



MUIREDGE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2022

Back to school . . .

We have had a super start to the term already. The children have settled back beautifully and are looking smart in their uniforms. Every year we are surprised by how much the children have grown, both in height and maturity, our children are definitely ready to learn this session and are excited about the adventures ahead.

Leading the way

We are aiming this year to encourage pupil leadership across our school. We have already had a very successful pupil leadership election. After presentations to be proud of we now have our newly elected team of house captains. We are sure that they will aim to act on the pledges they made and are going to be a great asset taking in forward school activities. Every pupil in Muiredge is part of one of our school houses, we use these to line up, for school sports day and other activities throughout the year.

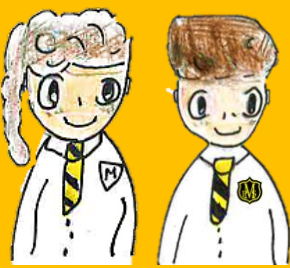
There are 4 houses in Muiredge, all named after areas within the local community. These are:

Clydeneuk **Porterswell** **Spindlehowe** **Kylepark**

We are also in the process of establishing other pupil leadership groups, so that all children across the school can actively participate in positive change. Look out on our twitter feed for more information.



Be The Best You Can Bee



School Improvement

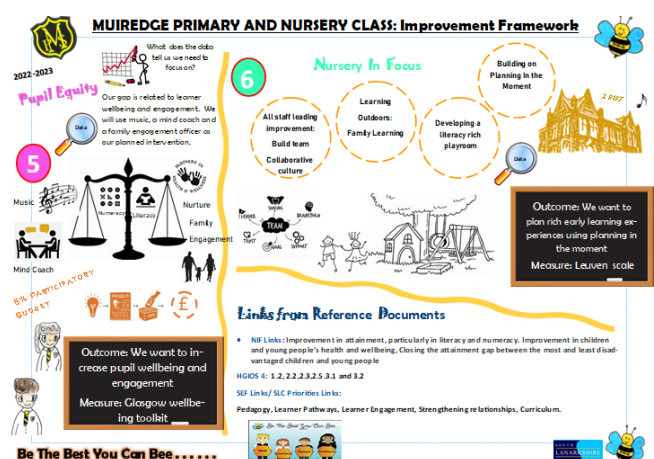
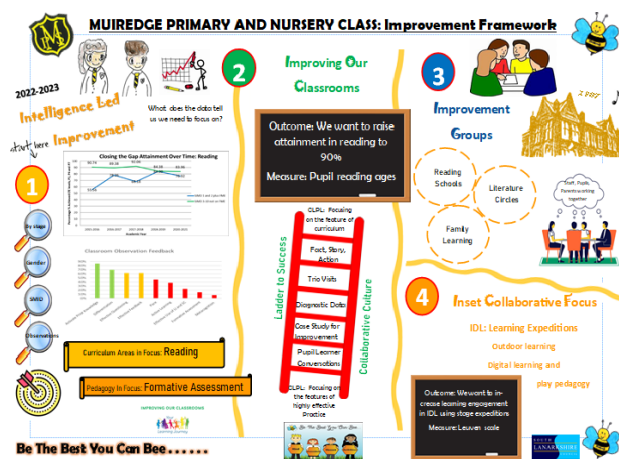
After the great success last session staff continue to use the Improving our Schools framework to drive improvement across our school. This session we are focusing on improving reading and wish to raise attainment in reading to 90%. We will be reviewing our approach to teaching reading and establishing a reading culture across our school.

We also wish to increase learner engagement in interdisciplinary learning and are piloting a new approach which focuses on building pupil skill through responsive planning. Children have been given an open question and have been working with teachers to investigate 'What can Fly?' This has already resulted in a wide range of inspirational learning across the classes, from visits from experts from including Sue Key from AAC Clyde Space, to creative green screen filming in primary 7, we have been taking learning out of this world!

We also continue to close the poverty related attainment gap and this session continue work around supporting the health and wellbeing of our pupils. Beat Buddies music is back, as we know at Muiredge how much of a feel good factor music gives, and of course music supports concentration, engagement and focus. We also welcome Jill Trevena wellbeing coach to Muiredge, Jill will be working with some of our senior pupils on positive mindset work. We are also keen to offer family support and have bid for a family support worker to help us engage with families in need.

Please find the link to our interactive Improvement framework below.

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1620520767873613827>



Below is our new section of our newsletter which offers advice on how you can support your child at home. Our first guide this session is around encouraging pupils to become independent.



Learning In Focus

Supporting Your Child At Home:

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE

THE INDEPENDENT CHILD

We have the privilege this session of working with all 402 of your children who are part of our Muiredge family. At the start of term we always have a period of training as we guide pupils in rules and routines that keep everyone safe, happy and ultimately keep our school functioning.

We have however this session been finding this process more challenging than usual. Pupils seem shocked at the need to look after belongings, tidy up in the bistro at lunch or in general take responsibility for their actions. The mountain of lost property higher than Ben Nevis itself and 30 or so abandoned dinner trays every lunchtime is testament to this.

Now this could be part of the Covid 19 fall out as we have had so many changes to routines and expectations over the last few years. However we worry it may be deeper rooted and is a reflection not only on our expectations as teachers but as parents. We live in fear that we are losing a generation of independent children!!! But we are sure that we can reverse this fate with a few adjustments.

So although it may take twice, or even three times as long for the little cherubs to do things themselves, we need to make a united effort to encourage independence, after all our future is in their hands!

Although you may read this in jest, we ask that you reflect on your routines at home and where you can please build independence and praise pupils for this. We have highlighted the top 6 skills that we are looking for in the ultimate independent Muiredge child.



Muiredge Independent child: Top 6



- 1. Jackets:** Independent children can put on, take off, zip up and return home with their jackets. Independent children are aware when they lose their jackets and make every effort to retrieve them.
- 2. Toilets:** The Independent child is a master of toilet etiquette, flushing, and washing hands comes naturally.
- 3. Lunch:** School lunch is when the independent child comes into their own, showcasing manners, dexterity in carrying their tray, the use of a knife and fork and of course the ability to clean and stack their plates in the correct location.
- 4. Bags and Belongings:** Independent children carry bags and belonging themselves, as they progress through school they learn to pack their bags and check they have the equipment they need including a water bottles. Independent children would be mortified at the thought of a parent carrying things for them!
- 5. Play:** The independent child can sustain play on their own for a period of time, no electronics included! They can play safely with little adult intervention.
- 6. Learning:** Independent children want to learn, they get a thrill out of doing it themselves and are praised for their efforts. They work on their own for increasing periods of times and are self-directed following task boards and prompts, they listen well and work hard.



Parent Council

We have a well-established Parent Council at Muiredge and work in partnerships with parents to ensure we enrich learning opportunities for our children. Last session our work focused on developing our outdoor space, creating a garden area and outdoor Cosy Clubhouse for pupils to enjoy at break. Whilst we still have work to do on our outdoor environment, this session will also see the return of our school discos and other events. We are hosting our AGM on **Monday 10th October at 6.30pm** and want to invite parents to attend to hear about our Parent Council and the ways in which you can support the school.

We are also looking to reintroduce the use of parent helpers across the school, from attending pupil outings, cutting out resources, to assisting more regularly in class, many hands make light work! We will be looking to recruit parent helpers in the coming weeks, so please look out for further information.

School Communication

Our school app is a key tool in communicating with parents and it is important that all parents check our app regularly for updates. Our app also links to our school twitter feed which shares some of our Muiredge highlights! Our school website is in need of some TLC and in many respects has been overtaken by our app, although we hope to update our website this session.

We also understand that sometimes you may wish to get advice, seek support or raise concerns. Where general enquires are best communicated through email using the contact us tab on our school app, it may be some concerns when committed to e-mail get lost in translation. We kindly ask that if you do wish to raise a concern that your initial contact is made through the school app and request telephone contact with the class teacher. **We ask that parents do not direct e-mail teaching staff and the Senior Leadership Team.** This is a change in policy this year and is to ensure enquires are dealt with appropriately. Where our school office can answer enquires this will be the first port of call.

We also ask for your patience, with over 400 children in our school it can take us a bit of time to get back to you. We have an incredibly hard working committed staff team who strive to live our school values every day. We ask that parents are mindful and respectful when speaking to staff who as educational professionals are skilled at working with the children. We also need to remind parents about safe and appropriate use of social media and communication apps. Whilst we are delighted that parents have a network of support, please consider what you write regarding school issues, staff and pupils. The most accurate way to clarify school issues is to contact us, we are happy to help. We want to have fruitful relationships which enrich the learning experiences of our youngsters.

Parents' night returns

We are delighted to confirm a return of in person parents' evening, this is scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th October. Appointment times will be issued shortly



Homework

Love it or loathe it homework is one of the most divisive issues in education, as parental views are so varied. We have recently issued a parent, pupil and staff survey to review our current Learning Lowdown approach, which focused on learning discussion prompts. We have had mixed results and have been reviewing data to consider the next steps. When reviewing this we have also been looking at educational research from John Hattie and have found that homework has limited effect on raising attainment and accelerating student learning. We feel that our youngsters work hard in school all day and that homework should be an insight into learning at school rather than a burden on families. We are finalizing our updated Learning Lowdown approach with staff and will share this soon, with homework being issued on Friday the 29th September.

Kindness Week

This week in Muiredge we have decided to focus on one of our school values 'be Kind'. With this in mind we are asking the pupils in primary 6, to visit classes to launch the Kindness Kids policy which they created at the end of last session. This policy focuses on anti-bullying linked to our school/playground charter. We are also asking pupils to pledge an act of kindness this week and will be displaying pledges around the school.

A final Thought . . . In the line of duty.

My final thought is that of reflection, our children have lived through real moments in history which generations will look back and reflect on. In just their short lives they have seen a global pandemic, a war in Europe and the death of the Queen. One word that links these events is duty, a sense of belonging to a cause and the responsibility of our role in the wider world. It is important that we consider how we instill the sense of duty in our pupils, the duty to come to school and be the best they can be is something we will very much strive for this session.

Kind Regards

Leigh Miller (Head Teacher)