



**Monday 29 August 2022**

Welcome back to a new school year. In the past two weeks we have welcomed fifty six new primary one children into school and a number of other new children into classes across the school. The primary one children have settled very quickly into the routines of school life and it's been lovely watching them play and interact in their classrooms.

It has also been fantastic to be able to have parents and visitors into the school building. I look forward to meeting many of you this Wednesday at the first of our school events (details below).

### **Uniform and P.E.**

As a school we encourage the wearing of school uniform. It promotes a sense of equality and inclusion and a sense of pride in our school. Please can I ask that you support this by sending your child into school in the appropriate clothing. This can be red or navy with grey or black trousers or skirts. We are also trying to support our sustainability aims by encouraging the reusing of clothing. The Parent Council are working hard to do this through regular opportunities to swap or get items of school clothing. This takes place in the shelter in the lower playground. The Parent Council will keep you informed of dates for this.

All children change for PE lessons. Please can you send a PE kit into school. This should be a tea-shirt, shorts or tracksuit trousers and a pair of trainers or plimsoles. **Please ensure all items are named and in a gym bag.** Children should not bring football team clothing for PE.

### **Meet the Teacher**

This event will take place in school this Wednesday evening. You can arrive from 6.15pm and the first session will start at 6.30pm. Sessions will be repeated to give parents the opportunity to visit two different stages. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see the classroom and hear about the learning for the coming session. It is not a chance to discuss individual children. It is aimed at parents and carers so **if possible**, please do not bring children. **Stage Newsletters** will be issued in the week beginning Monday 5 September.

### **Pupil Support Officer**

Some of you might have already met Nina Zizzamia, our new Pupil Support Officer. Nina has joined the staff team on a permanent basis and is employed from the Pupil Equity Fund. Her role is to support families with attendance, with accessing supports in and out of school and to support identified children. If you would like to discuss any of the above with Nina you can email her directly at [Nina.Zizzamia@broughton-pri.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Nina.Zizzamia@broughton-pri.edin.sch.uk) or through the school admin email address.

## What are our school priorities this session?

Our school Improvement Plan can be found on the school website in the documents section. Below is a summary of the areas identified by us for improvement this session:

- To achieve a silver award for Rights Respecting School
- To achieve a Green Flag as part of the Eco Schools Award Scheme
- To further develop a culturally inclusive curriculum
- To revisit strategies used to support children for whom English is an additional language (approximately one third of the school)
- To further develop our approaches to creating quality assessments
- To use a 'Lesson Study' approach in order to improve classroom practice
- To further embed the Edinburgh Teacher Charter
- To develop a maths vocabulary across the school
- To embed the use of 'numberless word problems' as a means of improving children's understanding of word problems
- To further the use of 1:1 devices in the upper school and build on the skills of staff and pupils
- To continue developing our play pedagogy in the early years
- To review and promote the delivery of French across the school
- To embed the writing framework across the school through moderation of writing

As you can see, there is a lot going on this school session. We will continue to offer children the chance to be on the Equalities Group, The Pupil Council, House Captains (P6 and P7) and The Sustainability Group.

## Attendance and Lateness

Last session our attendance percentage was very low. This was largely due to absences for Covid and for families taking time off during the term to visit family members you had not been able to see during the previous two years.

This session it is a Council priority for all schools to improve pupil attendance. For primary aged children this should be upwards of 90%. Where children's attendance starts to fall below 90%, either myself or Nina will be in touch to discuss this and how we can support you to improve it.

Wherever possible please **take family holidays during school holidays**. Any requests for time off during the term should be made in writing (email) to me.

We have also seen a steady increase in children regularly arriving late for school. Wherever possible **please have your child here for 8.50am** so they can join their class line. Being late is disruptive and makes children anxious.

Please can you make sure your child brings a coat to school as they will be outdoors in all weathers.

Maria Gowans, Head Teacher