



*Dream it, Live it, Achieve it*

The priorities for our school improvement plan this school session are:

- The Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion of all
- To empower all stakeholders to support the development of our curriculum inclusive of outdoor learning
- To develop a consistent approach to Learning & Teaching that affects an improvement in attainment

## **Term 2 School Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring days are just around the corner, it is noticeable that the mornings and evenings are stretching out with the days getting lighter, it's hopefully not long now before the temperature improves.

### **Priorities for this school session**

We are making good progress with the three overarching priorities for school improvement this school session. The school priorities can be found in our improvement plan on the school website and at the top of each newsletter. You can access the family friendly improvement plan [here](#)

As we continue to evaluate our progress in these areas it is helpful that you complete any short surveys/questionnaires that the school sends out, this helps provide a consensus of thoughts and opinions of parents. Your voice is very important and your participation greatly appreciated.

Throughout the course of this school year we have been considering the way our children learn here at Dirleton. You will find a curriculum magazine on our school website that explains [what we do and why we do it here at Dirleton](#). We are currently developing a visual poster created by the children that is less wordy and communicates in a more visually pleasing way what we do here at Dirleton. This should be ready and available shortly...

As I have communicated at parent council meetings, we are currently reviewing our school values throughout the course of this school year. Currently our school values which were decided by our school community a few years ago are...



On reflection, we now feel some of these values possibly overlap and are offering the opportunity for our current school community to reconsider how we can reduce the number of school values to 3 or 4. Our school values should shape our approach as a school community to all the things we wish to offer to our children in our attempt for them to fulfil our vision and ambition that they



I will ask that you contribute your views on our school values in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term which will help shape our improvement plan for the next academic session.

## Communication to parents

All school communications can be found on our [school website](#). This is a place you can go to that will help inform you of any communications you may have missed. I am a parent and understand it can be challenging to keep abreast of all school communications. Amongst other things, here you will find our Twitter feed, weekly updates, termly class newsletters and termly whole school newsletters. The [school calendar](#) on our website also has dates for future events that will inform families to support any necessary organisation. ***We have now added the agreed date for our annual school sports day which will take place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June with a contingency of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June should it be necessary.***

Our DSP also have a page on our school website from where they will communicate updates in relation to events/competitions they are hosting. There you should find a couple of additions that were recently agreed with our DSP one of which is an Art competition...

### Art Competition launch Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

- Art Competition to be run by the DSP – “Inspired by the Orchard” Celebrating the 10 years + of the Orchard.
- Competition to be judged by Miranda Mayes (Orchard Management Group)
- Everyone invited to enter and will be advertised locally. Further details to follow.

### Dirleton School Partnership - DSP >> Parent Council

The DSP successfully support the school in a variety of ways and work hard with the school to host events/competitions that bring our community together. At this term’s coffee morning they worked alongside our P4/5 class and raised **a fabulous £243**. Our P4/5 children also managed to raise **an outstanding £125 for Cancer Research UK** Thank you to all those who contributed in any way to make this another great success.

***The next DSP coffee morning will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May from 11am.***

***This will be our final coffee morning hosted by the DSP of this school year and will see our P1/2/3 class working alongside our parents.***

The DSP has very successfully worked with the school this year to support the purchase of a variety of resources to support learning and wellbeing. **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) is an area that we are purposefully resourcing as we look to develop our offer in these important areas over the next few years. The school has been striving to provide at least a 1:2 offering of digital devices to our children and this aim will be realised when we roll out this provision in the last term of this school session. Our P4/5/6 & 7 children will have access to an individual digital device and our P1/2/3 children will share 1 between 2. This aim has been supported by our DSP and has helped make this happen. Our developing approach to ‘Enterprise Education’ is another focus for developing resources and we will be purchasing a suitable ‘apple crusher’ and other necessary items in preparation of our annual orchard harvest and our other enterprising endeavours.

***Other resources that will be purchased in the summer term with the help of the parent council will be related to our priorities of the school year.*** We will purchase numeracy resources to supplement the very good resources we already have in school. This will support our approach to raising attainment and will be in line with East Lothian’s approach to developing numeracy and mathematics. This is an area of our curriculum that we have been developing and the additional resources will be very beneficial and gratefully received from our DSP.

We will continue to add to our literacy resources with funding supported by our DSP, a range of reading books were purchased at the start of the school year and we are now looking to further develop our library to continue promoting an enjoyment of reading across the school.

As we continue to support the Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion of all we will continue to work with our parents and parent council to consider how we can further develop our approach as a school community.

Without the input of all parents and the members of the DSP the purchase of additional resources for the benefit of your children would not be possible. We are extremely grateful that the opportunity to seek support from parent council fundraising efforts for our additional 'needs and wants' as a school is an option and to the members of the DSP who support the school as it develops.

The DSP are always welcoming of parents getting involved in some capacity, more information on our parent council can be found on our school website [Dirleton PS Website - Parent Council/DSP \(google.com\)](http://Dirleton PS Website - Parent Council/DSP (google.com))

### **Our Wonderful World of Talents**

As we continue to develop our enterprising approach to learning, we have been considering the world of work and the skills and talents needed to fulfil different roles and jobs in our world. Already we have had parents coming in to school to speak with our children about what they do and we would like to build on this in the summer term as we celebrate the different skills we all have and the different and valuable things we all do.

We plan to have more parents come into school to speak with us over the course of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term and have designated a week when we will showcase a '**week of talents**' within our school community. **This week is provisionally in our diary for the week beginning Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – you may be asked to be part of this 😊



### **Dirleton PS - A Wonderful Place to Be**

Each year our Orchard Social Enterprise gathers momentum, we take great pride in our achievements whilst developing a vast array of skills associated with life, learning and work. We have now been invited to receive a **CHAMPIONS** award from the 'Social Enterprise Academy' in June. This is wonderful recognition for the great work that has evolved over the past three years, we look forward to celebrating our success! We have developed our enterprising approach over time and our children now have a variety of opportunities to personalise, choose and demonstrate their entrepreneurial skills across the curriculum and enjoy the creativity it offers to their learning.

On a number of occasions I have had the good fortune to showcase our wonderful school to my East Lothian Council colleagues and colleagues from across Scotland. Each time my visitors leave, they convey their compliments and envy on the wonderful children and the fabulous opportunities that we provide to our children commenting on the varied, relevant, meaningful and fun things the children do in our school and our wider community. I am now keen to share more widely all the fantastic things that go on here and may seek parental support to do this in the final term of this school session. We will host a morning at the end of our 'week of talents' aimed at showcasing our school community, the talents that we have and the wonderful opportunities and things that we do here at Dirleton. ***This open morning will take place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – more info will follow nearer the time.***



Kate recently collected our donation to the East Lothian Foodbank and would like to thank all whose generosity supported this necessary cause from which many families will benefit during the continued cost of living crisis.

And lastly, we have wildflower seeds that need planting in our orchard! Before the children can do this the ground needs raked by adults. The week that lends itself best to this is the first week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, if you are available for a short period of time on this week please let the school office know. TIA ☺

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Staff and Pupils return to school**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Raking for Wildflower Planting**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – P7 Rotary Quiz – NBHS**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Tempest Class Photographs**  
**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Art Competition Launches**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – DSP EGM 9am**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April–Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – P5 Night Under the Stars**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Drama Day – all classes**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Staff and Pupils – school closed**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – DSP Spring Coffee Morning – 11am**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Staff In Service Day**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May-Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Week of Talents**  
**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – School Open Morning**  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June-Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June – P7 Dounans Camp**  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Gardens Open Weekend – 2pm – 5.30pm**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June -School Sports Day 9.30am – Midday (contingency of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June)**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June-Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – P7 transition days**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June – DSP AGM**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June-Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June – P6 Awesome Days**  
**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - Dirleton Fete and Games on the Village Green**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Term finishes**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August-Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August – Staff In Service Days**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Pupils return to school**

**Calendar of Events for the school year can be accessed on the [school calendar](#)**

*B Moody*  
*Head Teacher*