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Newsletter 2 October 2019

31st October 2019

Welcome

A very warm welcome to pupils and staff at the start of the winter term.

Harvest Assembly

Thank you to everyone who came along or donated money for our harvest assembly. Elspeth Linklater and Karen Scott represented CLAN and they told us all about the excellent work done by the charity here in Orkney and in Aberdeen. We were delighted to give them £369.22 after the collection on our 'Clash for CLAN' day. Well done everyone!

Reflective Waistcoats

All children have now been given a reflective waistcoat. It is important that these are worn every day throughout the winter when travelling to and from school.

Poppies

P7 children will be visiting all classes next week collecting money for Poppy Scotland. If you would like your child to have a poppy, please give them a small donation to take to school. (Suggested 50p minimum)

Children in Need

On Friday 15th November lots of exciting activities will be taking place in school in aid of BBC's annual 'Children in Need' appeal. As in previous years, we hope that children and staff will be able to take part in as many of these activities as possible and, in doing so, support this worthwhile cause, as well as having lots of fun!

Pudsey Bear LED torch keyrings - These will be on sale in school at a cost of £2 each from Monday 11th November.

Dressing up - Children and staff are invited to come to school on Friday 15th dressed in their pyjamas. For this privilege, children will be asked to donate 50p and staff £1 to the appeal.

Fun games and activities - Throughout the day each class will have the opportunity to take part in the fun games and activities organised by Primary 3 children and assisted by their older friends in Primary 6. Each game will cost 20p to play. Face painting will also be on offer and organised by Primary 7.

Homebakes - At breaktime and after lunch on Children in Need day, children will be able to buy homebakes (20p each) in the foyer. If anyone would like to donate any baking to sell, this would be very much appreciated. Baking can be left at the school office on the Thursday or brought to school on the Friday morning.

Every year we have been amazed by the total amount of money raised in St Andrews, and we would like to thank you for your continuing generosity and support.

Early Closure

If the school is going to close early, parents will be alerted through the school text messaging system. **Parents will be asked to reply by text** to let us know that there will be somebody at home to meet their child/ren off the school bus. Please reply with your child's name (eldest child only) and **BUS** or **WILL BE COLLECTED** to indicate if your child/ren should be put on the school bus or will remain at school to be collected by a parent/family member.

e.g. **Sam Smith BUS / Sam Smith WILL BE COLLECTED**

School staff will then telephone parents who have not responded by text. The buses will be dispatched once it has been established that there will be a parent or carer to meet each child off the bus. Children are not released to walk home independently if the conditions are so bad that we have to close the school early. Parents may collect their children from school if they wish; the office will note which children have been collected.

If you decide to collect your child/ren from school, you will be asked to wait in the foyer until a member of staff collects your child from their classroom. This ensures that there is no confusion around which children are getting on the school bus.

Please listen to Radio Orkney in times of bad weather for updates on school transport. Orkney Islands Council has a 'OIC School Transport' Facebook page and OIC Twitter feed for posting notices of bad weather and school closures.

We will endeavour to keep the school open where at all possible, weather, transport and staffing permitting. If the school is open and the buses do not run, parents can make their own arrangements to get their children to and from school. Equally, parents can choose to keep their children home if they feel it is unsafe for them to be out. Please let us know if you keep your children off due to the weather as part of the usual procedures.

OIC's winter newsletter is available to view on our website - <http://st-andrews-primary.com> - in the 'parent information' section.

Updated Medical Policy

The local authority has issued an updated medical policy - 'Guidance for Supporting our Children and young people with Healthcare Needs (incorporating Administration of Medicine/s)'. This policy is available to view in the 'policies' section of our website.

As before, if your child requires medication to be given at school, you will be asked to complete an 'administration of medication' form. If you have already given your child medication before school, please let the school know the dose and the time the medicine was taken.

Parents/carers should ensure that they have administered or have been present for the first dose of any medication for their child to allow them to be on hand for any adverse reaction to the medication their child may have.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Wednesday 30th First Day of Term

November

Tuesday 12th & Thursday 14th Dental Inspections

Tuesday 12th Parent Council

Thursday 14th P1 Health Screening

Friday 15th Children In Need

Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st Flu Vaccinations

December

Sunday 1st East Mainland Womens Guild Carol Service (Deerness Hall)

Tuesday 3rd Parent Council Christmas Disco

Tuesday 10th Christmas Show 2pm

Wednesday 11th Christmas Show 7pm

Thursday 12th School Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper day

Thursday 19th Christmas Church Service 10am (Parents Welcome)

Friday 20th Last Day of Term

January

Monday 6th First Day of Term

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Kind Regards,
Mark Taylor, Head Teacher.**