



# Harestanes Primary Newsletter

## SEPTEMBER 2023



Dear Parent / Carer,

I can hardly believe how quickly this term is flying by! The **Primary 1 children and children new to our ELR are now well settled** into their classes and are enjoying being part of the larger Harestanes Family!

**Thank you** to all of the parents who continue to support our **SAFE TRAVEL** arrangements **by not coming into the school playground** and instead waiting outside the school gates for pick up. I would also like to remind everyone that parents **are not permitted to drive into the school car park** to pick up or drop off (ELR pupils have bespoke arrangements) for the **safety of all of our pupils**. If you want to speak to your child's teacher – just give us a call at the school office and we'll arrange that!



We have been taking part in the EDC pilot of **Parent Portal** and I know that many of you have encountered difficulty with the system. We have been working very hard in the background to **fix the 'blips'** and our Family Learning Assistant – Mrs Summers – has met with many of you to support. Please **contact us** if you are **still having difficulty** and we will be only too happy to help. ***Did you know that you can report your child's absence through the Parent Portal?***

**Our School Improvement Plan 2023/24** and our **Standards and Quality Report 2023** are now on our school website. Having achieved our **Bronze Reading School Award** last year, we are on track to achieve our Silver Award this year! We will also be working towards becoming a **Rights Respecting School (Bronze Level)** and more information about this will be sent out to parents very soon. We will also be working on continuing the development and implementation of **RSHP** (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting Programme) this year. We will be holding a **short information session on 23/10/22 5.30-6.30pm** to allow parents to view and discuss the materials. Everything we use from the programme is available for parents to view online and you can see the materials for yourself on <https://rshp.scot/>

As Autumn fast approaches can I ask you to ensure that your child is wearing a **suitable jacket to protect against rain**? Children much prefer to be **outside at break times** (even in light rain) and we only keep them indoors if the weather is **extreme**. Our children play very happily in the rain when they have the appropriate clothing on and we promote and recognise outdoor learning opportunities where we can.



I hope you enjoyed our **'Sharing the Learning'** event where we sent the **children's jotters home** for you to **celebrate their 'flagged learning'**. The response from parents was very positive indeed and we value all

opportunities to work together. This is a new venture and we will be repeating this once per term. Our first **Parents Night is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd November 2023**. Details will be sent out later.







**X ( formerly Twitter)** Many parents particularly enjoy keeping up to date with the very latest news via X and tell us that they **like** the regular updates and photos in our **Tweets**. Please do come and join us by asking to 'follow' us **@HarestanesPS** (*This is a protected and locked site and not available to the general public*)

Reading is as always celebrated across our school and as part of this, children in the ELR will soon be using the online **Oxford Owls** resource to share reading at home. Please look out for a **Parent/ Carer guide** that will be coming home in the near future. This month, a love of reading will also be encouraged with a **trip to Kirkintilloch Library** for some of our classes, where they will have the opportunity to access a wide range of books.



Children have also **been learning about the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child**. This has included taking on more responsibility within the classroom and increasing opportunities for children to share thoughts and opinions.

In staffing, this term we **welcome new Support for Learning Assistants**. **Mrs McElhaney** will be working with children across the ELR and **Ms Penn-Dunnett** will be in mainstream. We will also be **welcoming Mrs McGuire at the end of the month** who will also be a **Support for Learning Assistant in the ELR**.

***Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to speak with us about any aspect of your child's experience at school by phoning or emailing the school office or speaking with either Mrs Grant, Mrs Neilly, or myself when we are at the school gates.***

Kind Regards,

*Ms. Jackie Gillespie*

Head Teacher

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....***

OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – PTA COFFEE/ CHAT – ALL WELCOME AT 2.30PM  
OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> – STAFF INSERVICE DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR PUPILS  
OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> (**inclusive**) OCTOBER HOLIDAY  
OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup> - RSHP INFORMATION EVENING FOR PARENTS (P1-7)  
OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - PTA HALLOWEEN DISCO (ADULT HELPERS ALWAYS WELCOME)  
OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY (INCLUDING GOLDEN BENCH)  
NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> – P7 CLASS ASSEMBLY (SHARING THE LEARNING –P7 PARENTS WELCOME)  
NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> –P6 CLASS ASSEMBLY (SHARING THE LEARNING –P6 PARENTS WELCOME)  
NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – JOTTERS HOME (SHARING THE LEARNING)  
NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> –P5/6 CLASS ASSEMBLY (SHARING THE LEARNING –PARENTS WELCOME )  
NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – PARENTS NIGHT 3.30-5.30PM / 6.30-8.30PM (DETAILS SENT LATER)  
DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> – CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY (INCLUDING GOLDEN BENCH)  
DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - P4 CLASS ASSEMBLY (SHARING THE LEARNING)