	Mrs Mutch	Tuesday	Thursday
P3a	Miss Simpson/Mrs Addison	Tuesday	Wednesday
P3b	Miss Whitelaw	Tuesday	Thursday
P3/4	Mrs Clark	Tuesday	Friday
P4	Miss Strachan	Monday	Friday
P5a	Mrs Murray	Wednesday	Friday
P5b	Mrs Vanau	Monday	Friday
P6a	Mrs Mitchell	Monday	Thursday
P6b	Miss Souden/Miss Bastianiello	Tuesday	Thursday
P7a	Miss Smith	Tuesday	Thursday
P7b	Miss Deuchars	Wednesday	Friday

Next Week's Newsletter

Next Newsletter we will share with you our learning priorities for the year and a final overview of our club offer along with a timetable of these clubs. This will be finalized after planning meetings with Active Schools, Art, Big Noise and Dundee East on Monday.

Walking Well

This year, children will start to hear us talking about the following actions. We are calling them the eight walks.

The Walks are simple ideas to help children when learning, friendships and situations are difficult.

Notice • Choose • Anchor • Build Shelter • Receive • Courage • Offer • Leave the World Bigger

They help children think about simple questions like:

- **What is happening?**
- **What can I do next?**
- **Who can help me?**
- **How can I help someone else?**

We will introduce these ideas slowly through everyday school life and we are already planning an art event at the Community Centre (early October) to introduce the idea and spend time together.

Stories Matter

This year we will have a big focus on reading, stories and writing.

In classrooms and assemblies, we will use stories to help children talk about characters who face problems, make choices, get help, show courage and help others.

Stories are a great way for children to learn about themselves and the world around them.

Important - Stories to Share at Home

We would love families to enjoy some stories with us too. Below are five tiny stories you can share at home.

You don't need to make it a lesson! You could read one at bedtime with younger children, while sitting together at the weekend, having a snack or whenever **you have five quiet minutes**.

Afterwards, you might simply ask:

- **What happened?**
- **What could they do next?**
- **What would you have done?**

There are no right answers. Just enjoy the story and have a chat together.

The Puddle

Mia was first out at playtime. She ran straight across the playground.

SPLASH! Her foot landed in the biggest puddle in Claypotts.

Mia looked down. One sock was very, very wet.

Her friend Jack looked at her shoe. "Your foot sounds funny," he said.

Mia took one step. **SQUELCH.** Another step. **SQUELCH.** They both started laughing.

Then Mia said, "My sock is still soaking." Jack pointed towards the school. "Maybe we should get some help."

A few minutes later, Mia had a dry sock and was back outside. She walked around the puddle this time.

Then—**SPLASH!** Jack stepped straight into it.

Mia laughed. "Come on. I know where the dry socks are."

Sometimes things don't go to plan. We get some help and keep going.

The Wobbly Tower

Sam and Aisha were building the tallest tower in the class.

Higher. Higher. Higher.

The tower wobbled. Then—**CRASH!** Blocks went everywhere.

Sam stared at the floor. "Oh no."

Aisha smiled. "Well... at least we know how not to build it." Sam laughed.

They started again. This time they made the bottom wider.

The tower went up. And up. And stayed up. For nearly ten whole seconds.

Then—**CRASH!** They both burst out laughing.

Sometimes things fall down. We can try again.

The Missing Pencil

Ella was ready to start her work. Book open. Name written. Then she stopped.

"My pencil's gone!"

She looked under the table. Nothing. In her tray. Nothing. In her pocket. A biscuit crumb. But no pencil.

Ella sighed. Then Ben held one out. "You can borrow mine."

Ella smiled. "Thanks."

Five minutes later, she found her own pencil. It was behind her ear.

Ben laughed. Ella laughed too. "Maybe next time I'll check there first."

Sometimes a little help gets us moving again.

The Wrong Door

Leo was hurrying to class. He opened a door and marched straight in.

Everyone looked at him. Leo looked around. This was **not** his class.

"Morning, Leo," said the teacher, trying not to laugh.

Leo slowly stepped backwards. "Just checking you were all here," he said.

The class laughed. Leo laughed too. Then he found the right room.

Sometimes we get things wrong. We can smile, change direction and keep going.

The Lost Goal

At playtime, Noah took a shot.

The ball flew past the goal. Past the fence. And straight into a bush.

Everyone stopped. "Great shot," said Isla. "Wrong goal," said Noah.

They searched under the leaves. Then Isla spotted something yellow. "There!"

Noah pulled the ball out. It was covered in mud. He grinned. "Still counts as a good shot."

Isla shook her head. "Only if the bush was playing goalkeeper."

They both laughed and ran back to the game.

Sometimes things go off track. We find our way back and keep going.

A Great Start

There is lots to look forward to this year — learning, stories, art, music, sport, leadership and plenty of fun.

Most of all, we want our children to feel happy, supported and ready to learn.

A huge well done to all of our children for such a fantastic first week back.

It is wonderful to have Claypotts Castle full of children, laughter, learning and stories again.

Welcome back, everyone!