

### Welcome back



We are very excited that we have so many new children starting this term. There is a new face in every class. We would like to welcome Josh in Elders, Clara, Edie and Rosemary in Willows, Sam in Oak Trees, Sonny and Elwen in Sycamores. Elwen did come for one day a week in kindergarten but is now here every day. In Kindergarten we have welcomed Timmy, Louie, Ruby, Trixie, Andre, Gabriel, Sebastian, Tilda and Agnes so far. We hope you will all say hello to the children and their parents and join us in welcoming them to the Annan Community.



We hope that everyone is now feeling well and truly back at school. We have some events coming up over the next few weeks which will give you a chance to meet other parents and also to look around the school as well as find out about our school development plans for the coming year.



### Topic Presentation and talk on RE curriculum at Annan – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 3.30pm

Alastair has sent out a letter about this meeting already. It will be a chance to hear about the new curriculum for RE at Annan and how the topic for this term will support some of the learning. Children whose parents are attending the meeting but who do not do after school club can wait in Elder Classroom. If you would prefer them to join the after school club in the Steam Room and have a snack and do a craft activity with Heather do let Paula know in advance.

### Tea and Cake and Classroom tours linked with the Friends AGM 3pm Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Next Friday afternoon we will have a short meeting for **all parents at 3pm** in the school hall. Some of the children will be joining us. We will be seeing a slide show of some of last year's events and hearing from the Children's School Council about what they have done in their meetings. We will also have a short report from the Friends Committee about events they ran and what they spent the funds they raised on. They will then elect a new chair and ask for volunteers to help with this year's events. After this we will all go back to classrooms and gardens for tea and cake and a look round. This will be a great chance for everyone to see the new layout in the Infant House and see some of the work going on around the school. **Please let your child's teacher know if you can make or bring a cake(s). Thank you.**



Elders made blackberry and apple crumble for the whole school on Monday!

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - Pizza and Prosecco Social Evening and Principals' Presentation

Do keep this evening free – book a baby sitter or decide which parent gets to go! We held this event for the first time last year and it was a really lovely evening. Tim brings his wood fired pizza oven and cooks us gorgeous pizzas accompanied by a glass of wine or juice. Mark and Debby will be giving a short presentation on the School Development Plan for this year. Teachers will be present and you will have a chance to chat with them and other parents in and around the hall. We will start serving pizza at 7.15 and finish the evening by 9pm. We don't charge for the evening as it is our way of saying thank you to parents for their support over the year. Do come along and join us.



## Inset Week Training

Whilst a lot of the Inset week before term started was spent getting set up, we also had two days of staff training. On Tuesday, a trainer from the Council for Disabled Children, which is part of the umbrella organisation - National Children's Bureau came to Annan to run some training on the Equality Act and Disabilities. The Council for Disabled Children is a leading authority on the rights and needs of disabled children. They work with government, local authorities and other organisations to ensure disabled children's life chances are assured, their needs met, their aspirations supported and their rights respected. In the morning the trainer worked with the whole staff team, and in the afternoon, she met with the Senior Leadership team (Debby, Mark, Alastair and Heather) to go through our school policies considering issues of equality and disability. We will be updating these and all school policies this term as they are always updated annually and will post the updates on the website when they are completed.

On the Thursday Inset day, Debby and Mark ran our annual Safeguarding course for all staff, which updates everyone with any changes to statutory procedures and policies as set out in "Keeping Children Safe in Education".

### Pick up and drop off

Please help to keep the car park moving by dropping and going as quickly as you can. If you can drop and go, please use the "minute stop" just outside the car park, to drop your child and then drive off. David will be around to keep cars moving. If you arrive after the class has gone in you must go to the school office to sign in. Teachers come out at 8.50am to take messages. Breakfast club is available from 8am. Thanks.

### Music Lessons

There are a few spaces available for children to take up guitar or piano lessons this term with John (guitar) and Annie (piano). If you would like to talk to them about starting lessons speak to Paula for their contact details.



### Mindfulness Course at Annan

This week Willow and Elder Classes started mindfulness sessions with Chryso who has completed youth mindfulness training.

*"I am very excited to be introducing Mindfulness to the Junior children at Annan. The course, designed for children aged 7 - 11, started on Tuesday and will run for 8 - 10 sessions. Mindfulness is a simple practice with its roots in many ancient traditions (basically meditation re-packaged) to train the mind to pay attention to the present moment with an attitude of acceptance, kindness and non-judgement. The benefits of which include greater concentration, self-awareness, resilience, joyfulness and peace of mind. It weaves beautifully into the ethos of the school and particularly into the discoveries currently going on around the topic, 'I believe.' This exciting course takes the children on a supportive journey to establish this practice addressing along the way, the challenges that it brings. The first session was fun, intriguing, inspired interesting questions and concluded with a hall full of children lying peacefully on the ground, breathing buddies on their tummies, bringing attention to the breath. Some parents will be familiar with Mindfulness, but for those who aren't or for those who wish to know more about how the course is run, I will be happy to give a brief talk (at a date to be confirmed) after school."* **Chryso**

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### After School clubs 3.30-5pm Monday - Thursday

We hope you like the new arrangement for after school clubs this term. We have supervision available Monday - Thursday from 3.30pm to 5pm. Children can attend until 4.30 or 5pm. Teachers have spread their after school club activities over 3 evenings to enable more children to take part. If you haven't sent a reply slip in yet could you please do that by Monday so we can allocate spaces. See email and letter sent home already.

#### Next Week's Timetable:

##### **Monday**

School lunch – Tacos  
Teacher's staff meeting 3.45pm

##### **Tuesday**

School lunch – Autumn Veg soup  
**3.30pm** Meeting about RE and this term's theme.

##### **Wednesday**

##### **Thursday**

##### **Friday**

**3pm** Parents Meeting including Friends AGM, followed by Tea and Cake and classroom tours