Halfmerke Primary School

September Newsletter

**Dear Parents and Carers**

Welcome back to all our Halfmerke families, I hope everyone had a lovely summer and got to enjoy some of the sunny weather! I have had a great start to my new post, the staff, parents, and pupils have given me the warmest welcome and I am very much looking forward to working with you all. We have enjoyed getting back to a slightly more normal start to the session and all our pupils have done a fantastic job at learning the routines of their new classes. A special well done to our P1 pupils who have done an amazing job of getting settled into Room 1 & 2. Miss Byrne has been busy getting all the schoolhouses organised and the responsibility of looking after the houses will be passed onto our House Captains once selected next week. Other pupil participation groups getting organised for the session are our HWB and Reading Ambassadors, watch this space for introductions to our elected pupils. Miss Byrne is also leading our Participatory Budgeting Group this session and will shortly be issuing information on how you can be involved in having a say in our Pupil Equity Fund Spend this session. I am always keen for families to get in touch directly with the school if you have any pupil concerns or school queries, just a reminder that all queries should be sent to the school office via email or phone call and will be directed from there. Finally, I wish to thank all our families for a warm welcome to Halfmerke, it’s a pleasure to be here!

Ms L Hogg

Headteacher

**Dates for your Diary**

6th, 7th & 8th September Strike Days – School Closed

Wednesday 14th September Beat the Street Starts

Wednesday 14th September Photographer in school for individual pupil photos

Friday 16th September Sports Hall Athletics event at John Wrights Sports Centre

Tuesday 20th September Netball Fun 5z Event at John Wrights Sports Centre

Friday 23rd September School closes @ 3pm for September Weekend

Monday 26th September School reopens @ 9am

**Save the Date**

We will be hosting monthly **Halfmerke Havers** sessions. This is an informal opportunity for families to come together and chat as well as finding out information about our school/curriculum. Our first session will be on **Thursday 29th September @ 9:30am.** We hope to see you there!

 **Strike Days**

All families should now have received an email detailing information about the Strike Days scheduled for next week. If not please contact the school office for information. Class teachers will provide a handout to pupils on Monday with activities that can be completed at home during the school closures. We have tried to limit the number of resources and access to digital technology required for activities to make it easier for families to complete. Please take some time to look over this handout with your child.

 **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Our programme of extra-curricular clubs should be finalised in the next few weeks. For now, we are offering Netball and Athletics for our P6 & P7 pupils, and you will shortly receive further information on these as well as Boys/girls football. These clubs will participate in the SL Sport & Leisure events mentioned in the diary dates section. Please look out for further info regarding clubs for other stages of the school. We would love if there were any budding volunteers out there who are interested in either running a club or helping with one, if you are please get in touch with the school office. Our Active Schools Coordinator is on hand to offer support to anyone willing to help.

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**Heathy Snacks**

In keeping with our HWB programme and a health promoting school initiative we would like to encourage all pupils to bring a healthy snack for break. Pupils should bring their own sports bottle filled with water, fizzy drinks are not permitted. This is in keeping with our dental hygiene programme. We will be looking out for pupils who are bringing a healthy snack to school in the coming weeks.



We are pleased to inform you that we have booked a photographer to visit and take

Individual photos of our pupils. The date for this is Wednesday 14th September, further information will be communicated via our Parent Mail.



We are very excited that the Beat the Street game has returned to East Kilbride. Our P7 pupils were lucky to be selected to participate in the advertising campaign and took part in a photo shoot today, we will share these when we receive them. Pupils will hear more about playing the game at our first whole school assembly on Friday. We hope that we can encourage all our Halfmerke families to get on board and play the game with us!



Pupils and families will shortly be issued with information on accessing the online platform pupils will use for Homework and communication. This was very successful last year and provided families with a quick way to get messages to the teacher. We will continue to use See Saw for this; however, we would like to encourage families to contact the school office with concerns regarding pupil learning or progress and only use the See Saw platform for messages to the teacher that may not necessarily need a response. We would thank you with your cooperation with this.