

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimarieschool.co.uk



NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

Letter from Mrs Shortel:-

Dear Parent / Carer,

Embarking on a new session...

It has been a hugely successful start to the school year with all our new pupils transitioning so well into ELC, P1 and other stages. It is super to be back and getting into the routines, engaging in new learning and of course having fun together!

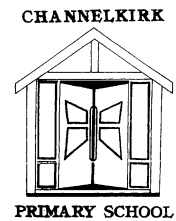
Attached to this letter is a copy of last session's **School Improvement Report (SIR)**. When producing this report at the end of last term, it was with great pride that I reflected on all the accomplishments of the school and the school community. The pandemic continues to throw many challenges at us but our school community is resilient, adaptable and above all strives to do the best for every single one of our children.

Some of the highlights of this report were –

- **Our attainment remains strong** and was barely affected by the lockdown. Our 'attendance' and engagement in Home Learning was remarkable and this is a huge credit to you, our families, and your dedicated support to the school and your child's learning. Thank you so much. Our teachers and ELC staff were hugely adaptable and creative during this second lockdown and provided what one of my parents described as 'The Gold Standard' offer in Home Learning.
- **Providing a rich curriculum** - despite the pandemic, our superb PE teacher, Mrs Turner, adapted her curriculum offer according to the Covid restrictions (and the weather!) and offered Archery, Golf, Forest Schools and Bikeability. Our class teachers continued to provide focussed core learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing to ensure our children remained on track but as always in creative ways – including integrating new iPad technology.

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimarieschool.co.uk



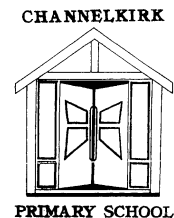
- Teachers continued to engage in a range of **professional development work looking at the Curriculum and teaching, learning and assessment**. This area remains fascinating to us all as professionals as we look at current research into the science of learning.
- All staff** undertook training in what is known as '**The Nurture Approach**'. Staff at all levels were able to reflect on current good Nurturing practice, how we meet the needs of our pupils and consider any changes we needed to make. This is SBC wide training which we continue to engage with this session. Focussing on a child's needs and a nurturing approach fits with our school and professional values and we welcome this authority wide training and approach. See graphic below for the 6 Principles of Nurture -



We also undertook a series of **Self-Evaluation exercises and surveys involving children, staff and parents**. This feedback was overwhelmingly positive, which was fantastic and a credit to all. This data helped inform this year's School Improvement Plan. Miss Matthew, our Principal teacher, is currently working with pupils to capture their views in more detail in video and identify some actions. This will contribute to a Self-Evaluation 'Sway' that will be shared once complete.

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimaryschool.co.uk



Our **School Improvement Plan (SIP) for this session** has 2 main priorities –

1. Improving Teaching, Learning and Assessment (including Curriculum developments and technology)
2. Developing inclusive practice (including a nurturing approach)

These include (amongst others):

- Increasing opportunities for Creativity across the curriculum (and what creative skills are)
- Considering play pedagogy across the school
- Taking a closer look at our Science curriculum and how our children attain in Science
- Continuing to look at the best practice in delivery of learning across all areas
- Remaining focussed on improving outcomes in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing
- Increasing the links to the World of Work (with the support of the Parent Council and wider community – watch this space to see if any of you can get involved!)

[A full copy of the School Improvement Plan is available on request.]

We have made a great start to our improvement work already and we are enthused about the opportunities this session to further improve our fantastic school.

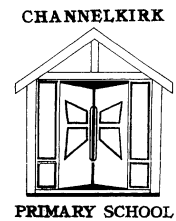
Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shortel'.

Mrs Charlotte Shortel

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimaryschool.co.uk



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION

For the latest coronavirus information, advice and service updates, please follow the link below to Scottish Borders Council's dedicated pages:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus>

WELCOME

We were delighted to welcome 6 new pupils into our School at the start of the new term – Torin Stewart joined us in Primary 4 and we also welcomed Heather Fruish, Thom Clarke, Ruaridh Davidson, Finn Haskell and Freddy Liddle to our Nursery. They have all settled in really well and have been great additions to Channelkirk Primary School.

We are also delighted to have been able to reintroduce our P7 Buddy system, meaning that our 7 new P1 pupils have Buddy's to help them at play times and lunch times during their first weeks in the school environment.

STAFFING

As you all know, we have an amazing School cook, Myra, and we are thrilled to let you know that Myra is also now working in School in the afternoons (from Monday to Thursday) as a Pupil Support Assistant in the P1-P3 class. Myra has many years of experience working in this role in other schools and is a great addition to the school team.

ELC SNACK MONEY

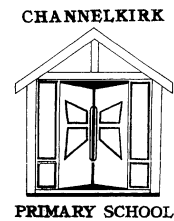
Following the introduction of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme in ELC this month, we are now able to provide ELC children with milk and a fruit or vegetable snack each day, free of charge.

We have now been advised by the Early Years Team that we can request that parents also make a weekly voluntary contribution in order to purchase an afternoon snack and to widen the offer to include ingredients for special occasions, festivals and baking – including the all-important Birthday Cakes!.

The amount which has been suggested is £1 per week.

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimarieschool.co.uk



We are hoping that this can be added to ParentPay in the future, in the meantime, payment can continue to be made by cash or cheque – please just hand your contribution to Miss Mack.

RAG BAG

A huge thank you for all your contributions for the Rag Bag Bank – the last collection raised a massive £137.60 for the School Funds. Keep your “rags” coming!

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS (JRSO's)

Our Junior Road Safety Officers' for the new session are Lucas Walker and Antony Haillay in P7. They 'virtually' attended their first event, the annual JRSO Conference, on Tuesday of this week.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Just a reminder that the **Flu Vaccine** consent forms need to be returned as soon as possible as they are being collected by the School Immunisation Team on Monday, the 13th of September.

All **Showbie** permission forms need to be returned as soon as possible. Even if you do not want your child / children to use this new App, please complete and return the form so that we are aware of your wishes.

And finally, the deadline for all **Annual Data Check Form** information to be checked and any amendments notified to Mrs Hutchison was Friday, the 3rd of September.

A Groupcall reminder will be sent out shortly to those of you who have still to return either of these forms. Many thanks for your cooperation.

PE

This term in PE, Mrs Turner will be concentrating on both Hockey and Tag Rugby skills and has asked that children bring gum shields / mouth guards to school on PE days. We are very much hoping that the P5 Tag Rugby Festival and P6-7 Hockey Festival will resume in October this year. These festivals involve playing with the children from the other schools within our Cluster Group, and are always thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils. Further details will be provided in due course, if the sporting festivals are to go ahead.

Channelkirk Primary School

Mrs Charlotte Shortel - Head Teacher
Channelkirk Primary School
Main Street
OXTON
Lauder TD2 6PN
01578 750242
www.channelkirkprimarieschool.co.uk



Important Dates for your Diary / Calendar

2021

Tuesday, 14th September	Parent Council AGM
Friday, 8th October	Last day of term before the October Holidays
Monday, 18th October	Staff in service day
Tuesday, 19th October	Pupils return to School
Thursday, 25th November	Flu Vaccines
Monday, 29th November	School closed for St Andrews Day Holiday
Thursday, 23rd December	Last day of term before the Christmas Holidays