



# Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

## Welcome Back

We give everyone a warm welcome back to a new year with us at Castledawson PS! Hopefully everyone has settled back into school life and enjoying their new class. A special welcome to our new P1 children who have settled in really well to school life. We also welcome our new parents. The whole school community will be looking out for each other to make sure everyone feels happy.

## Shared Education

Over the next number of weeks, we will begin our shared education programme again. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our partnership with New Row Children from P2-P7 will be involved this year through shared activities and lessons. P2/3 will be joining together for play P4/5 will be linking through their World Around Us topic- World War 2 P6/7 plan to complete a mini enterprise project together. Further information will follow in our Shared Ed Newsletter later this term.

## Active Travel/ Rights Respecting School

This year we hope to achieve our Silver Award in both areas. In Active travel, we promote healthy lifestyles as part of our pastoral provision and encourage our pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Many events including our walking bus will follow throughout the year.

After completing our Bronze level award last

year as a Rights Respecting School, we are also now working towards the Silver Level. We will be exploring further the rights of the child by focusing on a different right each month. We have completed class charters, voted for our school council to highlight September's right which highlights the importance of our children's voice and right to their opinions being heard.

## 2018 – 2019 Targets

We have five targets which we hope to develop throughout this school year, these targets are as a result of audits and questionnaires that take place throughout our school community representing pupils, parents and staff.

1. Teaching and Learning: Our target is focusing on questioning and plenaries in lessons as we encourage deeper thinking and understanding in concepts.
2. Literacy target: We are concentrating on developing thinking skills and personal capabilities. In Term 1 we will focus on Self-Management while in Term 2, Being Creative and Term 3, Managing Information. Thinking Skills explore the **how** rather than the **what** of learning and more information on Thinking Skills can be accessed using the following link:

[http://cea.org.uk/curriculum/key\\_sta](http://cea.org.uk/curriculum/key_sta)

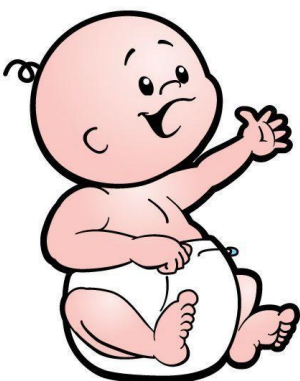
## [ge 1 2/skills and capabilities/thinking skills and personal capabilities](#)

In literacy we will be helping our children develop their editing skills so to ensure more reflective practice and accuracy in their written work.

3. Our numeracy target is also focusing on the same thinking skills only in a mathematical context as well as outdoor learning where we will be promoting problem solving,
4. ICT: Our target will be presenting information in a variety of formats using iapds and computers.
5. Our final target is a pastoral target.... becoming a 'Bucket Filling' school. Hopefully by now you will have heard about our Bucket Filling initiative and your child is bringing home lovely notes every Friday. This is our whole school way of focusing on the positive and building each other up, being kind to each other.

Our School Development Plan 2018 – 2021 will be shared with parents shortly. This plan outlines in more detail our targets over the next 3 years.

Best wishes to Miss McAllister as she begins her maternity leave. We wish her every blessing in the days and weeks that lie ahead with her new baby. We also welcome Miss Brooks in Room 4 who will carry out principal relief during this maternity period.



### Dates for the Diary

**9<sup>th</sup> October** – 2.00pm finish for all p  
participate in training.

**17<sup>th</sup> October** – Staff  
Development Day (school closed  
for all pupils).

**18<sup>th</sup> October** – whole school trip  
details will follow from  
individual teachers

Our sponsored Walk for will take  
place on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October** in  
Polepatrick Park. Details will  
soon go out.

**Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> October** –  
parent teacher meetings. School  
closes at 2pm daily for ALL  
pupils.

**26<sup>th</sup> October** – school closes at  
12.30pm for all pupils for Half  
Term. The new term  
recommences on Monday 5<sup>th</sup>  
November.



