### **Strathesk Primary School**

**Newsletter – August 2018**



***Dear Parents/Carers***

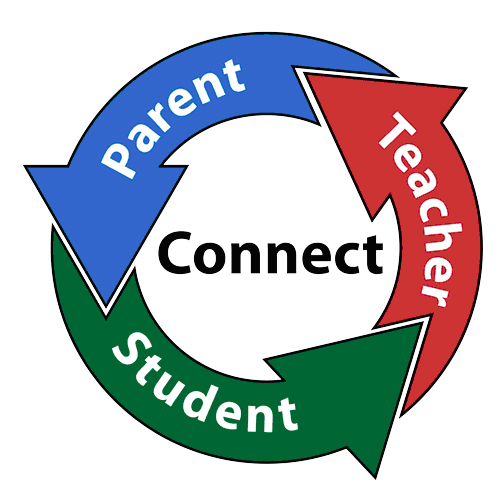
*Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a restful and fun summer holiday. Teachers are keen to meet their new classes and start getting to know everyone. The first two weeks of term will be an ‘establishment phase’ where extra effort is placed on building strong relationships, setting clear rules and boundaries and generally setting the scene for successful relationships and purposeful learning in the year ahead. This is a very valuable time in school. During this time I will be meeting with classes and teachers to ensure all is well with preparations for the year.*

*A warm welcome to our new children and families – we look forward to meeting with you and helping your child to settle in school. Please remember to get in touch with school if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything – we are always happy to help and advise. Have a wonderful term everyone!*

*Ms Donaldson*

***Parental Involvement***

*Please remember to attend our ‘Meet the Teacher’ session on Wednesday 5th September 3.30-5pm. This is a valuable opportunity to see the school environment and your child’s classroom and to meet your child’s new teacher. There will be information on offer about the learning for the school year and especially our new ‘Resilience Programme’ and ‘The Ready to Learn Framework’. We look forward to seeing you there.*

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***The Resilience Programme***

***and The Ready to Learn Framework***

*Key areas for development for Strathesk in session 18-19 are:* ***The Resilience Programme and The Ready to Learn Framework.*** *These programmes have been extremely successful in many schools. Lots of information will be coming your way about these initiatives including opportunities to be included in focus and feedback groups. We aim to support our children to have strong relationships and a sense of resilience to support them in life and learning. The Ready to Learn Framework provides a structure to support positive behaviour, with clear boundaries, ensuring all pupils are ‘ready and able to learn’. All staff will be part of specialised training to support success in this development.*

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***Staffing***

*A warm welcome to our Newly Qualified Teachers, Mr Cole in Primary 5 and Miss McCardle in Primary 4. Ms Prior will be taking over Ms Sloan’s maternity leave as full time teacher in Primary 2. Mrs Lamb, Classteacher, will be starting her maternity leave with effect from 5 September. Congratulations to Miss Hamilton who got married during the summer and will now be known as Mrs Black. We are lucky to have Zoe Galbraith, music student, joining us Mondays & Tuesdays for the next 4 weeks. Finally, our new Modern Apprentice, Fiona Lavery, will be working in the Nursery.*

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***Strathesk Support Hub***

*Ali Turbitt has been very busy over the summer supporting our children and families with everything from food parcels to signposting fun activities. Ali has made some great links with the local community and we now have lots of plans to take forward in the new school year. Watch this space!*

*Feel free to contact the Strathesk Support Hub who are available to offer advice and support with all manner of issues, including child behaviour, diet, sleep patterns and routines and any other concerns. They can also help to ensure you are receiving any benefits you may be entitled to.*

*Ali Turbitt - Home School Practitioner (Tel 07766603940)*

*Dawn Mitchell - Childcare & Development Worker*

*Debi Black - Senior Childcare & Development Worker*

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***Attendance and Lateness***

*If your child enters school through the front office after 8.50am they will be classed as late – when a child is late it can have a negative impact on the beginning of their day and on their learning. The Hub staff are working hard to try to improve attendance and reduce lateness and can offer support such as help with routines and attendance at Breakfast Club.*

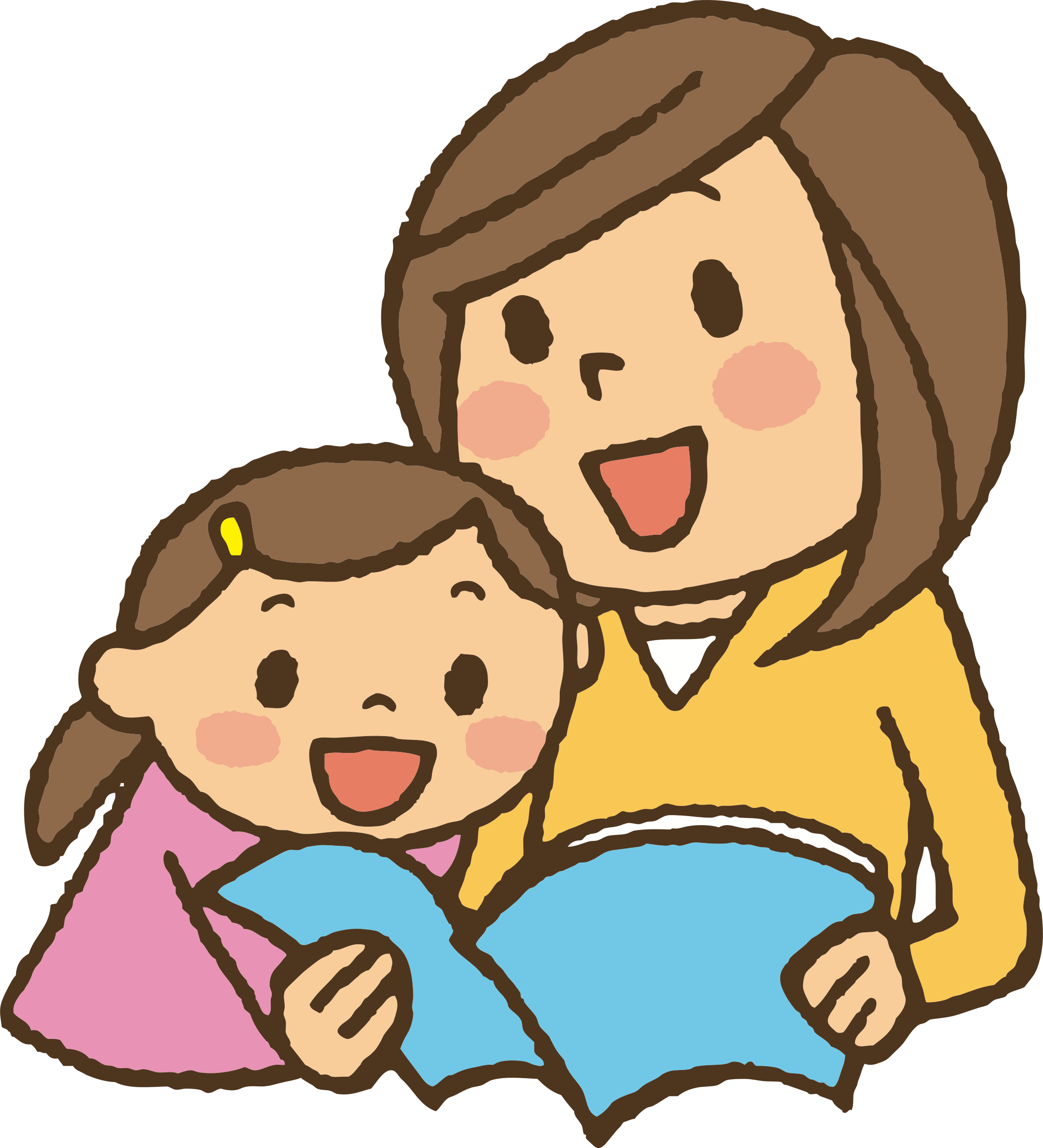
***School Planning & Quality Improvement***

*We are now beginning our new plans for school improvement for session 2018-19. Look out for the ‘Learning & Development’ leaflet coming out soon – this will tell you all about our school curriculum priorities and key themes for improvement.*

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***Sharing Learning***

*Please do try to attend our ‘Sharing Learning’ sessions this year (see dates below). These have been very popular and are a great opportunity to find out about your child’s learning and learn a bit more about how things work in school. One family member can attend and this can be anyone; Mum, Dad Grandparent, Auntie, Uncle etc.*

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**Diary Dates**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| **From Monday 27th August** | P1 children attend full days |
| **Wednesday 5th September** | Meet the Teacher 3.30-5pm |
| **Tuesday 2nd October** | P6/7 Cross Country team @ Vogrie 9am-12.30pm |
| **Friday 5th October** | Harvest Festival |
| **Monday 8th October** | Penicuik Learners |
| **Wednesday 10th October** | Sharing Learning 9-10am |
| **Friday 12th October** | Break for half term holiday – school ends at normal time |
| **Monday 22nd October** | In-service day for school staff |
| **Tuesday 23rd October** | Pupils resume |
| **Tuesday 30th October** | P1-4 Halloween Disco 4.30-6pm |
| **Wednesday 31st October** | P5-7 Halloween Disco 4.30-6pm |
| **Wednesday 31st October – Wednesday 5th December** | Skiing |
| **Thursday 1st November** | Flu Immunisations |
| **Monday 5th November** | School Photos |
| **Tuesday 6th November** | School Photos |
| **Thursday 15th November** | Parent Consultations 4-7pm |
| **Friday 16th November** | Parent Consultations 1-4pm |
| **Monday 26th November** | Penicuik Learners at Strathesk |
| **Friday 30th November** | Christmas Fair 1-3pm |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | P4 Swimming |
| **Wednesday 5th December** | Nursery to Purves Puppets |
| **Wednesday 12th December** | Nativity Performances |
| **Thursday 13th December** | School Christmas lunch |
| **Friday 21st December** | Break – school ends at normal time |
| **Monday 7th January 2019** | In-service day for school staff |
| **Tuesday 8th January** | Pupils resume |
| **Tuesday 15th January** | Sharing Learning 9-10am |

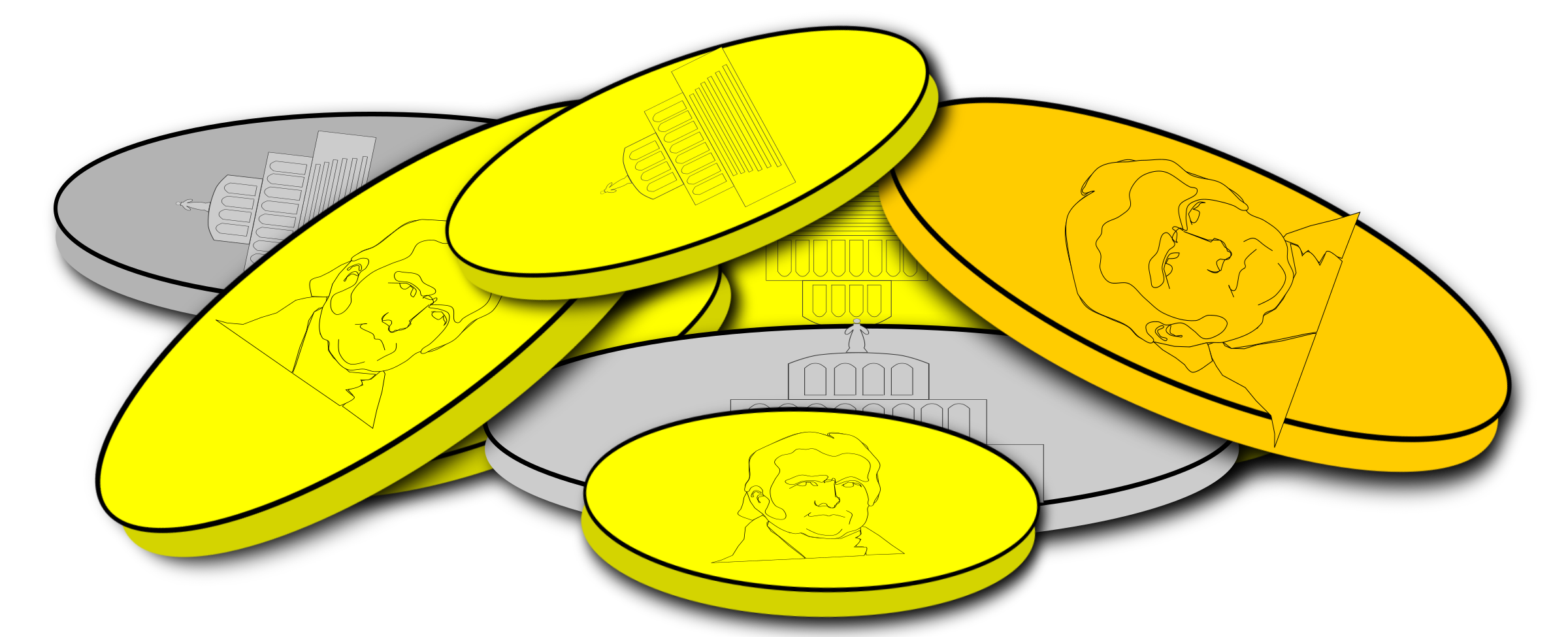
**Diary Dates**

***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 will be* ***£2*** *per day from August 2018 – and* ***additional*** *money if they also require tuck which is 25p/35p. 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!*

***Don’t forget - you can sign up with Parent Pay to pay for lunches, future events or trips.***

[*www.midlothian.gov.uk/parentpay*](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/parentpay)

***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