



Strathesk
Primary School

Weekly Mail Drop

11.11.2022

(Our weekly mail drop will continue to be sent out each **Friday** this year)

Included in this week's mail drop:

- Coffee Morning in school hosted by our School Nurse
- ESR poster pre-academy
- P1 consent form for use of ipad

I hope you have had a great week. It's been another busy and fun week in school. Our first session of parent consultations took place on Tuesday and we look forward to our second session this afternoon. It is brilliant to have our families back in school for these and feedback from staff has been very positive. I hope you find this opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher useful and informative.

Last year I sent out a survey to gather your views and preferences on our methods of reporting. From this it was clear that parent consultations are valued with 100% of responses confirming that you either like the system of two parent consultations or would prefer the opportunity for three parent consultations. I will shortly send out a link to a Google form in the mail drop to gather your thoughts at this time so as to inform our policy and processes for reporting to you on your child's learning.

Alongside last year's reporting survey, I asked you to share your views on homework. Unfortunately we only had 10% of parents/carers returning your views on homework. **From those 10% we gathered the following feedback:**

<p>1. I am happy with the format and content of homework currently in place and I don't think it needs to change. <i>At this time the current system referred to was the overview sheet with 8 - 12 suggested activities across the curriculum.</i></p>	<p>Yes 53%</p> <p>No 37%</p> <p>Don't know 10%</p>
<p>2. Do you think homework is important? Please give reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>Yes 69%</p> <p>No 21%</p> <p>Don't know 10%</p> <p>There were a range of reasons but the main ones were that homework is important to help consolidate children's learning and to help parents' know what their child is learning. There is a need for flexibility around homework to allow for clubs and other activities and avoid making homework a stressful experience for all.</p>
<p>3. Please select your preferred option: - I would prefer to have a small amount of homework each night.</p>	<p>32%</p>



- I would prefer to have the full overview of homework over a longer period of time.	47%
- I would prefer time over the weekend for homework as my child has more free time at the weekend.	21%
4. Please select your preferred option:	
- I would prefer homework to include practical activities so I can reinforce learning with my child through real life situations.	
- I would prefer homework to include table top activities that my child can complete without support.	16%
- I would prefer homework to include a mixture of both practical and table top activities.	84%

I asked a group of learner representatives the same questions and their responses were as follows:

Question 1	Yes 40% No 20% Don't know 40%
Question 2	Yes 40% No 60%
Question 3	Option 2 50% Option 3 50%
Question 4	Option 2 20% Option 3 80%

In order to finalise our homework policy and procedures can you please answer either yes or no to the following questions using the Google form attached - <https://forms.gle/bBgKaU+BJA6NoqhN7>

1. Do you think homework makes a difference to children's progress in primary school? 2. Do you want school to provide homework? 3. If homework is provided will you support your child to complete it each time it is set?

Our P7 House Captains have delivered all of your generous contributions to our local food bank. We also made up bags for families. What a super learning experience!



'We are delighted to say that P1s have now been allocated an ipad for use in school. Please see the attached document for more information and **the link to the parental acknowledgement form. Please note that we cannot allocate a device without this consent.** '

Next Friday (18th Nov) is Children in Need. Children are welcome to dress down or wear Pudsey items to school. Our P7 prefects will take a donation box around classes but there is no obligation to contribute or dress down.

Can you please ensure your child brings a healthy snack and water to school rather than sweets and fizzy drinks? Similarly, if your child is bringing a packed lunch can you please ensure all items are healthy? Over this term we have seen an increase in sweets, crisps and chocolate which can have a negative impact on a child's ability to concentrate in class. Please note we are a nut free school and so nuts or foods containing nuts, including Nutella, must not be sent into school as we have a number of children with allergies. Thank you for your support with this.

As the winter moves in, can you please make sure your child comes to school dressed for cold and wet weather? Children can leave a change of clothing in their trays in the classroom should you wish to send these in with them. Where possible, we will continue to develop our Outdoor Learning curriculum unless the weather is particularly bad. Even if not raining, the ground can still be wet and slippery especially in the woods so we recommend coming to school in wellies, waterproof trousers and coat on the days your child has Outdoor Learning.

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They don't have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice. Treat head lice as soon as you spot them and ensure you complete the full treatment. There's no need to keep your child off school if he/she has head lice. For further information on how to spot and treat headlice please visit the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

We have been asked to share this with our P1 Parents and Carers:

"Eastside Rapids are looking to recruit players born in 2017 (P1) to our Pre-Academy training sessions. We are a unique football club based in Midlothian who believe in providing high quality training sessions to develop our players. We offer a number of fantastic experiences for our players including competing at the International Cup at St George's Park as well as matches against the Academy teams from Rangers, Hearts, Stoke City, Hull City and Sunderland We host training at the Saltire Centre in Dalkeith on a Saturday morning and have a number of spaces



Strathesk
Primary School

for this new age group. If you are interested in getting involved please do so via the details in our flyer (attached)."

Please have a lovely weekend, everyone. Take care and look after yourself and your family.