



Tinto Times

August 2017

Inside this issue:

Head Teacher's Report 1-3

Parent Council

Fundraisers

After School Club

Head Teacher's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter for Session 2017-18. This will be an exciting year as we will be returning to Symington and to a beautiful new school building.

Staffing: Of course we do start the year on a very sad note as Mrs Struthers is never very far from our thoughts. Most of the pupils have returned to school without instigating any conversations or questions about Mrs Struthers. Those that have wanted to speak to an adult have been supported and had their questions answered. Some support material will go posted onto the school website this week.

Mrs Struthers is currently stable at home, she is very tired but enjoys brief visits from Mrs Kilgallon and myself. We will keep you updated.

We welcomed Mrs MacConnell to the staff – formerly Miss Forrest! Her wedding took place during the summer holidays and it was a magical day for everyone present. Congratulations to the happy couple and best wishes for the future.

Mrs Andrews also had some lovely news when we returned – she will be having her second child in December. She has inexplicably turned down a leading role in this year's Nativity! Mrs Andrews will start her maternity leave around the beginning of December and is planning to return to work in April.

The support staff has changed slightly in that Mrs Sommerville is now based in the nursery class instead of the primary school. Mrs Gilbert remains as office administrator with Mrs Baillie and Mrs McCammon providing support in the classrooms, dining halls and playground.

P1 & Nursery: We welcomed our new P1 and nursery pupils and their families to Tinto this week. They all settled in very well indeed into their new routines. At lunch on our first day back one of the P1 pupils announced that "This is a *great* party!" and was very pleased to hear that this would happen every day!

Eco Flag: Congratulations to the Eco committee of 2016-17. During the final days of term they received the news that they had been awarded the Green Flag for their eco work. It is now proudly displayed in the main entrance hall. Well done to everyone for supporting the committee in their work.

I.P/S&Q Report: The School Improvement Plan is available to view on the school website. There are three documents; Tinto I.P, Biggar Learning Community I.P & the Biggar L.C Nursery Classes I.P.

The Standard and Quality Report is being summarised into a leaflet format and will be posted shortly. A full copy is available in the nursery and at Ridgepark.

Parental questionnaires: A summary of responses will be posted onto the website shortly. In general the feedback was very good and positive. There were a couple of reoccurring themes which will require to be addressed.

One of these themes was communication. There was a majority view that Facebook had improved communication but a few comments were also made that this should never be the main and only way to communicate to parents. We will never use FB as the main communication, it tends to be used to answer queries from parents. However it has been used to post photos such as the book launch or Star of the Week information which were then not posted on the website. This will not happen this session. Star of the Week will be mentioned in the monthly newsletter instead and school event photos will appear on both FB and the website.

Staff will use emails to communicate with their class parents in the first instance and follow up on the school website class pages and FB if appropriate.

Snow updates will however have to be done as best we can. Some parents asked that texts be sent as not all parents receive emails on their phones. This caused some issues for parents already waiting at the bus stop. However texts can only be sent from the main computer in the school office as this accesses all the parental data on the Click and Go system. I cannot have this information on my mobile phone and if the roads are unpassable, staff cannot get to school to access the computer. Currently updates are posted on the school website as soon as is possible and onto FB. I do my best to contact the bus companies before 7.45 a.m. to receive information regarding road conditions etc. I would recommend that before leaving the house on a snowy day that all parents check the website first.

The other main area highlighted in the returns was concerning information about the curriculum and children's targets. As a staff we discussed this during the in-service day. We will continue to put these in the diaries each term as class/ group targets. In addition we will put these on the website and then detail individual pupil targets in the pupil Record of Work jotters. These will then be available on each Open Day to discuss with your child. Copies will be sent home too. Evaluations will then follow at the end of each term with next steps listed. Hopefully this will address this issue and ensure parents have a clearer understanding of what curriculum areas are being taught.

New build: The external walls should be up by the end of August and then I will be allowed for a site visit. The completion date is still set for April 2018.

Events: There are some events planned for the following two months. These are

- P5 swimming every Tuesday afternoon for 12 weeks
- P4-7 rugby sessions (23.8- 13.9) during P.E delivered by the Biggar Rugby Club's Education Officer
- House Captains and JRSO elections
- Open Day 6.9.17 (see below)
- Punctuation Show 21.9.17 (a.m)
- P1 Parents curriculum meeting 21.9.17 1.30-2.30 p.m
- Dress down Day 29.9.17 £1 per child/ £2 per family

Parent Council AGM: Please do try to attend this meeting on the 12.9.17. This is the opportunity to show your support for the parents who meet each month to represent your views and support your children. This session we are in need of a Treasurer. This is not an onerous task and there are only a handful of events each year to raise funds – its more about writing the cheques to spend the money raised!

Dates:

6 th September	Open Day 9.30-10.30: P1-3/ 11.00-12.00 P4-5 / 1.30-2.30 P6-7
12 th September	Parent Council AGM
21 st September	Punctuation Show
	P1 Parents curriculum Information session 1.30-2.30
22-25 th September	September weekend. School closes Thursday 21/9/17 at 3.00p.m. Pupils return Tuesday 26/9/17
4 th October	Parents Evening Nursery Decant Building, Symington
7-8 th October	Biggar Science Festival (weekend event for families)
w/b 16 th October	Half Term