



**Education Resources**  
 Executive Director **Carole McKenzie**  
 Head Teacher **Miss Angela Sneddon Carstairs Primary**



**Our ref:**  
**Your ref:**  
**If calling ask for:** Miss Sneddon  
**Phone:** 01555 870462  
**Date:** 25 August 2023

Dear Team Carstairs Families

**Full Week – Done!**

We are very impressed with the efforts of all of our classes, as we settle into the new school year. We highlighted via our app last week that our routines were getting off the ground quickly and establishing nicely, and this has continued to be the case this week. Thank you.

**House Captains**

Today’s assembly was a P7 take over, as those who wished to put themselves forward for the responsibility of being House Captain or Vice-Captain, took to the floor to deliver their ‘why me’ House Captain speeches. We were absolutely delighted with the time, effort, thought and heart that had gone into these. Speeches were very individualised, despite working to the same set of criteria with each sharing what individual strengths and qualities of theirs should make them the candidate to vote for. Statements like – *even if I do not become House or Vice Captain, you can still come to me and I will always help you* – made my heart swell with pride, as did the candidates’ inclusion of warmly wishing good luck to their fellow candidates.

I began our assembly today with the very loud and clear message, that no matter the outcomes of the morning (which we entered into knowing that would not allow for a Captaincy for all involved) that **EVERY** child who had the courage to put themselves in the position of standing in front of our whole school to state their case, has done our school and their families so proud by a) taking the time to craft and rehearse their speech and b) putting themselves up in front of our whole school and giving us their all, knowing at the end of it all, they may need to dig deep in their resilience stores. I could not possibly be more proud of each child for demonstrating our school values – and finding the courage to commit to this daunting task. Of course, there will be important responsibilities for **all** P7 children this year and we look forward to assigning all other roles, now that this year’s Captains can officially be unveiled.....

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to all children named below.....we are SURE you will blow us away with your leadership skills as House Captains and Vice Captains! VERY WELL DONE TO ALL!

<b>TINTO</b> <b>CAPTAIN</b> – Ethan McQuigg <b>VICE</b> – Stuart Thomas	<b>CLYDE</b> <b>CAPTAIN</b> – Kyle Rafferty <b>VICE</b> – Quin Fleming
<b>MONTEITH</b> <b>CAPTAIN</b> – Joey Davidson <b>VICE</b> – Erin McLeish	<b>CASTLEDYKES</b> <b>CAPTAIN</b> – Tommy Duffy <b>VICE</b> – Blair Wilson



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### **Class Letters & Dates So Far**

Today, we share with you class welcome letters, from our class teachers. These are attached in a separate document for your perusal today and have been issued per class. Thank you to our teaching staff for taking the time to prepare these. Please note that homework for all classes will commence week beginning Monday 04 September.

Much work has been undertaken to get as many of our dates for the annual calendar in the diary as soon as possible, to support our families and help support involvement, where required. Today, we would like to draw your attention to the calendar updates on our school website, for many dates that we already have in the diary for the school year ahead. Please do take the time to check these out.

Where 'Carstairs Connect' is noted for your child's class, we hope that a family member (or a maximum of two family members) can come along to work 1:1 with children. Carstairs Connect sessions are about helping our families to find out about children's class work, ways to help them with specific aspects of learning and teaching - and having some time for children and their adults to work together.

A Class Showcase is an opportunity for parents / up to two family members to come along and see what children have been learning in class in an interactive format. Showcases tend to be slightly less formal than Class Assemblies, where parents come along as audience members, to see our children share their learning from the stage! We encourage parents to take note of the dates provided for Carstairs Connect sessions and Showcases / Assemblies for the year ahead, as we hope that you can come along.

We will, of course, provide further information / letters / permissions on all of the dates provided nearer the time, along with reminders - today's list simply serves to give everyone as much advance warning as possible. As well as the school website calendar, the available dates can be seen in the 'Dates' section on our school app.

### **Annual Data Checks / Annual Administration**

Many thanks to our families for your prompt return of these important documents. We are grateful for your support. If you have not yet managed to send these in, we ask that these could be returned to school as early as possible next week to allow us to finalise admin for the session ahead.

We now have 57% of families signed up to Parents Portal – South Lanarkshire Council's new system for school communications. While we continue to work on bringing families onboard with this, all of our normal channels of communication remain operational. Thank you for your efforts to get signed up this week, and apologies if you experienced any issues with it – it did seem to be fairly glitchy this week, so if you had problems, there's a very strong chance it was not you, but it! 😊 If anyone is trying to get hooked in and is having trouble, please call our school office any day except a Tuesday, for support. Thank you.

We now have half of our new starts signed up to Parent Pay too – thank you and please sign up if you haven't yet done so. While not all will need to use this for school lunches / milk, we will use this system to support payments for school excursions, so it is very helpful if you are all hooked up and ready to go!

### **School Improvement Planning Session 2023 / 24 – Parental Suggestions Box**

Staff have been collaborating over the last few weeks, taking into consideration impact and outcomes of our school improvements in session 2022/23, considering the feedback that we have received from staff, from children and from parents, alongside our attainment and achievement results. At the moment key areas that we are expecting to appear in Year 1 of this upcoming three-year plan, are largely linked to the following:

- Literacy planning (including spelling and handwriting)
- Health and Wellbeing – updating, refreshing and modernising topics
- Digital Wellbeing – aiming to achieve a Digital Wellbeing Award (which adds to the Digital Schools award we already have)
- Further developing learning through play (Play Pedagogy)
- A continued focus on all aspects of highest possible quality of teaching and learning
- Sustainability – getting the polytunnel that we secured the funds for last year well and truly built and in action, for use by all classes 😊

A relentless drive for securing the highest possible achievement and attainment for all learners is always high up on our agenda, along with being mindful of the Cost of the School Day, and keeping costs incurred for families at an absolute minimum.

If you have any particular ideas for things that you think would benefit from further consideration, to help make our school the *very, very* best we can be, then please use the link below to give provide us with a note of this in our short '*Suggestions Box*' survey. Your views matter to us and are always taken into consideration.

<https://forms.gle/W3TgmGWsTNji4DMu8>

### **Transition to P1 – Request for Parental Feedback**

We have absolutely *LOVED* welcoming our new P1 children into school over this last week and a half. Our newbies already seem very much at home, and it is such a joy to have them with us. We very much hope that our new families have felt very well supported throughout the transition process, which began last session and has continued up until now. We would be very grateful if P1 families could share their views with us on how you feel the transition process has gone, by completing the very short survey available at the link below. Thank you.

<https://forms.gle/jVhsfJhUXVGfQ7428>

### **NHS – Flu Vaccinations**

Documentation sent to us for distribution by the NHS has been sent home with your child (or popped in the post) for you today. Please read the instructions and return as required, by Wednesday 06 September at the latest. Thank you.

### **Well Done and Thank You**

We know that getting back to school and all that this entails is a big job for our families – a big well done and thank you to all! And keep up the great work! We never take our families' support, in so many different areas, for granted and do appreciate it a great deal. Thank you.

As always, if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here to help, and believe so wholeheartedly in the benefits of our strong partnerships with you.

Wishing one and all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

*A. Sneddon.*

A Sneddon  
Head Teacher



**#TeamCarstairs**