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Ratho Primary School

A Curious, Creative Community

Head Teacher Newsletter

October 9th 2020

Acting Head Teacher: Chris Welander

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Senior Leadership Team Update

We say goodbye to Mrs Glover next week who has been our wonderful Head Teacher for the past five years. We will miss her very much indeed. She has had such a positive effect on our school community and led our school with distinction. We wish Mrs Glover all the luck in her next role as Head Teacher of Duddingston Primary School.

I will be Acting Head Teacher until the recruitment of a new Head Teacher is completed, we expect this to be complete by Christmas. Mrs Smith and Mrs Nicolson will share my Depute Head Teacher post with Mrs Smith taking the role on a Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Nicolson taking the role on a Thursday and Friday. I know they'll do a wonderful job!

Mrs Marshall shall be taking Primary 7a full time to allow Mrs Smith to do her new duties.

Home learning update

I wrote to you last week to explain our new approach to home work. In the coming days you will receive your child's Microsoft Teams login details, so they will be able to access their home learning starting from **Monday 2nd November.** Please get in touch with the school office if you have any issues getting up and running!

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Sumdog maths

We are hugely grateful to the Ratho School Voice for funding our annual subscription to Sumdog Maths for all children in Primary 1 up to Primary 7. Sumdog is such a fantastic, engaging way of practising a huge variety of different maths in class and at home. Log in details for Sumdog will be shared by class teachers.

Ask your kids about…

This term our classes have been focussing on literacy, numeracy and health and well-being after the school closure before the summer. Below is a brief summary of some of the wonderful learning happening in our school this week!

Nursery	Learning about different senses in particular the sense of smell and investigating shapes around the nursery
Primary 1	Learning about 2D shapes: how many corners? How many sides?
Primary 1/2	Learning about 2D shapes and patterns in nature
Primary 2	Revising and perfecting our vowel digraphs: oa, ue, ay, ai, ee, oo
Primary 3	Learning how to login to our new computers using a username and a password
Primary 3/4	Using right angle testers to identify different angles in our school
Primary 4	Self portraits of different animals linked to our class story: Wonder!
Primary 5	Using Tools for Writing such as punctuation pyramids, word mats and the experience of being outdoors to improve our writing
Primary 5/6	Different angles including acute, reflex, obtuse, straight, right and full rotations
Primary 6	Creating posters describing different musical genres
Primary 7a	Learning about how to hold a debate after our Parliaments mini topic and being involved in the House Captain elections
Primary 7b	Using protractors to calculate angles of a variety of sizes
STEM	Designing and constructing models of strong and stable structures in sport, such as basketball nets and football goals

School Improvements

This year we are focussing on the following improvements in our school:

1. Mental Health and Well-being
   - ✓ Using our You Tube channel to keep you informed about how we support mental health and wellbeing at our school
   - ✓ Creating guides on our approaches to supporting children's mental health and well-being
2. Learning, Teaching and Assessment – setting up digital home learning
   - ✓ Setting up home learning provision for children self-isolating with home learning teacher support
   - ✓ Setting up home learning digitally for all children

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- ✓ Purchasing devices to allow children to access digital learning where they don't currently have access
- ✓ Creating teaching and learning videos for activities in our literacy policy

3. Equalities, Equity and Inclusion
   - ✓ Equalities training for all staff
   - ✓ Review of our policy on preventing and responding to bullying and prejudice
   - ✓ Further training for staff on running an inclusive classroom

I will keep you updated with our progress towards these goals!

Parent consultations

We will be holding telephone consultations the week of **9th November**. We have been investigating using Teams for this purpose but issues with bandwidth and connection mean that we will be using good old-fashioned telephone this time round!

Each consultation will last ten minutes, please don't be offended if our teachers wrap this up promptly as they will have a number of families to ring.

I will write to you with more detail around parent consultations next week.

Additional Support for Learning

The additional support for learning service have also created their own You Tube channel. It is very much under development at the moment but will be added to over time.

It can be found here: https://youtu.be/KxC5qvMbPCs

Outdoor PE

We will be continuing to hold PE lessons outside until guidance changes. Please remember to send your children in with outdoor PE kit and a change of clothes in their bag if it is due to rain.