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Welcome Back

Welcome back to the new session, the return to school has challenging however it is really lovely having the children back – there's nothing better to lift spirits than the children's smiling faces and seeing them at work and play. We extend a special welcome to new pupils in ELC, Primary One and also to those who have enrolled throughout the school. Mrs Robertson resigned her post, Mrs Laydon is currently teaching the P4/5. Mrs Robson returned from maternity leave, she is teaching in P6K together with Mrs Kershaw.

Melrose Primary School App

We remind parents that the school has an App which is available to download from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Diary dates and news items are available on the App and also messages/reminders are posted directly from class teachers.

Communication

- We have an open door policy at Melrose Primary School however we request that parents/carer wishing to speak to a teacher or a member of the management team contact the school office to make an appointment.
- Absence – parents/carers are requested to communicate all pupil absences directly with the school office by telephone (01896 822103) or email (melroseps@scotborders.gov.uk) or posting a message on the Xpressions app.

Annual Update Form

These forms have been distributed to children, please return the updated forms as soon as possible; it is essential we have current contact information for all pupils.

School Meals

Hot meals are available to be ordered from Monday 31st August 2020 - please note the soup/sandwich option is not available for ELC children.

To avoid disappointment and upset we ask parents/carers to remember to order meals well in advance through ParentPay. Activation letters have already been sent home for new pupils.

Covid-19

We ask the whole school community to remain vigilant for the symptoms of Covid-19, the most common symptoms are

- New continuous cough
- Fever/high temperature
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

If anyone in your household is showing any of the above symptoms you must contact NHS 111 for further guidance.

Clothing

PE

Scottish Government advice continues to be that all P.E. takes place outside. The guidance also recognises the importance of P.E. for children's Health and Wellbeing - schools are asked to continue to deliver learners' entitlement of two hours of P.E. per week. Children are asked to come to school dressed for P.E. on the days they have P.E.

Change of clothes

As the weather is very changeable we ask that children have a change of clothing including footwear to change into if necessary in school every day.

We ask that children

- **Come to school dressed in P.E. kit on P.E. days.**
- **Have a change of clothing and footwear in school every day.**

Social Distancing

Thank you to everyone for trying to make our school as safe as it can be during these times.

We remind you about the importance of social distancing, particularly at the beginning and the end of the school day. We been contacted by a number of individuals who are anxious about the proximity of adults to one another during these times.

Please remember...

- the Gibson Park (the Green Space) is quite busy at the beginning and end of the school day making social distancing difficult - please consider wearing a face covering
- keep the path, that runs alongside Gibson Park, free allowing learners and families to pass through safely with ample room to move and physically distance
- keep the gate areas free from 'traffic, allowing people to easily access the school grounds

P1 parent/carers

Thank you for your support and understanding about the drop off and collection arrangements for P1 children. As you are aware we encourage children to become independent and as such we ask that you encourage your child/ren to independently go from the collection point to their classroom in the morning.

We also ask that once your child/ren have gone into class you leave the playground as soon as possible in support of our ongoing procedures to reduce the spread of infection. We encourage parents/carers to communicate with their child's class teacher however in the current circumstances this cannot be done face-to-face including at the classroom door. Please contact the school office if you wish to communicate with the class teacher or email - see information below. Please be reassured if we have any concerns about your child we will contact you.

Medication/Allergy Information

We have children in school with allergies including severe nut allergies. We wish to remind parents/carers that nuts and food containing nuts, e.g. chocolate spreads and peanut butter should **not** be brought to school. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to inform the school of any condition and also to provide prescribed medication which is in date.

Please note the school is unable to administer medication which has not been prescribed e.g. Calpol.

Should a child require be given prescribed medication during the school day a request form, which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website, must be completed.

For further information about the administration of medicines and health care procedures, please click on this link http://www.nhs.uk/borders.scot.nhs.uk/media/64720/parents_leaflet_medication.pdf

Special Dietary Requirements

Reminder - parents/carers of children who have food allergies should complete a special diet requirement form (available for the school office) and return to school. This information is kept in the school kitchen which enables the canteen staff to ensure that children are served appropriate food.

Flu Inoculations

All primary school children will receive, subject to parental/carer consent, flu inoculation. The vaccine will be administered as a nasal spray by NHS health professionals. Consent forms and information was sent home this week. The date that the inoculations will take place will be advised in due course.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

We remind all parents and carers that children should **NOT** return to school or nursery for **48 hours** after the bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. We would be grateful for your support with this recommendation in order to avoid any unnecessary spread of viruses.

Huntly Road

Huntly Road is a designated safe route to school; this was established as a safe walking area based on the presence of sidewalks, walking paths and the location of crosswalks.

The designated parking areas, drop off and pick up points, for Melrose Primary School and Nursery are St Mary's Road, the Health Centre and Melrose Rugby club car park.

Despite constant requests for Huntly Road **not** to be used for parking, a drop off or pick up point parents/carers continue to ignore this request.

Drivers who use Huntly Road at the beginning and end of a school day are putting children's lives at risk.

There have been a number of near misses/incidents where pupils have narrowly avoided being injured by cars.

We request that Huntly Road is NOT used for parking, drop off or pick up at any time when children are in school.

Personal items

Please ensure all items of clothing and other personal items (coats, bags, lunch boxes, gym kit etc.) brought to school are **clearly named**. There is a lost property box in each building; if property or clothes are misplaced we urge pupils and parents to check the 'lost property' boxes. Please also check that your child brings their own personal items home, several pieces of named clothing have already gone missing.

Health & Safety in PE

In the interest of health and safety, children should **NOT** wear ear-rings and must tie back long hair for PE and physical activities. Children who have pierced ears should be able to remove their own ear-rings or come to school with their ear-rings taped. Pupils are also responsible for the safety of their ear-rings when they are taken out.

School are not able to tape or remove ear-rings. Pupils with long hair must bring something to tie their hair back with, school cannot provide bands/bobbles – boys with longer hair are also required to tie their hair back.

School Newsletters

School newsletters will be sent out to parents electronically and will be posted on the school website and on our App. We will use the email addresses held on each child's record. Please ensure you inform the school of any changes to email address during the year.

Fundraising

School's Lottery

Melrose Primary School has launched a lottery, the lottery is open to all, anyone over the age of 16 can join, please spread the word.

Visit: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play

Easy fundraising - a free and simple way of raising funds for the school

Register with Easy Fundraising to raise funds for school without contributing yourself! If you are making online purchases all you need to do is to register www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/melroseprimary Once registered all you need to do when you shop on line is to sign into the Easy Fundraising site before starting to shop. You then shop in the normal way; the retailer automatically makes a contribution to school funds. You can upload a donation reminder so you don't forget!

Diary Dates

School closures, changes and new events are highlighted in bold writing.

Monday 12 – Friday 16 Oct 2020	School Holidays
Thursday 12 and Friday 13 Nov 2020	Staff in-service training days – closed for all school/ELC pupils
Monday 30 Nov 2020	St Andrews Day Holiday
Monday 21 Dec 20 – Mon 4 Jan 2021	School Holidays
Thursday 11 and Friday 12 Feb 2021	Staff in-service training days – closed for all school/ELC pupils
Monday 15 – Wednesday 17 Feb 2021	School Holidays
Friday 2 – Friday 16 April 2021	School Holidays
Friday 30 April 2021	Staff in-service training day – closed for all school/ELC pupils
Monday 3 May 2021	May Day Holiday
Monday 7 June 2021	Holiday
Thursday 23 June 2021 – 13 Aug 2021	Summer Holidays
Monday 16 Aug 2021	Staff in-service training day – closed for all school/ELC pupils
Tuesday 17 Aug 2021	School and ELC opens for new session

FORTHCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Melrose Football Club

We invite all P1 boys to a taster training session on Saturday 29th August 2020 from 10am. Information has already been sent home however we remind parents/carers that due to new covid protocols, **you must register your son before attending the session.**

The session will be run by coaches Greg Simpson and David Bain

For further information or clarity, please contact Greg Simpson, on 07813 776791 or email

gregmelrosefc@gmail.com