



Brunstane Primary School

106 Magdalene Drive

EDINBURGH

EH15 3BE

Chris McMillan, Head Teacher

Friday 12 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish a very Happy New Year to all our Brunstane families. I hope that you all had a happy, healthy and relaxing break and those celebrating had a very merry Christmas.

We are delighted to have welcomed our P1-7 pupils back for another exciting term of learning as we kick off 2024 and are delighted to be welcoming our Nursery pupils back to school on Monday to complete our return to Brunstane.

As ever, we have a number of important updates to share with you.

Spring Oscars After School Care

For a number of years, we have been working with Spring Oscars after school care to provide families with an after-school care provision.

At present, numbers of pupils using this service are too low for the service to be commercially viable. If this continues, the provision will be discontinued. We would like to ensure that all families are aware of this service, and to ensure that anyone who might want to use it in the future has the opportunity to sign up now to save the provision. Having checked with all other local providers, it looks very likely that there would be no short-term replacement available should the service end.

Please return the slip at the bottom of this letter to the school office to let us know if you are currently using the service and if you are interested in using the service in the near future.

Details and prices can be found here:

<https://springchildcare.co.uk/our-locations/spring-oscars-st-johns/>

Wet Weather

Due to recent playground works and the wet weather, parts of the playground at Brunstane are particularly muddy at the moment.

Please make sure that you send your children to school with appropriate footwear (and a change of clothes if they like playing in muddy areas). Whilst we will cordon off the worst of the mud, we are not able to keep children completely away from grass areas which may be muddy.

Email admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk | Tel 0131 669 4498

Twitter: @BrunstanePS | Web: www.brunstaneps.com

Gates/Parking

The gate to the back of the school (field) and the infant playground gate will be locked on a daily basis from 2.45pm to allow safe access for taxi's collecting pupils from our Enhanced Support Base.

Please use the pedestrian gate to the main playground and/or the pedestrian gate to the front of the school (nursery/infants).

Please remember for safety reasons the school car park should not be used as a drop off/pick up point.

Staffing

There have been a number of changes to our staff team over the last few weeks of school.

We are delighted to be welcoming Billy Eveling, Denise McFarlane, Seamus Burke and Danielle McCallum to our fantastic PSA team.

We are sad to let you know that Miss Singh and Miss Tracey have moved on to PSA posts in other schools. We are extremely grateful for all they have done for the school and wish them all the best in their new posts.

Brunstane Bingo

Please join us on Monday 29th at 3.30 for our Brunstane Bingo. Tickets cost 50p per person (which gets you entry, a bingo book, a drink and a biscuit). Tickets are now available to buy at the office.

Library Reading Sessions

We are excited to be running our Friday morning reading sessions in the library again now we are all back in the building! These will start up again from the 19th of January.

You are invited to come along on any Friday morning 8.50-10am to read with your child for twenty minutes. Simply come to the main office and your child will come and collect you.

Clothes Fundraiser

We have lots of children and adult new and nearly new clothes. These will be set up in the hall for you on Friday 2nd February at 11.30. Come along and collect 10 items for £1!

Families Connect for P1-P3 Families

Families connect will be running from the 23rd of February until 22nd of March 9-10.30am. Families Connect is a programme that aims to:

- Improve family relationships
- Build strong bonds between learning at home and school
- Develop the home learning environment

Please look out for a letter coming soon with more details on how to sign up.

Pupil participation groups

We are very excited to start our Pupil Participation groups this term. We have eight groups and one child per class will join these groups. The groups include Eco Group, Equalities Group, Digisquad, Road Safety Stars, Rights Respecting, Playground Group, 1 in 5 Group and Sports Group. We are excited to share our positive changes in the months to come.

Pupil Parliament

Pupil Parliament will begin next week which is a great opportunity to work in our school families and make beneficial changes within the school based on the children's ideas. Each school family will be given a different theme to work on and they will think of ways to make Brunstane an even better place to learn. Keep your eyes peeled on Twitter for weekly updates!

Outdoor learning

We are committed to continue our outdoor learning whatever the weather so please ensure your child has a coat and appropriate shoes during these colder and wetter months to allow the learning to continue outdoors.

Scots Art Gallery

P1-P7 have been learning about lots of different Scottish artists and we are very excited to be sharing another art gallery with you all. On Wednesday the 24th of January, 9am-10am, we would love to invite you along to see the fantastic art the children have created inspired by Scottish traditions, landscapes and artists. A letter has gone home with more information of this event.

Attendance

Last year, families, staff and pupils worked very hard to raise attendance so we would like to keep this momentum going this year. It is vital that the children are attending school each day. Not only do children miss out on learning through absence, they also miss many experiences that help them develop both socially and emotionally.

Please check our class Twitter pages on Thursday evenings which share all the learning we will be doing on Fridays.

Early Pick Up

Please note that if you are needing to collect your child from school early for an appointment you must bring the appointment letter with you to show at the office. We cannot dismiss children early without it.

P7 Fundraising

Camp is fast approaching for P7 and we are excited to begin fundraising. P7 will be completing a sponsored climb up Arthurs Seat at the beginning of February. P7 have decided to do a whole school Danceathon in March where they will be continuously dancing for a set period of time. The rest of the classes will join at different points throughout the Danceathon to support and

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encourage. We'd love all the Brunstane community to join us with our 'Leg it to Lagganlia' where we will be running, walking and swimming the distance to Lagganlia which is 130 miles (209km). This will begin on the week of the 29th of January and continue until the week of school camp. We hope you will log all your walks, runs or swims to help us achieve our goal! Please keep your eyes peeled on Twitter for regular updates of all the various events.

Football Boot Exchange

We are absolutely delighted to have school football running at Brunstane this year and would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this happen – volunteer coaches, supporters and helpers.

To ensure we make school football as inclusive and easy to access as possible, we operate a football boot exchange. If you families have any boots that no longer fit (or if anyone gets new ones for Christmas and has old ones going spare) we would gratefully receive these and make sure they go to a good home. If you or anyone you know is able to donate a pair of boots, please send them in to the school office. All sizes welcome.

Curricular Events

Each level will be holding a curriculum event very soon to share our approaches to teaching literacy and numeracy. A separate letter will come out soon, please keep an eye on school bags and class Twitter pages for further details.

Dogs

Please remember that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school campus.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Head Teacher

Spring Oscars After School Care -Note of Interest

Pupils Name: _____ Class: _____

My child currently uses Spring Oscars after school care: Yes/No

I would be interested in using Spring Oscars after school care this school session: Yes/No

I may be interested in using Spring Oscars after school care in the future: Yes/No