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29th January, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Parent Council Meeting after school yesterday. There were quite a few agenda items discussed and I wanted to share with all parents and carers some of this information.

**The School App**

Each year, school budgets face increasing constraints, and all schools in West Lothian have been encouraged to discontinue paying for and using 'The School App' when their current subscription ends.    As Woodmuir's subscription for this app ends next week, we discussed this at the Parent Council meeting yesterday.  We currently pay £200 per year to have the school app at Woodmuir Primary School, and parents at the meeting yesterday felt that this £200 could be better spent on resources for the children.  Ending this subscription would mean that all correspondence will be sent out on Groupcall through email or messenger.  For example, the weekly newsletter will still be sent on a Sunday night, but it will be sent through Groupcall email.    Parents at the meeting yesterday were keen to end the 'School App' subscription next week.  If you have any objection to this or are concerned about this decision, please let me know as soon as possible, and we can look at suitable solutions.

**The School Car Park**

The school car park was also discussed at the meeting yesterday, and it was confirmed that the car park is a **‘Staff Car Park’** only.    Parents and carers should not be driving into the car park in the morning to drop their child off and should not be parking in the car park at home time to pick up their child.  The only exception to this rule is for the parents and carers of any child with a blue badge, as they are allowed to park in the disabled bays.  Parents and carers are more than welcome to come into the car park and collect their child if their child is being picked up for an appointment or if their child is attending an after-school club in the school, which is later than regular school finishing time.  Parents and carers are encouraged to park their cars across from the village park and use the **‘Safe Route’** to school, a designated path that brings children out at the school gate.  If you are unsure where the ‘**Safe Route’** to school is, please pop into the school office in the morning, and Mrs. Fordyce will show you.

**Travel Tracker**

Next week, we are re-launching ‘Travel Tracker’ at Woodmuir Primary School, which links to the car park topic above.  So, class teachers will begin tracking children’s daily journeys to school, and children will be rewarded for their ‘active journeys’ to school.  These journeys include walking to school, cycling to school, and scootering to school.  This also includes 'Park & Stride', which involves a child being given a lift part way to school, then walking the rest.  We would suggest, as stated above, parking across from the village park and walking the rest of the journey using the safe route to school.  Hop-off is also included, and this is the Bus equivalent of Park & Stride, when a pupil gets off the bus and walks the rest.

**Communication to the School in the Afternoon**

It was also brought to my attention that many parents are concerned that they cannot contact anyone in the school, particularly in the afternoons after Mrs. Fordyce leaves for the day.  Unfortunately, as a small school, we are only given a small number of administrative hours, which is why Mrs. Fordyce only works from 8.45 am to 1 pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30 am to 10.45 on a Friday.  All school staff try to listen out for the phone and door buzzer in the afternoon, but sometimes calls are missed and unanswered.  This morning, I contacted our IT Department to see if there was any way that they could divert calls in the afternoon from the office phone to a mobile phone or a staff member’s computer.  They are looking into this, and I will update you when they get back to me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Theresa McLaren

Head Teacher