

**Education Resources
Executive Director Carole McKenzie
Head Teacher Waheeda Huq
Strathaven Academy**

Our ref: PH/CD
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Miss P Hamilton
Phone: 01357 524040
Date: 07 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome

As we near the end of the third full week of the school term, I would like to take this opportunity to not only share key information but to set the expectations for all pupils in S1, as they embark on a particularly important year in their learning.

I have been delighted to welcome our pupils back after the summer break and I am impressed by how quickly they are settling into S1. As a school we encourage our learners to take pride in being part of Strathaven Academy and to ensure their conduct within the school and local community is both responsible and respectful. Our school vision 'Together We Thrive', along with our values of 'Responsible, Respectful and Resilient', give our pupils a sense of belonging to a community where each learner is valued for the contributions they make. We make every effort to support, challenge and nurture our young people to ensure they develop key skills which will lead to success both in school and beyond.

Attendance and Timekeeping

In order to achieve qualifications and success in school, we expect all pupils to attend regularly and arrive promptly.

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please contact the school office to inform them prior to the appointment. Pupils should be collected by the parent/carer and are reminded to sign-out before they leave. Where possible, we expect pupils to return to school after an appointment, to ensure valuable learning and teaching time is not lost. Pupils are reminded to sign-in on return to school.

School Dress

We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to attend school wearing full school uniform which includes white shirt/blouse, school tie, blazer, black trousers/black skirt/school tartan skirt and plain black footwear.

Bowling Green Road, Strathaven ML10 6DP Phone: 01357 524040 Fax: 01357 524041
Email: office@strathaven.s-lanark.sch.uk



Online Platforms

Google Classroom is the platform we use to share information and resources, many subjects have already established Google Classrooms and the codes to access these classrooms have been shared. All S1 pupils should also be a member of the year group information Google Classroom. We share important information and opportunities on this page throughout the year and therefore pupils should check regularly for updates. The code for this year group Google classroom is 3jtz6us.

If your child is having difficulty accessing Google Classroom, please ask them to speak to their Pupil Support teacher.

We are currently working on the launch of a homework tracking app for all parents/carers and pupils to use as an online homework tool. Further information will be shared over the coming weeks.

Parentsportal.scot is a new digital service to help replace the traditional 'school bag run' by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services. I would encourage all parents/carers to access this service to help us improve our communication with home.

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To access parentsportal.scot go to <https://parentsportal.scot/home/> If you have a mygovscot account, click the link to Sign In or if you don't have a mygovscot account, click the link to register. Once registered you will be prompted to link your child.

Team Building Day

All S1 pupils will be involved in team building activities on Friday, 29 September. This is a great opportunity for pupils to meet new people and learn new skills. Pupils will take part in the event at the times detailed below. They should come to school in PE kit on this day and bring resources for all classes they will be attending.

1DU/1KY/1LE	Periods 3 and 4
1AV/1AV2/1LO	Periods 5 and 6

Pantomime

All S1 pupils will be invited to the Pantomime "The Magical Adventure – Treasure Island" at the Pavillion Theatre on Tuesday, 19 of December. This is a fantastic way to celebrate the festive period together as a year group and has become a popular event on the school calendar. More information will follow.

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S6 Mentors

Our S6 pupils will become mentors to several of our S1 pupils over the coming weeks. The mentoring programme is designed to offer pupils support in their transition from Primary to Secondary school. If your child is not allocated a mentor and would like one, please contact their Pupil Support Teacher.

Key Dates

Please find below key dates in relation to reporting and events for S1.

Date	Event
Friday, 29 September 2023	S1 Teambuilding event
Friday, 13 October 2023	S1 tracking report issued
Tuesday, 30 October 2023	S1 Parent Consultation Evening
Tuesday, 19 December	S1 Pantomime
Wednesday, 20 December 2023	S1 tracking report issued
Friday, 10 May 2024	S1 tracking report issued

A full school calendar detailing school holidays is available on the school App.

Parental Engagement

Parents, carers and families are the most important influences in a child's life. Their support can play a vital role at all stages of their child's education.

We aim to help parents be involved with their children's education and learning, feel welcomed in our school and feel encouraged to express their views. In addition, we aim to encourage family members to learn together and learn how to support their children's learning.

This session we have a number of activities planned to help you feel more involved in our school including:

- Reading café
- Numeracy workshops
- Creative & Aesthetics showcase
- Christmas Concert
- Barista café
- STEM Family Challenge evening
- Mental Health Awareness workshop
- Sports Awards

In addition, you will have the opportunity to take part in activities to plan and support school improvement.

Further details will be shared in due course. If you are keen to play an active role in our school community, please consider joining the Parent Council or PTA.

Questionnaire

This session we are looking to examine the systems and processes that we use to ensure that young people feel both safe and included within our learning community. We would be grateful if you took the time to share your views on how well we accomplish this at Strathaven Academy. Scanning the QR code below will take you to a questionnaire that will allow you to give us feedback and, if you would like to do so, volunteer to become part of a range of focus groups. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask for Mr Brown or Mr Dunn.



Standards & Quality Report

Our Standards and Quality Report for session 2023-2024 has been published on our school website and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

School Community

My aim for this year is to continue to maintain the strong ethos that we have established over the last few years. I am confident that we can work together, staff, pupils and parents/carers to ensure that all pupils in S1 achieve their potential and have a successful year.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I would like to wish your child every success in the coming session.

Warmest regards,

P Hamilton

P HAMILTON

Principal Teacher Physical Education/0.2 Acting Depute Head Teacher