Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school session. It was great to see all pupils back on 16th August ready for the excitement and challenges of a new school session. We are delighted to welcome all our new Primary 1 pupils and all the new pupils at various stages throughout the school who have joined us. Your child has already brought home some very important documentation.

Staffing
This year Mrs McCulloch will take on pastoral responsibility for P4-P7 and this will continue during Mrs Lindsay’s absence. Mrs Rafferty will be Acting Depute Head and she will have pastoral responsibility for Nursery – P3. Mrs Stewart will continue to have pastoral responsibility for our three Supported Classes.

We welcome new members of our teaching staff, Miss McGhee our new Nursery teacher, Miss Inglis in P2, Miss Coghlan in P3, Miss Cocozza in P5/6, Miss Arthur and Mr Baillie who will also be in P5/6.

We also welcome our new members of the Support Staff, Ms Daisley and Ms Edgar – the pupil information sheet, permission forms for excursions, photographs and internet usage. It is vital that these are completed and we would ask for your cooperation in returning these by Friday 24th August.

Please contact the school immediately if any details change throughout the year in order for us to keep our contact details up to date. We look forward to another successful year working with you in a variety of school projects.

Julie McCulloch
Head Teacher

School App

At Auchenraith we have a school App. We try to keep this updated regularly and it is an excellent method of communication. You can download the app by either searching in the relevant app store for “Auchinraith Primary School” or by using the following link: http://app.jigsawschoolapps.com/get/auchinraithps/

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club opened again on Monday 20th August at 8.15am. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with this and Mrs McCulloch will be in touch soon to discuss what is involved. Pupils should enter the Breakfast Club through the front entrance. This provision is free of charge and it provides children with cereal, toast and juice. All children within the school are welcome to attend.

Raising Attainment

We continue to be an Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Funded School and as such we are allocated extra funding in order to help us raise attainment across the school. We hope you will support us in our many activities and workshops run throughout the year. It is only through joint working that we will improve outcomes for your child/children.

School / Nursery Values

On Friday 24th August our whole School / Nursery assembly will be all about our Values. Each class will have input from a visiting specialist and will get the chance to decide on our new values across the Nursery / School. We will also be asking for your input in this before our Values are decided.
School Uniform and Footwear
Uniform is the recognised attire for all pupils attending Auchinraith and we are all delighted at how smart our pupils are returning to school this year. More and more children are also wearing their blazers and are taking pride in wearing their uniform. Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that your child is wearing school uniform. Uniform should also be worn on gym days. There are changing facilities therefore there is no problem if your child needs to change for gym. The school colours are navy/ black and white.

Please ensure that your child has sandshoes or other indoor shoes to wear indoors. These should have non marking soles. Most children wear sandshoes as indoor shoes and there is no need for children to purchase expensive trainers.

Uniform order forms can be collected from the school office.

Physical Education
All children will receive two hours of P.E a week. For Health and Safety reasons it is vital that pupils are properly attired for P.E. Whilst it is not school policy to insist in specialised clothing for P.E or sporting activities, it is important that the children wear shorts and gym shoes in the gym hall. Some children wear jogging trousers but these do not suit all activities therefore shorts are needed. Leggings are not suitable attire. Training shoes, which are worn outdoors, are not acceptable as these retain dirt on the soles.

Children are not allowed to do P.E in stocking soles or bare feet. The soft shoes left in school can be used here.

The wearing of jewellery, including pierced earrings, during P.E sessions is also not allowed for safety reasons. Earrings, which cannot be removed must be taped over to prevent any unfortunate accidents.

As the children are wearing uniform, it is important that all items have names on them.

If desired, the children can wear their shorts under their uniforms. This makes changing for P.E easier, particularly for younger children.

A note of your child’s P.E days will be communicated to Parents / Carers at the beginning of term through the homework diary. P.E is an important part of the curriculum and we want all children to take part unless there are physical or medical reasons which prevent them from participating. A reminder letter will be sent home for those pupils who continually forget P.E kit.

Thank you for your support.

Absence Reporting / Late Coming
In the interest of pupil safety, please remember to phone the school before 8.55am if your child is going to be absent. This must be followed up by a letter to the class teacher when he / she returns to school.

Please also encourage good time habits. The school day begins at 8.55am and it is important for all children to be in school for this time. Children who are continually late disturb the learning of others and they themselves find this kind of start unsettling to their own learning.

Pupil Safety
Please park carefully and considerately at all times around the school when picking up or dropping off children. Pupils are frequently faced with the dilemma of finding a “safer” crossing place or crossing between parked cars. Every parent has their own child’s safety as a priority but it is the responsibility of everyone in the school community to keep all our pupils as safe as possible.

We ask that Pupils from P2-P7 come into school by themselves in the morning. The playground is well supervised and the gate is monitored to prevent children leaving the playground once in. All P1 parents can bring their children into school but should stand back from the lines in order for other classes to line up properly.

Parent Council
The first meeting of our Parent Council will be communicated with you within the next fortnight. Joanne Watt is the Chairperson of the Council and she can be contacted to discuss any questions you may have. The email address can be obtained from the school office.

Nursery News
As our Nursery parents / carers are aware our Nursery will be moving to full day placements for all children. These new hours will begin on Monday 3rd September. Any questions about the Nursery in general or about the new hours should be directed at the Nursery team, Mrs McCulloch or Mrs Rafferty.

Mediation Training
As many of you will be aware the Mediation Programme for P6 children has been running in Auchinraith for the last six years. Our Primary 6 pupils are now preparing to take on the challenge of this job. Training will take place for P6 pupils on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st August. Team building activities will be built into this year’s programme. Watch out for them all in the playground wearing the famous yellow skipped caps.