Halfmerke Primary School

August Newsletter

**Dear Parents and Carers**

Welcome back to session 2024/25! I hope all our families had a wonderful summer and have settled back into routines. We have had a very busy return to school. Pupils have settled in very well and are all enthusiastic and motivated about the year ahead. Our P7s have done a fantastic job at helping our new P1 pupils to settle into their new routines and we have enjoyed our first whole school assembly. All our pupils are busy learning about the UNCRC and are creating their class charter based on the Rights of the Child. I will post some photos of these on twitter. Please can I ask that you return all forms that have been issued from the office ASAP for our records and that if you have not already get logged into Parents Portal as this will be our main communication for everyone soon. I hope to see many of you at our You+Me sessions starting next week and our first Halfmerke Havers at the end of the month. As always, thank you for your continued support 😊

Ms L Hogg Headteacher

**September 2024**

Monday 1st  – Athletics Club Starts 3pm – 4pm

Wednesday 4th  – You+Me Maths Project Starts. See info below 6 weeks, 1:45 – 2:45pm

Thursday 5th  – Meet the Teacher event @ 3:15pm. See info below

Tuesday 17th  – JRSO Open Day @ Chatelherault CP

Wednesday 18th – Beat the Street begins

Wednesday 25th – Football Festival @ Ballerup Recreation 12:30pm

Thursday 26th – School closes at 3pm for holiday weekend

Tuesday 1st Oct – Pupils return @ 9am

**You+Me – Family Learning Programme**

We are pleased to offer this project again this year to support families in numeracy skills. We will run this project twice this session and each block will be for 6 weeks. We are looking for parents/carers of pupils from room 1-3 for this 6-week block which will begin next Wednesday 4th September. The workshops are a fun, interactive way to help develop numeracy skills, tools and strategies to help support your child’s learning at home. These sessions are developed to help support any fears around numeracy and maths and to give support and help to increase number confidence and growth mindset. At the end of each session, children are invited along to play the games learned and for families to practise new skills acquired. There is of course, time for a cuppa, cake and blether as well!  The workshops are hosted by Miss Rankin and Miss Byrne and are informal, with no expectation for parents/carers to answer questions or be put ‘on the spot’. They help support counting, structure of numbers, and give hints and tips to help support children with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

**Spotlight on Attendance**

High levels of attendance at school are extremely important for any child’s development and progression. At Halfmerke we are focussing on celebrating our high levels of attendance as well as supporting lower levels. From September we will now be sharing your child’s monthly attendance with you in the hope that we can shine a spotlight on attendance and promote high levels of attendance throughout our school. We understand that pupils may need to be off school if they have an infection/temperature or are just too unwell, but we are happy to chat over any absence and help in any way to support your child at school.

**Participatory Budgeting/Halfmerke Havers**

We have scheduled our Halfmerke Havers sessions in for the last Friday of every month this session. They are an opportunity to come along and find out about school developments and have a tea/coffee and a blether! Our first session will be focussed on our Participatory Budgeting. A 5% allocation has been set aside from our Pupil Equity Fund for our PB this year. A full consultation will take place to best decide how to use this funding. Please come along at 9:30am on Friday 27th September for our first session, be good to see you there!

 **Beat The Street**

Beat the Street returns once again to East Kilbride on Wednesday 18th September. We will shortly receive welcome packs and will get information out to all our families on how to get involved. As always, our classes will be eager to participate and collect as many points for the school as they can. Good luck everyone!

**Meet the Teacher**

Our Meet the Teacher event is next Thursday 5th September. There will be two sessions so you can visit sibling classes. These sessions aim to share information about your child’s class/routine and learning and teaching. Sessions will run 3:15 – 3:45pm & 4:00 – 4:30pm. Please enter the school via the main door and you will be directed to your child’s class. We hope to see you all there.

**Some helpful reminders…..**

* Car Park – As always, our car park is as busy as ever at the beginning of the school term. Can I please remind everyone to be kind and courteous and consider others at drop off and pick up times. West Mains Primary require the use of most of the disabled spaces and the coned off drop off area for their school transport at 9am and just before 3pm. We would encourage our families to walk/scoot/ cycle to school when they can or perhaps park and stride.
* Indoor shoes – all pupils should have indoor shoes which are always kept in school. Pupils change into these on arrival as the playground can get wet and muddy at times. Pupils require indoor shoes/trainers to participate in gym sessions.
* Our weather is still very unpredictable, and we would ask that you ensure your child has a waterproof jacket as they may be out in the rain at playtimes.
* Football Strips – I have noticed a few pupils wearing football strips for PE. This is not part of our uniform and can I ask that the wearing of football strips in school is not permitted.