Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our parents, pupils and community and I wish you all a happy and healthy 2019. As well as all the learning and teaching that went on in school during the first term, staff have also been working hard on our school improvement priorities. Please read about the progress we have been making below.

Carol Pennock

Head Teacher Update

School Improvement

Progress Through Term 1

Priority 1: Making sure that more pupils make better than expected progress.

Progress to date: All pupils, staff and parents have been consulted in order for there to be an agreed set of values that represents Auchengray Primary School. These will now be used to create the aims of the school and a vision statement of what we want our learners at Auchengray Primary to achieve.

Priority 2: Making sure that pupils enjoy the teaching and learning activities. (focusing on digital literacy)

Progress to date: Staff have undertaken an audit of their personal digital literacy skills and also of the equipment and software within the school. As a result of this, some training has been undertaken.

Priority 3: Ensuring that pupils are aware of ways in which to address their Health and Wellbeing needs.

Progress to date: Staff are using a programme of work designed around the Wellbeing indicators used in Scottish Schools. Each month a new indicator is addressed and pupils complete a range of activities which help to widen their understanding of ways in which they can promote their own health and wellbeing.

ParentPay

Thank-you to everyone for their patience whilst the ParentPay system has been introduced into school. We are well on the way to becoming a cashless school.

www.parentpay.com

Dates for your diary

January 2019

Monday 14th—Friday 18th—Enrolment week for new P1’s
Thursday 17th—P7 STEM day at BHS
Friday 18th—P6 Enterprise day at BHS
Thursday 24th—Scottish Afternoon at Auchengray Church Café.
Wednesday 30th—P4—7 Benchball/Netball Festival at BHS
Thursday 31st—Reflective Spaces Assembly with Rev MacLean

February 2019

Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th February—School closed
Wednesday 13th February—Inservice Day—school closed to pupils

March 2019

Friday 29th March—school closes 2.30pm

April 2019

Monday 15th—school reopens 9am
Thursday 18th—Easter Service
Friday 19th—Good Friday—school closed
Monday 22nd—Bank Holiday Monday—school closed
Parent Council News

The Parent Council held their AGM on Wednesday 26th September and the following members were elected:

Chairperson—Moria Marshall
Vice Chairperson—Susan Peter
Secretary—Jen Crighton
Treasurer—Stuart Crighton

The members of the Parent Council work hard to support the school in a variety of ways as well as raising funds and supporting school events and activities which all children benefit from. The minutes from this meeting can be viewed on the school website.

The Parent Council recently took delivery of 420 trees. A great morning was had back in December planting the trees in order to create a windbreak for the playground. Thank you to all those parents, pupils and members of the community who came along and helped and provided refreshments—a job very well done.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 7pm in the School

Please support your Parent Council in their support of our school.

Contact: auchengrayprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com
Thank you to all parents who responded to my letter regarding joining a school WhatsApp group in order for us to send timely communications to you. As many of you will know this has now been set up and is ready to use. Future messages will come via a ‘Broadcast message’ not via a ‘group chat’. This is a way of sending the same message to a number of people as an individual message. If you respond to a Broadcast message, it will come directly to the school mobile number only and not to everyone else. If you previously did not respond to the WhatsApp group letter and now wish to join it, please contact the school office.

As you know, this time of year the weather can be unpredictable. To ensure we are as prepared as we possibly can be, we have outlined below guidance on our procedures for adverse weather. These are fully in line with Operating Procedures as set out by South Lanarkshire Council. Decisions are made in conjunction with the local authority and always have pupil safety at the centre.

**Adverse Weather Procedures:**

- We will tell you if the school is closed. A decision will be made early in the morning using local knowledge of the weather, if the school is closed you will receive notice via the Primary School App; a WhatsApp message and the school website. If you have trouble receiving these messages and are unsure of the situation, we ask you to contact one of the following parents, who we will have notified by telephone of the school’s closure.
  
  Claire Dunbar - 07773769042
  Moria Marshall – 01501 785581 or 07479817861

- It will also state this on South Lanarkshire’s website and Twitter feed if the school is to be closed. However there can be delay in this appearing.

- If the school is open, as a parent it is your decision to decide if the journey to school is too dangerous. If your child is not attending please contact the school as you normally would if they were to be absent.

- Occasionally pupils may need to be sent home due to emergency circumstances. If there is an early closure we will notify you through the day. This will usually be because of severe weather. We will send a message through our automated texting service; via the WhatsApp group and the Primary School App. **It is essential that emergency contacts are up to date.**

- If you are concerned about your child returning home safely, please remember you can call the school and arrange to pick them up.

- In the case of severe weather overnight, bus and taxi operators take the decision whether or not to operate routes about 7.30am. They will notify the school of their decision and we will inform you as soon as we can.

Decisions are made to ensure pupil safety and it is essential for the school and parents to work together to make this happen.

Hopefully we will not experience the weather conditions we had last winter and there will be no disruption to our pupils’ learning.