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**Newsletter – November 2017**

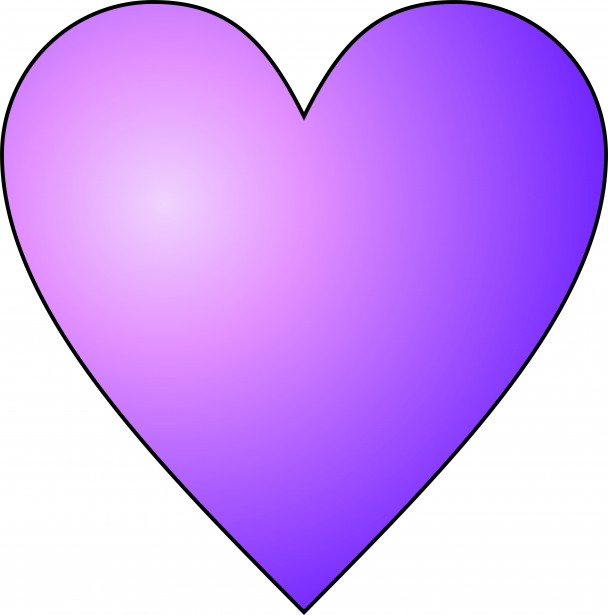


***Dear Parents/Carers***

*As we move into winter the cold days and nights are upon us –please continue to ensure children are well wrapped up for outdoor play and learning. It’s a lovely time of year in school as we prepare for Christmas and the classrooms are filled with wonder and creativity. Children will be involved in many experiences to enrich their lives at this time – Nativity rehearsals, preparing for the Christmas Fair, super song times and special assemblies. The Strathesk Choir have a busy season – out and about sharing their gift of song in the local community. I always feel so proud at this time of year and look forward to sharing best wishes with you all.*

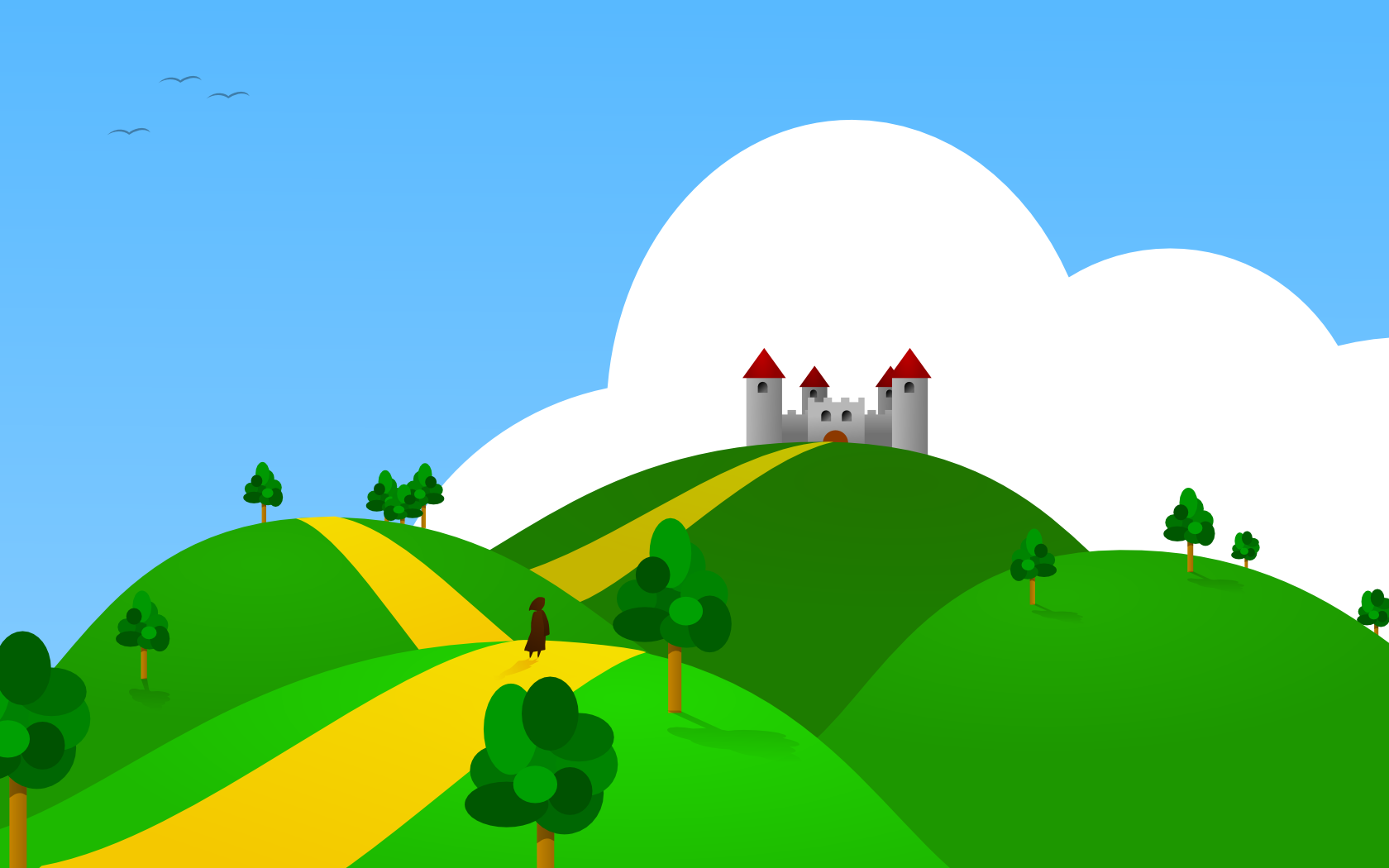
*Ms Donaldson*

***A special thought for school staff who work tirelessly through the winter months, with the children at the heart of everything they do. A very big thank you to the wonderful teachers and supporting staff at Strathesk.***

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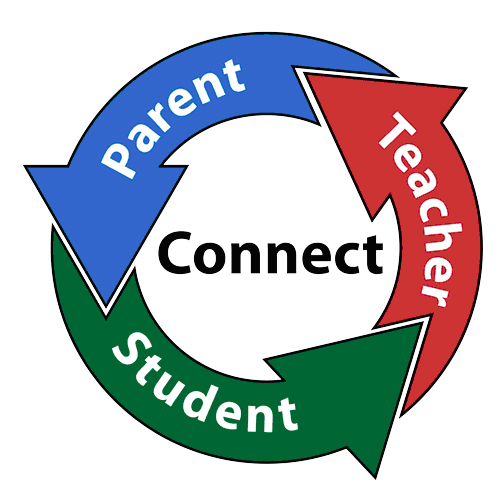
***The Adventures of Primary 6***

*Primary 6 went to New Lanark last week to experience what life was like in Victorian Times and to learn from Annie McLeod what it was like to work in a cotton mill at 10 years old. They also had the ‘Victorian Classroom’ experience and the children wrote on slates and dressed in Victorian uniforms. Well done to the children for their patience and good behaviour when the bus was delayed on the way home – and to staff for their professional conduct. Primary 6 have also started their John Muir Award with a visit to the Pentlands. They will have continued visits to the Pentlands and will be taking part in orienteering, learning bushcraft skills and doing conservation work with Penicuik Estate rangers. Excellent life skills in a wonderful setting!*

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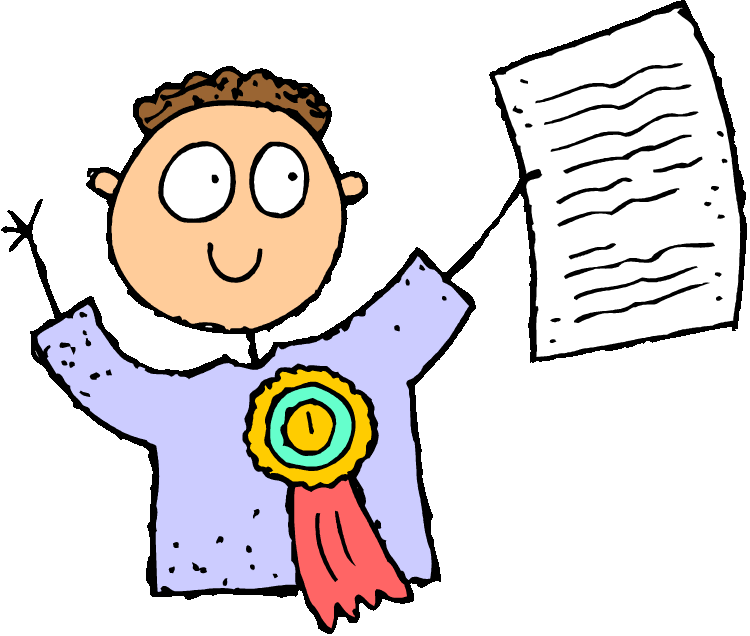
***Sharing Learning***

*Thank you to all parents, carers and family members who attended our Sharing Learning event last week. It is always lovely to see parents in school – and children love the chance to show their achievements. It is a great opportunity for families to get together, share learning and find out about some of the challenging and enjoyable work which goes on at Strathesk Primary School. Don’t forget to hand in your ‘Wider Achievement ‘ form if you havent already!*

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***Staffing***

*Congratulations to Miss Sloan and Mr Armstrong who secured part time positions as Principal Teachers – they are very welcome and off to a great start in our developing management team. Well done also to Miss Clark who is now in a permanent teaching position here at Strathesk.*

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***Pupil Equity Developments***

*This session Strathesk are using specific funding from the Scottish Government (Pupil Equity Fund) to support children and families and help to raise attainment. We have employed a part time ‘Home-School Practitioner’ Mrs Ali Turbott who starts with us on the 20th November. In addition, our Senior Child Care & Development Worker Debi Hamilton will be working in the primary school setting for part of the week supporting Early Level learning, children and families. Both ladies are very enthusiastic and keen to get started and will be starting to make links with school pupils and their families. This is a fabulous initiative and a great way to improve attainment and life chances for our children.*

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***Parent Partnership***

*What a fantastic turn out at the last Parent Partnership meeting. Lots of great discussion and planning for future events. Thanks to all who gave of their time. Representatives from the Parent Partnership will be at our Parent Consultations in December – do speak with them to find out how you could be involved. You can also have a look on the Parent Partnership Facebook page. *

***Breakfast Club***

*Could we remind parents and carers that Breakfast Club is specifically for children who require breafast in the morning. This is a great support for families who require a little extra support in the morning or who are running to a tight schedule. If children are NOT having breakfast they need to wait in the playground for the school bell. This will help to avoid Breakfast club being over subscribed.*

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***School Attendance***

*It is vital that parents contact school on each day of child absence. If we do not recive contact we will text you to alert you to the fact your child is not in school. Please do not reply to this text but do call school immediately to explain the absence. If we do not hear from you and an absent child remains unexplained we will be required to call all emergency contacts and potentially the police. Many thanks.*

**Diary Dates**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **Thursday 16th November**  **8.50-10.30am** | Sharing Learning – all classes P1-7 |
| **Tuesday 21st November** | New primary 1 children enrol |
| **Thursday 23rd November** | P5 to Dynamic Earth |
| **Monday 27th November** | Penicuik Learners at Strathesk |
| **Friday 1st December** | Choir sing at Penicuik Christmas Market |
| **Monday 4th December** | Director of Education, Communities and Economy –  Mary Smith to visit Strathesk |
| **Wednesday 6th December** | Nursery trip to Purves Puppets |
| **Thursday 7th December 4-7pm**  **Friday 8th December 1-4pm** | Parent Consultations  (Book Fair in school this week) |
| **Tuesday 12th December**  **Wednesday 13th December** | Cinema Trip P4-7  Cinema Trip P1-3 |
| **Thursday 14th December** | School Christmas lunch |
| **Thursday 14th December** | Choir sing at Cowan Court |
| **Friday 15th December 1-3pm** | Christmas Fair |
| **Monday 18th December** | House treat |
| **Tuesday 19th December** | Choir sing carols at Tesco |
| **Wednesday 6th December -Wednesday 14th March** | P4a Swimming  *(P4b will swim Wed 21 March – Wed 27 June)* |
| **Wednesday 20th December** | Nativity AM & PM performances (times tbc) |
| **Friday 22nd December**  **Tuesday 9th January** | Term ends  Resume |

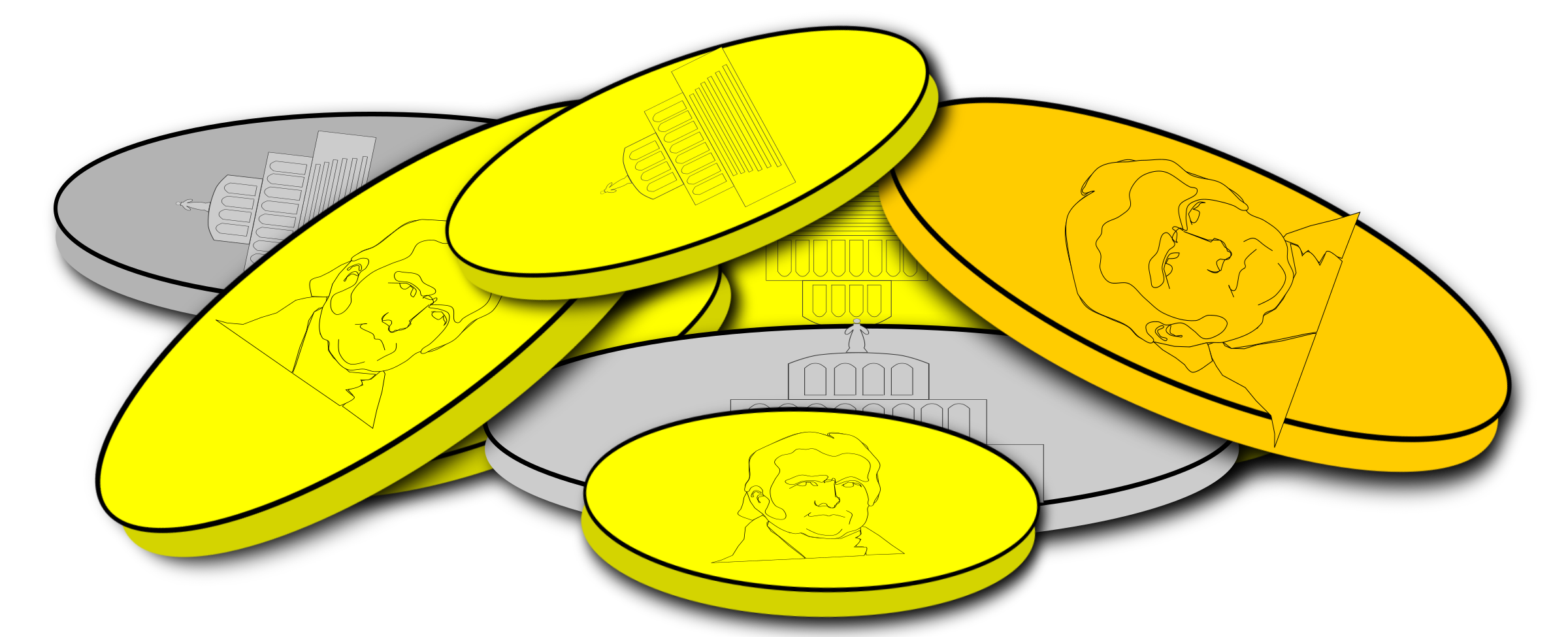
**Diary Dates**

***Look out for date changes***

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***‘Learning together benefits all’***

***Money – Lunches and Trips***

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*Please remember to send your child with lunch*

*money which is now* ***£1.90*** *per day – and* ***additional***

*money if they also require tuck which is 20p.Please ensure your child has the exact separate change for both lunch and tuck. Please also make sure your child knows exactly what their money is for! Any money for school trips should come with your child in an envelope marked with their name and amount and* ***NOT*** *directly to the school office. Thank you!*

***Additional Reminder***

*Please make every effort to arrive at school on time and enter through the correct door – we have had an increase in latecomers which is not only disruptive to the office staff but also impacts on the beginning of the learning day for the children. Thank you.*

***Twitter***

*A reminder that we have a school Twitter account. It is the best way for us to communicate current information to the widest audience. Please sign up on @StratheskPS*

j0205582