

Tarves Primary School Newsletter



Friday 25th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A word from Mrs Conn

I can't believe I am writing the final newsletter of the year. What a year it has been! We are all hoping for a more settled start to the new term in August. Currently, we have been told not to remove any of the Covid-19 restrictions we have in place (e.g. continued handwashing, use of sanitiser, masks, social distancing and ventilation) so, as it stands, the current arrangements will remain for next year. I would encourage you to keep an eye on your email over the holiday (when you can, we all need a proper break!) as I will update you of any changes to pick up/drop off times, schoolbag requirements etc.

I also want to take this time to say farewell to our incredible Primary 7 pupils. They have been a fantastic bunch throughout and we will really miss you at Tarves. From all the staff, we wish you the very best at the academy and beyond! Please don't be a stranger, keep in touch, we want to hear all about how you are doing 😊

I wish you all a relaxing break, please take the time to switch-off and recuperate. Fingers crossed the sun keeps shining for us!

Looking forward to seeing you all (hopefully in person) next academic year in August.

Staffing

Our staff team next year will be:

Primary 1-2: Mrs Anderson and Mrs Joyce

Primary 2: Miss Maturana

Primary 3: Miss Craft and Mrs Keith

Primary 4: Miss McLean

Primary 5: Mrs Pearce

Primary 5-6: Miss Bruce

Primary 7: Miss Slesser (returning August 2021 as Mrs McLean!)



Mrs Gray will be joining us as a Pupil Support Assistant and Mrs Pearce (who was with us as a teaching student) returns to Tarves into Primary 5. We also welcome Miss Bruce into Primary 5-6 and Mrs Joyce into Primary 1. Welcome to the team!

Thank you to Miss Kasim for all her help and support, she has been a brilliant Primary 3 teacher. You will always be part of our school community and we will miss you!

I am saddened but also thrilled to let you know that Miss Gauld has secured a job at St. Andrew's School in Inverurie and will be leaving us for pastures new. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Miss Gauld all the very best for her future, you are amazing, have inspired so many and we will miss you very much!



Forest School

I am pleased to announce that Miss McBeath is in her final stages of becoming a Forest School leader. **Forest School** is based on a Scandinavian concept that offers opportunities for holistic growth, through regular sessions throughout the year in the outdoor environment, preferably a woodland area. The ethos focuses on child-centred learning styles that maximise the emotional, social and developmental benefits. It helps children become successful learners and confident individuals that also learn to care for their local and wider environment, and understand their place in maintaining and preserving the natural world around them. It is designed to enhance and complement mainstream education, offering a valuable, alternative curriculum in an outdoor environment. It is inclusive of all learning abilities, in a non-judgemental, nurturing way, proven to help learners develop socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

As you know, we have worked hard to embrace and develop outdoor learning at Tarves and this has significant positive impact on pupil wellbeing. Moving forward, every class will participate in child-led, Forest School activities, with Miss McBeath on a rota basis, including den building, mindfulness, insect identification and the introduction of using fire and tools, where appropriate, under controlled surroundings.

We are lucky to have access to a range of Forest School sites within the village and will be using these throughout the year in addition to our own playground area. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer from Miss McBeath; if you are having a Summer clear-out, there are a list of items we would be more than happy to take!

We are very excited to be able to offer this amazing opportunity to our pupils. This is supported by an allocated amount of 'Covid Recovery' money from the Scottish Government, ensuring every child benefits.



Primary 4 Free School Meals

The Scottish Government have announced that Free School Meals will be extended to all Primary 4 pupils next year. If your child will be in Primary 4, you do not need to do anything, other than be aware a school meal will be provided. You are also welcome to send your child in with a packed lunch instead, should they/you prefer.

The Scottish Government aim is that by January 2022, Primary 5 children will also be receiving FSM with Primary 6 and Primary 7 by August 2022.

Summer Reading Fun and Summer of Play

Live Life Aberdeenshire are holding various family events throughout the break. The Summer Reading Fun challenge, a regular event, turns 20 year old this year! Many of our families take part every year. We highly recommend it as an activity for both adults and children. To find out more, click here: [Summer Reading Fun 2021 - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk\)](https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk)

The team are also running a Summer of Play event for children in the local area. We have a few sporting activities happening at Tarves (all completely free!) so sign up fast and book your slot here: <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/summer-programme/sports-specialist-sessions/>

A reminder that all this information can also be accessed on our Twitter page using @TarvesSchool.



Plea for volunteers/coaches for next academic year

I know how busy everyone is, but if you would be able to spare some time next academic year, Covid situation permitting, we are SO keen to have parent/carer volunteers to run some clubs on a day and at time that would suit you best. There is absolutely no pressure and we would work around whatever you would be able to offer. I know in the past we had a football team, basketball, netball etc. and we would love to be able to offer these again to the children. Local football leagues have contacted us to ask if we have a team we would like to enter... there are plenty of willing children! We are in the process of working with the team at Active Schools, but would love to have our own. **You don't need to have any formal qualifications or courses, just a love for your hobby and willingness to share!** If you have a particular skill or interest (we love the weird and wonderful, too!) we would love to hear from you.



Dates for the Diary

- Monday 16th August 2021 is an in-service day and school will be closed to all pupils.
- Start of Term for all pupils and staff is Tuesday 17th August 2021.

From everyone at Tarves Primary School and Nursery, we wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing you after the holiday. Thank you for all your help and continued support, as always.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LC.', located below the main text and above the typed name.

Lara Conn
Head Teacher