

CLAYPOTTS CASTLE PRIMARY

WEEK TWO NEWSLETTER

Learning, growing and looking after one another

What another busy week we have had! The school is beginning to settle into its rhythm. Children are learning new routines, getting to know new adults and classmates, and getting back into the important business of learning, playing and having fun.

Thank you to all our families for helping us get the year off to such a positive start.

We don't expect children to get everything right. Growing up is about learning what to do next.

Club Timetable

The Club timetable has been shared via seesaw so please keep a look out for this. We will be working closely with our partners Active Schools and Dundee East to provide in school additional experiences for the P1s and these will begin after the October Holidays.

Big Noise will communicate separately about their orchestra, one to one sessions and the after school offer for P3-P7 shortly.

We also have an art offer for younger and older children which will run through the year, and more details will be forthcoming as the year unfolds. Yhana and Active Schools will be offering a number of group opportunities and project work across the school during the school day too.

Assembly change

We hosted our first whole school assembly this week. We will be developing a new way of delivering assembly over the next few weeks. This week Mr Murray and Mrs McKay shared with us lots of different stories all connected to how we deal with difficult moments....

From now on every fourth week, we will all come back together as a whole school for an assembly. In the meantime, we will split assemblies into two halves in two different halls. The singing aspect with Big Noise will take place for twenty minutes P1-P3 and the other assembly hall will be for P4-P7. The rest of the assembly content will be stories and updates from myself, Mrs McKay or Mr Stewart. We are sure this new way of working will mean there are far less children sitting in one space and a more intimate experience for all. We do feel coming together as a whole school is important so we will keep the whole school assemblies running every fourth week or so.

Learning Reports

You will have received an overview of your child's learning for the term. This is a new way of communicating to give you an idea of the learning the class will be engaged in for the next several weeks.

Parent Council

We hope all the children are settling in well to school! We've loved seeing all the new Primary 1s starting their school journey and, of course, the teachers' past pupils heading off to high school!

We have restarted our toast for every child in the school — a little something after they arrive, before the learning begins. Following on from our recent questionnaire, a number of parents mentioned that they didn't know who the Parent Council members were. So, we thought it was time to introduce ourselves!

To start us off, we have:

Chair – Jennifer

Vice Chair – Yvonne

You'll usually find us around at drop-offs, pick-ups and everything in between, so please feel free to come and have a chat or ask us any questions you may have.

Kerry – Clerk

The one who deals with all the boring paperwork side of things!

Morag – Treasurer

We're hoping to get a date set next week for our Friday drop-ins, where parents can come along for a chat, get signposted for support, raise any questions or simply find out a little more about what we do. Hopefully, from there, we can also get the Parents Forum up and running, giving everyone a chance to have their voices heard and get involved in shaping things for our school community. ❤️

We're looking forward to another great school year and, as always, we're here to listen, help and hopefully make a difference!

Car Parking

Thank you to everyone who is putting the safety of our children first with considerate parking at pick up and drop off however we have had a few complaints from neighbours to the school with cars blocking drives. Please respect the residents around the school and we thank you for your support in getting the children to school each day. We really appreciate it.

School Pick up

We would like to remind parents and carers that all children should be collected from the playground at 3.15 unless prior arrangements have been made with Mr Murray or Mrs McKay. If your child needs to be regularly collected early, please contact the school to discuss this so that arrangements can be put in place. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

Five Tiny Stories to Share • *Read, talk and wonder together*

1. Pip and the Feather

Pip was racing through the woods when Moss called, "Did you see that?"

Pip stopped. Beside his shoe was the smallest blue feather.

"I nearly ran straight past it," he said.

Moss smiled. "Sometimes you have to slow down before you can see what's there."

Talk together: *What have you noticed today that you nearly missed?*

2. The Puddle

A huge puddle covered the path. Pip frowned. "We can't go that way."

Moss looked at the puddle, then at the stones beside it.

"Maybe not that way," she said. "But what could we do next?"

Pip grinned and began making a stepping-stone path.

Talk together: *When something doesn't work, what else could you try?*

3. Tully Takes His Time

Everyone was ready to race. Everyone except Tully Turtle.

"My heart is going too fast," he whispered. So Tully stopped.

One slow breath. Then another.

"Ready now?" asked Pip. Tully smiled. "Ready enough." And off he went.

Talk together: *What helps you feel steady when something feels difficult?*

4. The Branch

Pip tried to move a heavy branch from the path. He pushed. He pulled. He pushed again.

Nothing. "I can't do it," he sighed.

Moss came beside him. "You can't do it alone," she said.

Together they lifted the branch. Pip laughed. "That was much easier."

Talk together: *Who can you ask for help when you need it?*

5. One Apple Left

There was one apple left in the basket. Pip really wanted it.

Then he noticed a little rabbit sitting nearby with an empty lunch bag.

Pip looked at the apple. Then at the rabbit. He broke the apple in two.

Funny thing was, half an apple somehow felt bigger than a whole one.

Talk together: *What small thing could you give to someone else this week?*

Why stories matter

Reading with children doesn't have to mean a long book or a perfect bedtime routine. A few minutes matters.

Stories give children new words, new ideas and a chance to talk about feelings, choices, courage, friendship and the world around them.