



# Canberra Primary

*Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,*

November hit with a bang as we enjoyed the Parent Council Hallowe'en disco on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The children had so much fun dressing up and partying the night away

Primary 3 excelled at the first class assembly of the year which had a spooky Hallowe'en theme. They showcased their confidence and skills in presenting and enjoyed sharing their experience with family members following the performance. We look forward to enjoying the performances of our other classes in the coming months.

The weather is beginning to bite however the children will continue to play and learn in the outdoors. Please ensure that they come to school dressed in layers and wearing waterproof clothing and footwear. Hats and gloves are also a must as the temperature begins to drop.

Our curriculum workshops take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Please complete and return the workshop programme slip by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November to ensure that you get your choice of workshops. We look forward to helping you learn alongside your child at this event!

*Kind regards*

*Angela Heasman*

Head Teacher

## Dates for your diary

6.10.18	Parent Council meeting, 6.30pm
12.11.18	Anti-bullying week & Odd Sock parade
19.11.18	In Service day
20.11.18	Curriculum workshops 6.30-8.30pm
27.11.18	P7 to Duncanrig - Sportshall athletics
27.11.18	Parent Council Craft Fair 3.15pm
3.12.18	Flu jag
4.12.18	New entrant walk round
7.12.18	Christmas Coffee Morning 9.30am

## Tip Corner

### *Spelling*

Spelling is closely linked to reading. When helping your child to spell there are a variety of strategies that can be used to help them both read and spell words.

Recognising and using the different individual sounds also helps to break words up. When reading or spelling a word it is the sound rather than the name of the letter that is used. For example 'shout' would be sounded sh - ou- t and then blended together to make the word.

'Chunking' words into smaller, more manageable parts is very helpful. For example the word 'manageable' can be split into *man - age - able*.

Look for words within words as this can help with tricky parts of the word and also as a reminder of the word structure. For example 'believe' has the word 'lie' in the middle.

Notice how words are built using root words, prefixes and suffixes. For example 'uncomfortable', where the root word is comfort: *un - comfort - able*

Make a mnemonic for longer tricky words. This means taking each letter and making a rhyme to help with remembering the spelling. A well-known mnemonic is - **big elephants can always understand small elephants**. This is a great way to remember how to spell 'because'!

Happy spelling!

## School vision

### *Inspiring*

As a school we explored the idea of being an inspiration to others.

We found out about inspiring people in the public eye and how their successes motivate us to try new things and to challenge ourselves. We related this to children and adults in the school who have inspired us by their actions.

We also considered how we can inspire others through our attitude, effort and commitment to learning.

It is important to us at Canberra that we all *inspire* each other as this will encourage us to strive to be the best that we can be and to experience a wide variety of opportunities.

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Canberra news by  
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## Physical Education

P.E. is a core part of the health and wellbeing curriculum. The Government has set out a standard of 2 hours of P.E. every week which must be met by schools. At Canberra we ensure that every child has 2 hours of high quality P.E. provided each week. Physical activity and health has been proven to support both mental and emotional wellbeing as well as readying children for learning.

An increasing number of children however come to school unprepared to take part in P.E. Children need a change of clothing, preferably shorts and t-shirt and a well-fitting pair of gym shoes preferably trainers, to participate in P.E. **Please ensure that your child comes to school prepared to participate in this core curriculum area and encourage them to engage fully in lessons.**

## **School Improvement Plan and Standards & Qualities Report**

### **Summary 2018**

Due to IT issues since our computer system was refreshed in September we have been unable to send our summary report in the usual format. The summary is detailed below. A copy of the full report can be found on the school website.

### **Overall Quality of our Learners Achievements**

#### **Highlights of session 2017-18**

2017-18 proved to be a very successful and busy session. Children at all stages continued to receive a broad, balanced and well-planned curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence.

All staff have been trained in the application of reading strategies, HOTS and most in Active literacy and as a result they are demonstrating increased confidence and skill in the delivery of literacy. This is showing evidence of impact on the learners' literacy experiences, leading to almost all learners' demonstrating improved competence in both reading and spelling. Children report that these approaches have helped them to enjoy reading, understand and apply their learning

"It helps me to remember" (P1 child)

"Reading strategies help me to understand what I am reading more" (P6 child)

All staff have engaged in numeracy and maths training and report an increase in confidence in the delivery of numeracy lessons and refreshed thinking as a result of reflection on teaching methods. As a consequence almost all children, Primary 1-5, are demonstrating increased confidence and willingness to have a go. The use of mathematical language has improved and children are given more opportunity to be challenged within flexible groups.

"I have learned not to give up, keep trying until I get it right" (P1 child)

"At the start of the year I was wobbly in maths, now I am much better and confident" (P4 child)

Our assemblies this year focused on our vision 'Nurturing, Inspiring, Committing and Succeeding at Canberra and Beyond' and our values: respect, honesty, friendship, happiness, fun, safety, which underpin it. The assemblies linked our vision and values to the wellbeing indicators and were supported by our Chaplaincy team. Our children were able to confidently define the Canberra vision and values and to relate them to their own lives. As the year progressed they engaged in experiences which allowed them to put the vision into practice.

All classes benefited from participating in a range of sporting activities organised by Duncanrig Secondary or our Active Schools co-ordinator and included judo, rugby, handball and Sportworx. Our wide range of extra-curricular activities, both during and at the end of the school day, ensured that all children had the opportunity to participate. Clubs included: lego, writing, athletics, dance and cricket to name but a few. Our netball team reached the finals for the third year in a row and successfully walked away with the Gold medal! Well done!

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The Friendship and Rights Committees organised a fantastic Anti-bullying week with the slogan 'All different, all equal'. Everyone in the school learned how to spot bullying behaviour and were introduced to a range of strategies to deal with it. The classes participated in a competition to design an 'odd' sock which represented the theme and every child created a helping hand which is displayed on our Canberra Helping Hands tree. Thank you Friendship and Rights Committees! The Parent Council worked with us to review our anti-bullying policy in line with the recent National review and we were delighted to get some fresh ideas to make our policy more effective.

### **School Improvement Priorities**

**2017-2018**

1. To create a broad, balanced and progressive curriculum plan for literacy and numeracy, which takes account of the need for assessment to drive learning and focuses on Closing the Gap; particularly at P4-7.
2. To improve pupil wellbeing and their ability to reflect upon their wellbeing needs
3. To Audit current practice in DYW and develop a school strategy
4. To further engage pupils in self-evaluation

### **Pupil Equity Fund Spend**

**2018-2019**

*Allocation: £42000*

Class teacher 2.5 days

Literacy resources

Numeracy training for staff and numeracy resources

Early intervention resources

Lockerbie Manor residential trip

Health & wellbeing development

Activate programme

Tapestry training for teaching staff

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