



Hermitage Primary School



14th August 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to a new school year - we hope everyone has had a refreshing summer break and is raring to go!

It is my privilege and delight to begin working here with you all at Hermitage Primary School and I am very much looking forward to getting to know your children and yourselves as we work together in supporting and developing them in their learning.

Schools now are such exciting and creative places to learn and grow and at Hermitage Primary I want to work alongside staff in creating rich partnerships with you and the wider community. It is these partnerships that make all the difference for your child and I do hope you too are looking forward to all this new session has in store.

Your children's welfare, achievements and attainment are our top priority and over the course of the coming year we will work as hard as we can to create a safe, happy, enriching, challenging and fun place to grow and learn.

A change in leadership in a school will bring about some inevitable changes and I am committed in working alongside staff, pupils and parents and carers to bring about positive change in the school for deep and lasting improvements.

It was lovely to meet your children today and to see them all so smartly turned out in their uniforms with eager faces for what lies ahead. Our new P1 pupils also had a good and settled first day.

P1 parents are reminded that the children should be dropped at the bottom of the steps from tomorrow ready for the 9 a.m. bell; where they will be met by their buddies. They should also be collected by parents/carers at the foot of the main door steps at 2.55pm when P1 staff will bring the lines out.

All parents/carers are reminded that your compliance and assistance in keeping the road at the front clear of cars is necessary and appreciated. We wish to ensure the safety of all our pupils as they enter and leave the school grounds.

Class teachers were announced at the end of last term and there have been no changes to that. We welcome Mrs Anne Miller at P1 and extend our best wishes to her as she joins the teaching team and extend a welcome back to Miss Fiona D'Arcy who will provide non-class contact cover to some classes and work alongside Mrs Morag Ridland, teaching music, across the school.

Mr Osorio will teach Eco and Outdoor Learning to classes and both he and Mr Mulvenna will also teach PE across the school.

Support Assistants allocated to classes are noted for your information below:

P1 : Mrs Bradbury
P2 : Mrs Johnston
P3 : Mrs Impey
P4 : Mrs McNeilage

P5 : Mrs McFarlane
P6 : Mrs Hanks
P7: Mrs Potter

Mrs Arroll continues to provide additional class support and we welcome Mrs Jennifer Michie to our Office team during Mrs Hodgson's maternity leave.

Children are coming home today with their new Pupil Planners for the year ahead. Please take good care of these and enjoy building them up as records of learning and achievement as the year progresses. I know how much you value these as communication and recording tools.

Although a full Newsletter will be issued in early September, I'd like to give you some advance notice of a few upcoming events.

Please mark them on your calendars and pop along. They are a great way for us to get to meet each other and deepen those partnerships.

We will be holding a '**Meet the Teacher**' evening on **Wednesday 12th September from 7-8.30pm**, This gives you a chance to pop in at any point and introduce yourself to the class teachers. As it also falls during Scotland's *Maths Week*, we intend having some fun Maths activities in each class to allow you to share a little bit of learning with your children during the evening too. It's a 'drop-in' session so feel free to come and go between classes as you please. (More information will follow in our first Newsletter in early September)

The Parent Council (HPPC) wish to extend an open invitation to all parents and carers to come along to their **Coffee and Cake Afternoon on Friday 24th August at 2pm** in the Music and Drama Room.

Over some refreshments you can grab the chance to chat to others and get to know a little more of all we're about at school in a very relaxed setting.

Their annual **AGM** will be held earlier than usual on **Wednesday 29th August**, allowing a new Committee to be in place right at the start of the new session to 'hit the ground running'. This is a great opportunity to hear of all their activities and plans for the year ahead. Please come along and show your support. New committee members and helpers are required, but no-one will be put under any pressure – mark the date to come along and enjoy the evening!

Next week, the annual data check and consents pack will be sent home. Please complete and return them as quickly as possible to ensure our records are kept up to date.

Enclosed with that letter will also be the annual date planner. This will give you prior knowledge of the major events throughout the year and will hopefully allow you to plan around things. Please keep it in a very safe place for reference through the year and bear in mind that any date could be subject to change. Should this be the case we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible.

We will endeavour to communicate with you as openly as possible.

Most information will come through our Expressions App, by email or via the website: (www.hermitageprimaryschool.org) as we continue to try to save paper resources.

Here's to a great year ahead!

Kind regards

Elsbeth Davis
Head Teacher