



Strathesk
Primary School

Weekly Mail Drop

02.12.2022

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

Included in this week's mail drop:

- Christmas Raffle tickets - huge thanks to our Parent Partnership for organising this fundraiser (please check your child's bag)
- Financial advice and support

I hope you have had a great week. It's been another busy and fun week in school.

Homework to be replaced by Home Learning Opportunities

Thank you for your responses to the homework survey. We have had a fantastic response with 125 families replying. Thank you for your support with this. We really appreciate your feedback.

1. Do you think homework makes a difference to children's progress in primary school?
61.6% YES 38.4% NO *(This debate will form the topic of our 1st Thinking Together session on 17th January, 9.00 - 10.00)*
2. Do you want school to provide homework?
63.2% YES 36.8% NO
3. If homework is provided by school will you support your child to complete it each time it is set?
94.4% YES 5.6% NO

From your feedback this year and last, it appears that one of the main reasons some families have requested homework is so that you know what your child is learning in school and you can support with this. One of the main reasons some families have requested that homework is not provided is due to time restraints and out of school clubs/commitments. With these considerations in mind, we will move away from the traditional 'homework' format and towards 'home learning opportunities' instead. Each term your child's class teacher will share a class newsletter which will include focus areas for learning and teaching so you can support your child at home. In addition to this, I will upload 'home learning opportunities' on our website every month so that you can use these to support your child at home without the pressure of time restraints. On occasion, individual teachers may share further home learning opportunities with families eg. keywords, sound of the week, number bonds. I hope you feel this approach supports you to reinforce learning at home should you wish to do so.

Please visit our school website strathesk.mgfl.net Our weekly mail drop and much more has now been added. Please take a wee look. We will continue to add information we think you might find useful so please visit regularly. We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions of what you would like us to share here.

A gentle reminder that our school is a pet and smoke free zone. Please do not smoke in or around the school grounds, including the playground and the school gates. Please do not bring pets, including dogs, into the school playground. Many of our children are afraid of dogs, even those on a lead, and some of our children are allergic to them. Thank you for your support with this.



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/>

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