

Broomhill Primary School		
News - 	2019	
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In term 3 of 2017-18 session we spent a long time revisiting the school vision for Broomhill. This involved consultation with parents/carers and working with all pupils across our school. From this extensive piece of work, our Broomhill Song was written. The words of the song "sing out" our vision for our pupils and also encapsulate the vision for Scotland's children. We use our School Song frequently during our learning in class and at school assemblies and you will see phrases from our song tagged in our school tweets on our Twitter account.

A recent survey of our parents/carers and pupils evidenced that whilst our pupils are very much aware of our school vision, some of our parents/carers indicated that they were not aware of it. It is therefore our intention to make this more visible across our work. Over the past few weeks, at assembly we have been focussing on what the words of the Chorus of our song mean. We have been exploring the theme of Determination, linked with developing a growth mindset. "Never Giving Up, Always Aiming High". Stories linked to this theme have been shared and following this work all of the pupils are currently working on a display to present this in a very visual form for everyone to see. You can help support this vision at home by making reference to these phrases when you discuss your child's learning with them.

*Never Giving Up
Always Aiming High
Broomhill Gives us the Freedom to Fly!
Onwards and Upwards
Striving for success
We can work together
And always do our best!*



Visible Learning

One of our main school improvement priorities this session has been on developing a Visible Learning Approach across our school. In brief, this means that we are developing Assessment Capable Learners; Learners who know **what** they are learning and **why**, how to be **successful**, and what their **next steps** are. Feedback from parents/carers and from our pupils towards the end of last session and at the beginning of this session evidenced that the majority of people felt that good learners at Broomhill were learners who "did what the teacher asked," "followed the teacher's instructions" and "behaved well." Ultimately we need to shift this viewpoint so that everyone is talking more about LEARNING and not about compliant behaviours, which whilst important, tend to take the focus away from the skills the pupils are actually learning. A huge body of research exists that demonstrates this can have a huge impact on pupil progress.

This will be 3 year development in our School Improvement Plan and will take time to embed across the school. Already, staff have been involved in initial In Service Training and this will continue over the next 2 years and beyond. This will include many more elements, such as developing Feedback to, from and between pupils and teachers. Initially though we have been focussing on these key questions:

What am I learning?

How can I be successful? (and how will I know?)

What are my next steps?

You'll see this poster designed by Miss Murray, in our classrooms which serves as a reminder for teachers and for pupils.

In classrooms, our staff are really focussing on developing Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. A learning intention focusses on explaining what the learning is going to be within curriculum areas. Success Criteria detail what the pupil needs to do to be successful in meeting the learning intention.

You can really help us by asking your children about their **learning**, instead of asking "What have you been *doing* in school today?" ask your child; "What have you been *learning* today?" You can also begin to start the conversation around "how did you know if you were successful?" This will help your child to focus in on the success criteria which will have been shared with them and in some instances, created by them or co-constructed with the class teacher.

Mr Hewitt, Miss Robertson and Mrs Powell are helping to lead this piece of work across the school and are making plans to share our work with parents/carers at a later date.

We are already beginning to see the impact of this work across the school.

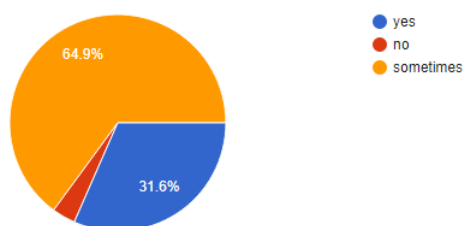
During a recent survey of P4-7 pupils we received the following responses:

We are really encouraged by the improvement we have already seen and will share evidence of further improvement as the work goes on.



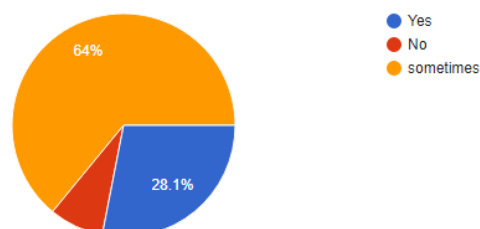
I always know what I'm learning and why,

114 responses



I always know what my next steps in learning are.

114 responses



School Uniform Sales—new procedures

Due to current time constraints within the office and in a bid to streamline some of the administrative tasks within our school, we are looking into a new way of ordering school uniforms which currently takes up a large amount of time.

The company we currently use offers an online ordering system for polo shirts, sweat shirts & sweat cardis which we are hoping to move to. We would still sell the book bags and school ties at school. As well as helping us to save some administrative time, this will also be in keeping with Aberdeen City Council's move towards digitisation of services.

There is still a large amount of stock held at school which is still available to buy, however once it is sold all uniform orders would be done by parents online. The school benefits from the sale of the uniforms as the profit goes straight into the school fund. Online, the uniform will be slightly cheaper and will include a 5% commission which comes directly to the school. Orders will be delivered to an address of your choice, including the school, and will have a quicker turn around than at present, P&P will cost £2.99 regardless of order size or will be free if spending £75.00 or more. The current uniform we have at school will be sold for the same price as online.

School stock availability will be advertised via text and parents will be asked to help with a pop-up uniform stall at specific times and days.

Further information regarding online ordering will also be issued by Mrs Turner in due course.



Recycling

Also, please remember that we operate a uniform recycling scheme. "Previously loved" uniform can be handed into school and is available for re-use, free of charge. Items currently include; sweatshirts of various sizes, school jackets, skirts and trousers.

Uniform expectations

We've received some concerns from parents/carers around the interpretation of the school uniform policy. Whilst we cannot enforce the wearing of uniform, we do encourage the wearing of our school code of dress as this promotes a sense of belonging to Broomhill School, promotes positive behaviour and high expectations. Alongside this, we want our pupils to be comfortable in their uniform and able to be actively involved in all activities. Our school code of dress is:

- White/green polo shirt or school shirt
- School ties are available from the school office (optional)
- Grey or Green school jumper/cardigan (this can be with or without school logo)
- Dark trousers/skirt/shorts

To save time when classes are timetabled for PE first thing in the morning, pupils are permitted to come to school wearing PE kit, however there is an expectation that pupils will change into uniform following their PE lesson. All staff have been reminded to continue to encourage pupils to adhere to this. The same applies to pupils who attend our Active Schools Clubs.

What's been happening at Broomhill?

Communications: It's been a while since we shared a Newsletter with our parents and carers but we know that almost everyone keeps up to date with the goings on at Broomhill by following us on Twitter @SchoolBroomhill. Twitter is such a great way for us to share our day to day work, very quickly and easily. All class teachers have accounts but will tag @SchoolBroomhill so all you have to do is follow this account and you will see what's happening across our classes. As with all Digital Technologies some are more au fait and slick with this than others so please be patient as all of our staff learn how to use this application to share our work. *As mentioned earlier—look out for the hashtags # which highlight our school vision in our twitter posts.*



Pupils will not be named on Twitter, in line with our ICT Acceptable Use Policy. Pupils who do not have consent to be photographed will not be included in Twitter or blog posts.

Our School Blog will continue to be updated for longer pieces of information and news, but Twitter allows us to share quick snapshots of our work very quickly and easily.

We are continuing to try and be as paperless as possible, keeping costs both environmental and financial to a minimum, and ask all parents to sign up the Expressions Application. This allows us to send emails to you very easily through this system linked to Groupcall. We will continue to send Text Messages via Groupcall to remind you about absence notifications and emergencies, but Expressions will continue to be our main method of all important communications. Should you need any help in accessing the Expressions App, please come and speak to Mrs Turner in the office. These online systems rely on your contact details being up to date, please remember to inform us of any change to email address or telephone number.

Parents Evening: Another fantastic turnout at the end of April with lots of very positive feedback. Miss Esson will be holding her appointments this week.

Parental Questionnaire: Following parents evening we asked parents/carers to complete a Questionnaire. We've had a very good response so far and will share the results when the questionnaire closes next week. Your responses are all read, and extremely valuable in planning for future improvements.

Sharing the Learning: Fantastic Feedback following the videos of our Scottish Learning from last term which were shared with all parents/carers.

Parking: Following concerns from some parents/carers regarding parking on double yellow lines around the school grounds at the beginning and end of the school day, we have spoken again with Community Wardens who have already been a presence around these areas and will continue to appear from time to time to enforce this. Whilst we understand that parking around the school can be very restricted, we would encourage you to park further way and walk the final distance, if you must drive to school. Parking on double yellow lines causes a risk to the health and safety of our pupils.



Parents/carers are also reminded that the preferred route to After School/Breakfast Club is via the playground, not through the school car park. Space here is very limited and is the access route for delivery lorries and staff cars only, unless disability access is required. Cars/lorries manoeuvring in this area also pose a risk to pupil safety.

Transition: Our Primary 1 places have been offered and we have a number of pupils on our waiting list. Transition arrangements will be sent out to all new pupils' and families very soon. Following feedback and evaluation of procedures last session we have changed some of our induction procedures and look forward to a new way of working.

Our P7s are looking forward to continuing the transition process into secondary school. They continue to have visits to Harlaw and formal transition days for all secondary schools will be held later this term .

Cashless Catering: Following the introduction of our Cashless Catering system, things are going very well. It would really help us however, if you would continue to share the menu with your child, particularly if they are going to be late for school or have an appointment. Pupils who are late, must order their lunch at the office and as this is a really busy time and Mrs Turner is currently on her own, if your child knows what they would like for lunch, this really helps to keep things moving quickly through the office in the morning. The menu has not been shared in hard copy this term but is available for view by clicking the following link:



[Aberdeen City Council—Summer Menu 2019](#)

School Attendance: We are very proud that attendance at Broomhill remains higher than the Aberdeen City Average so far this year at just over 96%. We do however experience a dip in attendance prior to school holidays, when we have an increased number of families opting to take pupils out of school to attend family holidays. I need to remind parents/carers that these absences are recorded as unauthorised and impacts on our school attendance figures. We are also experiencing an increasing number of late arrivals in school, between 9.15am and 9.30am. On one occasion last week we had 21 late arrivals, 5% of our school population arriving after 9am. Arriving late in school can impact hugely on a child's learning, often missing vital information/input at the beginning of the day. If you are experiencing difficulties in getting your child to school on time, please know that school staff are here to help and will happily meet to discuss how we can support you in getting your child into school on time.

Staff News:

It may not have escaped your notice that we have a bit of a Broomhill Baby Boom! Mrs Webster (P3), Mrs Gordon (P1) and Mrs Leslie (DHT) will all be leaving at the end of this term to begin their Maternity Leave. Mrs Taylor-Tough (School Administrator currently on secondment) is also expecting her first baby in the summer. The temporary teaching posts will be filled over the summer period for a year. Mrs Leslie's post has been advertised and appointment of an Acting DHT will commence soon. We would like to wish all of our expectant mums (and dads) all of our very best wishes and look forward to welcoming all of the new members of our "Broomhill family" soon.



It was lovely to welcome Mrs Shaw back to school this term following her Maternity Leave. Mrs Shaw has reduced her working days and now works Monday/Tuesday, covering Non Class Contact Time.

Parent Council Meetings

I'd like to remind all parents/carers that you are all part of the wider parent forum group. We have elected Parent Council Members (Chair/Vice/Treasurer/Secretary) but everyone can attend a Parent Council meeting should they wish to do so. Parent Council Meetings are held termly and during these meetings we discuss School Development issues and work together to ensure that we are providing the best support for our school and our learners. A recent Newsletter issued by the Parent Council detailed the supports offered to school over the last year. The Parent Council can be contacted via the following email address: pcbroomhill@aberdeen.npfs.org.uk

At a meeting this week, parents expressed an interest in having more of a say as to how funds are spent. On behalf of the Parent Council I would encourage you to complete a Google Form available here, where you can share your views and ideas.

<https://forms.gle/SWPp8UFWrgEQQmAq9>

I'd like to also encourage parents who have any concerns to raise these directly with school staff in the first instance. We are happy to discuss any concerns you may have either by appointment or in writing. This ensures that any concerns, although rare, can be dealt with quickly. Contact details for school are always printed at the beginning of the newsletter.

Resources

We continue to encourage our pupils, both from an environmental and financial perspective, to take care of our resources. In current financial climates, our everyday resources are extremely valuable to us, (Pens, Pencils, Paper etc). I'm very grateful to our Parent Council who have agreed to help us in providing some additional funds to ensure that these resources are more plentiful that they have been of late! Please help us by encouraging your children to look after equipment and resources in and around school.



We recently received some art and craft donations from a local business, which we were very grateful for and will be put to good use. Any similar donations are always gratefully accepted.

Sports Medals

We have been able to provide medals at Sports Day over the last couple of years. These have been very much valued by the pupils and have made Sports Day extra special. This year I'm appealing to any local business who may be willing to sponsor our Sports Day Medals. If you know of anyone who may be willing to support this, please let me know. Thank you.



Dates for your diary for the remainder of term.

Wednesday 15th May	Generation Science Workshops in school for P?
Tuesday 21st May	Scottish Opera in school working with P6 and P7
Tuesday 28th May	Scottish Opera in school to perform with P6 and P7
Monday 3rd June	Planetarium visiting P2 and P5
Tuesday 4th June	Parent Council School Discos P1 and P2: 5.30pm—6.15pm P3 and P4: 6.30pm—7.15pm P5 and P6: 7.30pm—8.15pm
Tuesday 4th June	P1 Induction Meeting and Class Visit (details sent to parents)
Thursday 6th June	Councillor John Wheeler (Education Convenor) visiting school
Tuesday 11th June	Sports Day at Harlaw Playing Fields (Cromwell Road) P1-3: 9.30am—11.30am (approx.) P4-7: 1.15pm– 3pm (approx.)
Wednesday 12th June	6.30pm: Musical Evening (all instrumentalists) <i>Please note this is a change to original date due to availability of music instructors.</i>
Thursday 13th June	Nursery Sports Day AM and PM (details to follow)
Friday 14th June	Workshops for new P1 Parents (details sent to parents)
Wednesday 19th June	P7 Show
Friday 21st June	P1 Transition Picnic (details sent to parents)
Tuesday 25th—Thursday	P7 Harlaw Transition Days
Week beginning 24th June	Pre-school Transition Playtimes (details sent to parents)
Thursday 27th June	P7 Party
Friday 5th July	Church Service (time to be confirmed) School Closes at 3.10pm for Summer Holiday. School resumes on Tuesday 21st August 2019