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Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new school year. We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and benefitted from the break. We extend a special welcome to new pupils in ELC, Primary One and also to those who have enrolled throughout the school. We also extend a warm welcome to new members of staff: Mrs Rachael Robson P5Z class teacher and Ms Michelle Leckie P6Z class teacher.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school this Monday, 21st August 2017. We request that the children come to school wearing school uniform that day.

This year the following photographs taken:

- Family group of children with siblings in school
- Individual photos of all children

Proof envelopes will be sent home with children; those wishing to purchase photographs must return orders to school by **Thursday 31st August 2017**. Orders placed after that date will be return for parents/carers to order directly from Tempest, there will be an additional charge for this service. There is no obligation to purchase photographs.

Staffing updates

Support for Learning teacher

We do not have a Support for Learning teacher following Mrs MacDonald's retirement. SBC will advertise and fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

Review of administration/office staff

Throughout schools in SBC changes have been made to the way in which administration staff operate. Transition to a cluster based school administration system will mean that Mrs Webster's time will be divided between Melrose and other schools. Some of her duties will be taken over by Mrs Wight. With this reduction in staffing the office will not be manned continuously throughout the school day. We ask for your understanding and wish to reassure you that these changes will not adversely affect the day to day running of the school.

Review of janitorial and cleaning staff

SBC are undertaking a review of janitorial and cleaning services which is due to be concluded in the autumn. As a result of this review we are unable to replace Mr Hamilton who left Melrose Primary School during the holidays. We are doing all we can to secure the services of a janitor.

Communication

We have an open door policy at Melrose Primary School however we request that parents/carer wishing to speak to a teacher or a member of the management team contact the school office to make an appointment.

Annual Update Form

These forms will be distributed to children in the coming weeks, please return the updated forms as soon as possible; it is essential we have current contact information for all pupils.

Huntly Road

Huntly Road is a designated safe route to school; this was established as a safe walking area based on the presence of sidewalks, walking paths and the location of crosswalks.

The designated parking areas, drop off and pick up points, for Melrose Primary School and Nursery are St Mary's Road, the Health Centre and Melrose Rugby club car park.

Despite constant requests for Huntly Road **not** to be used for parking, a drop off or pick up point parents/carers continue to ignore this request.

Drivers who use Huntly Road at the beginning and end of a school day are putting children's lives at risk.

There have been a number of near misses/incidents where pupils have narrowly avoided being injured by cars.

We request that Huntly Road is NOT used for parking, drop off or pick up at any time when children are in school.

School Newsletters

School newsletters will be sent out to parents electronically and will be posted on the school website. We will use the email addresses held on each child's record. Please ensure you inform the school of any changes to email address during the year. Emails will be sent to the nominated main contact given on your child's enrolment form (unless we have been advised otherwise). Please also inform the school if you are unable to access the newsletter through the school website or by email.

School Meals

To avoid disappointment and upset we ask parents/carers to remember to order meals well in advance.

Medication/Allergy Information

We have children in school with allergies including severe nut allergies. We wish to remind parents/carers that nuts and food containing nuts, e.g. chocolate spreads and peanut butter should **not** be brought to school.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to inform the school of any condition and also to provide prescribed medication which is in date.

Please note the school is unable to administer medication which has not been prescribed e.g. Calpol.

Should a child require be given prescribed medication during the school day a request form, which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website, must be completed.

For further information about the administration of medicines and health care procedures, please click on this link http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/64720/parents_leaflet_medication.pdf

Dalguise Residential Outing 2018 (current P6 pupils)

The interim payment of £60 is due to be paid on or before 20th October 2017, payments should be made through ParentPay.

Clothing and other personal items

Please ensure **all items of clothing and other personal items** (coats, bags, lunch boxes, gym kit etc.) brought to school are **clearly named**. There is a lost property box in each building; if property or clothes are misplaced we urge pupils and parents to check the 'lost property' boxes. Please also check that your child brings their own personal items home, several pieces of named clothing have already gone missing.

Health & Safety in PE

In the interest of health and safety, children should **NOT** wear ear-rings and must tie back long hair for PE and physical activities. Children who have pierced ears should be able to remove their own ear-rings or come to school with their ear-rings taped. Pupils are also responsible for the safety of their ear-rings when they are taken out. School are not able to tape or remove ear-rings. Pupils with long hair must bring something to tie their hair back with, school cannot provide bands/bobbles – boys with longer hair are also required to tie their hair back.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

We remind all parents and carers that children should **NOT** return to school or nursery for **48 hours** after the bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. We would be grateful for your support with this recommendation in order to avoid any unnecessary spread of viruses.

Easy Fundraising

Melrose Primary School is now registered with an organisation called Easy Fundraising. Easyfundraising is a way to raise money for good causes such as schools, charities, sports clubs, religious groups, community groups and more, simply by shopping online is an online.

By registering as a user, each time an online purchase is made the school will benefit financially – there is no cost to register and no extra cost for the purchase.

To register go to: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/melroseprimary

The site is a referral platform which goes to the online store - every time a purchase is made by a registered user, the school will receive a donation from the store. This is a FREE and SIMPLE way of raising money for the school.

Assemblies

Assemblies take place on Thursdays from 2.30-3.00pm, unless otherwise stated. Parents/carers are invited to attend assemblies involving their children as listed below:

- 21 September 2017 – P5R
- 28 September 2017 – P5Z
- 5 October 2017 – Harvest P3 year group
- 2 November 2017 – Remembrance P7 year group
- 16 November 2017 – P4
- 23 November 2017 – St Andrews day P2 year group
- 30 November 2017 – P6M
- Wednesday 13 December – P1 year group Nativity show at 2pm & 6pm
- 21 December 2017 – Christmas P5 year group in the Parish church 9.30am
- 25 January 2018 – Burns P6 year group
- 1 February 2018 – P7R
- 22 February 2018 – P3
- 1 March 2018 – P2/3
- 8 March 2018 – P7H
- 15 March 2018 – P1P
- 29 March 2018 – Easter P4 year group in the Parish Church 9.30am
- 3 May 2018 – P1M
- 10 May 2018 – P2
- 24 May 2018 – P3/4 at 9.15-9.45am
- 7 June 2018 – P6Z

Diary Dates

School closures, changes and new events are highlighted in bold writing.

Monday 21 Aug 2017	School photographer in school to take individual/family group photos
Monday 9 – Friday 13 Oct 2017	School holidays
Friday 20 Oct 2017	Dalguise Interim Payment Due (P6 pupils)
Monday 6 Nov 2017	Parents Consultations with teachers 4.30pm – 6pm
Tuesday 7 Nov 2017	Parents Consultations with teachers 4pm – 6pm
Wednesday 8 Nov 2017	Parents Consultations with teachers 3.45pm – 5.45pm
Thursday 9 & Friday 10 Nov 2017	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Monday 27 Nov 2017	School Closed – St Andrews Day Holiday
Thursday 7 Dec 2017	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 13 Dec 2017	P1 Nativity Show 2pm and 6pm
Thursday 14 Dec 2017	P2 year group and P5 year group Christmas Party
Monday 18 Dec 2017	P3 year group and P4 year group Christmas Party
	P7 year group Christmas Party (6.30pm – 8.15pm)
Tuesday 19 Dec 2017	P1 year group and P6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 20 Dec 2017	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 21 Dec 2017	Church Service led by P5 year group
Friday 22 Dec 17 – Friday 5 Jan 2018	School Holidays
Monday 29 Jan 2018	School Photographer for class photos
Friday 9 Feb 2018	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Monday 12 Feb – Wednesday 14 Feb 18	School Holidays
Thursday 29 Mar 2018	Church service led by P4 year group
Friday 30 Mar – Friday 13 Apr 2018	School Holidays
Friday 4 May 2018	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Monday 7 May 2018	School Closed – May Day Holiday
Monday 4 June 2018	School closed – Local Holiday
Wednesday 6 & Thursday 7 June 2018	P7 visits to Earlston High School
Tuesday 12 June 2018	Sports Day
Tuesday 19 June 2018	Alternative Sports Day (if previous week is cancelled)
Thursday 21 June 2018	Potted Sports for P1 – P4
Monday 25 June 2018	Sports Festival for P5 – P7
Wednesday 27 June 2018	P7 Leavers Assembly
Thursday 28 June – Friday 17 Aug 2018	School Holidays
Monday 20 Aug 2018	Staff In-Service Training Day – school/ELC closed for pupils
Tuesday 21 Aug 2018	School opens for new session

FORTHCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

The Voice Kids

The ITV talent show is returning in 2018 and are looking for super talented singers ages 7-14 who have what it takes to take over The Voice Kids stage.

Applications for the second series are now open and can be submitted via the following link:

<http://www.itv.com/thevoicekidsuk/apply>

They must be submitted by a parent/legal guardian and auditions are set to take place in September and October.

Melrose Football Club

The first step to becoming the new Beckham, Ronaldo, Marta or Neil Lennon!!!

P1 girls and boys 'free taster sessions' 10.00 am to 11.00 am, Saturday 19th August, Gibson Park, Melrose

P2-7 girls and boys also welcome for 'come and try sessions' from 10.00 am. Girl only sections available.

If you have any queries, please contact melrosefootballclub@gmail.com, or see Twitter, Facebook.