



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new session at Spittal Primary School. I hope you all had a good summer holiday and were able to enjoy some time in the great sunshine we had during most of July. It was lovely to welcome all our returning pupils and new pupils into school on Wednesday. They all looked great in their school uniforms and all were wearing smiles. As well as our wonderful new Primary 1 class, we also welcomed 6 new children and 4 new members of staff to our school.

### Primary 1

Our new Primary 1 class have settled into school life very well. Already they are beginning to learn the initial sounds and form new friendships. Their Primary 7 buddies have been spending playtimes with them and both classes really enjoy this. The children will finish school at 12.15pm every day next week and will start full days from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

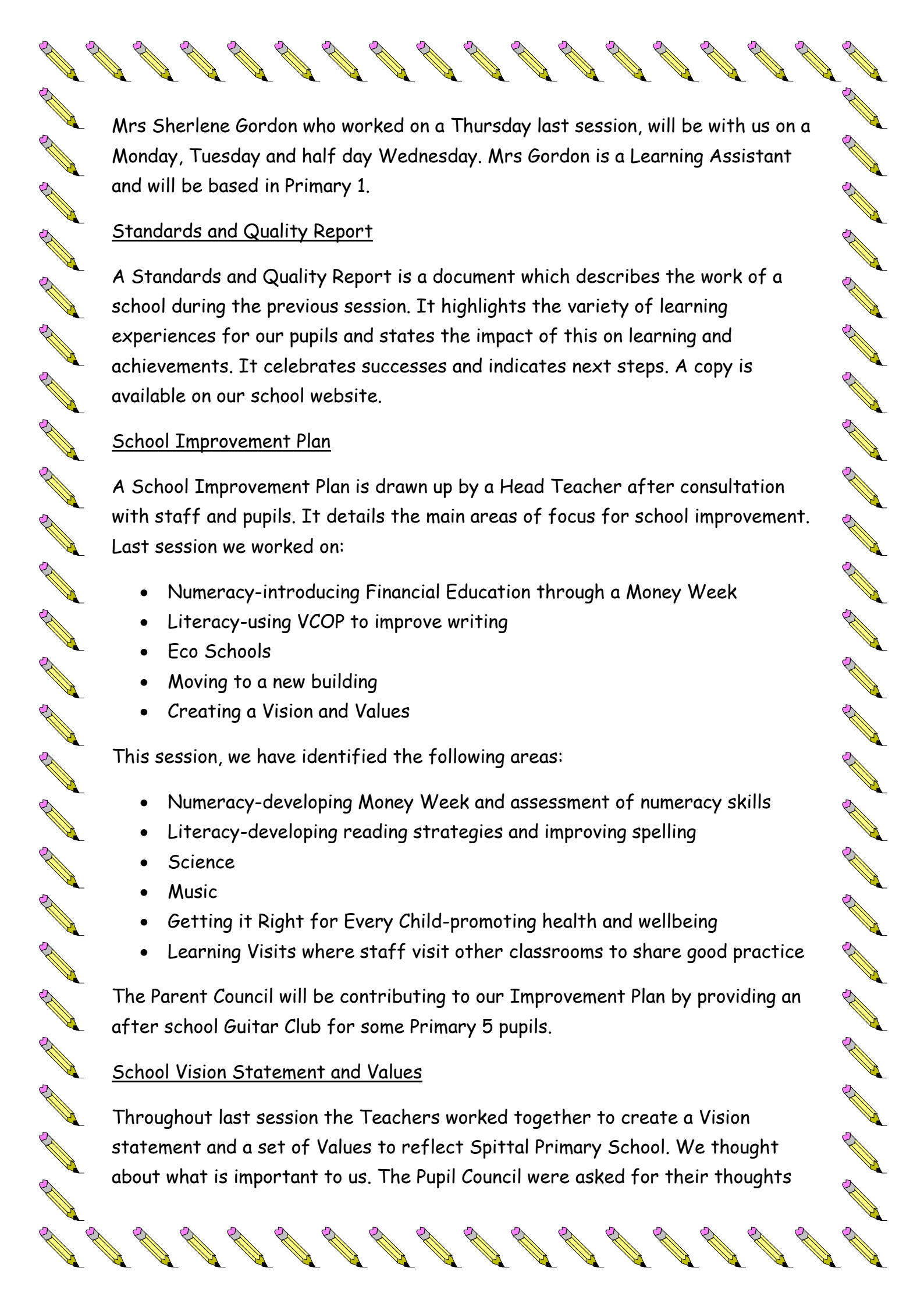
### New Staff

Our new staff members have been enjoying getting to know the staff and children during the past week. They are:

- |                       |                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Mrs Alison Meechan    | Acting Principal Teacher (until the end of Term 1) |
| Mr Neil Houston       | Primary 2 Teacher until the end of June            |
| Miss Holly Fillingham | Primary 4 Teacher until the end of June            |
| Miss Kaitlin Beatts   | Primary 5 Teacher until the end of June.           |

I am very pleased to tell you that Mrs Pauline Laccarini will also be at Spittal until the end of June.

Mrs Meechan will teach in P5 on a Monday. Mrs Laccarini will teach in P4 on a Thursday. Both will work together with P6 and 7 one afternoon per week during this first term.



Mrs Sherlene Gordon who worked on a Thursday last session, will be with us on a Monday, Tuesday and half day Wednesday. Mrs Gordon is a Learning Assistant and will be based in Primary 1.

### Standards and Quality Report

A Standards and Quality Report is a document which describes the work of a school during the previous session. It highlights the variety of learning experiences for our pupils and states the impact of this on learning and achievements. It celebrates successes and indicates next steps. A copy is available on our school website.

### School Improvement Plan

A School Improvement Plan is drawn up by a Head Teacher after consultation with staff and pupils. It details the main areas of focus for school improvement. Last session we worked on:

- Numeracy-introducing Financial Education through a Money Week
- Literacy-using VCOP to improve writing
- Eco Schools
- Moving to a new building
- Creating a Vision and Values

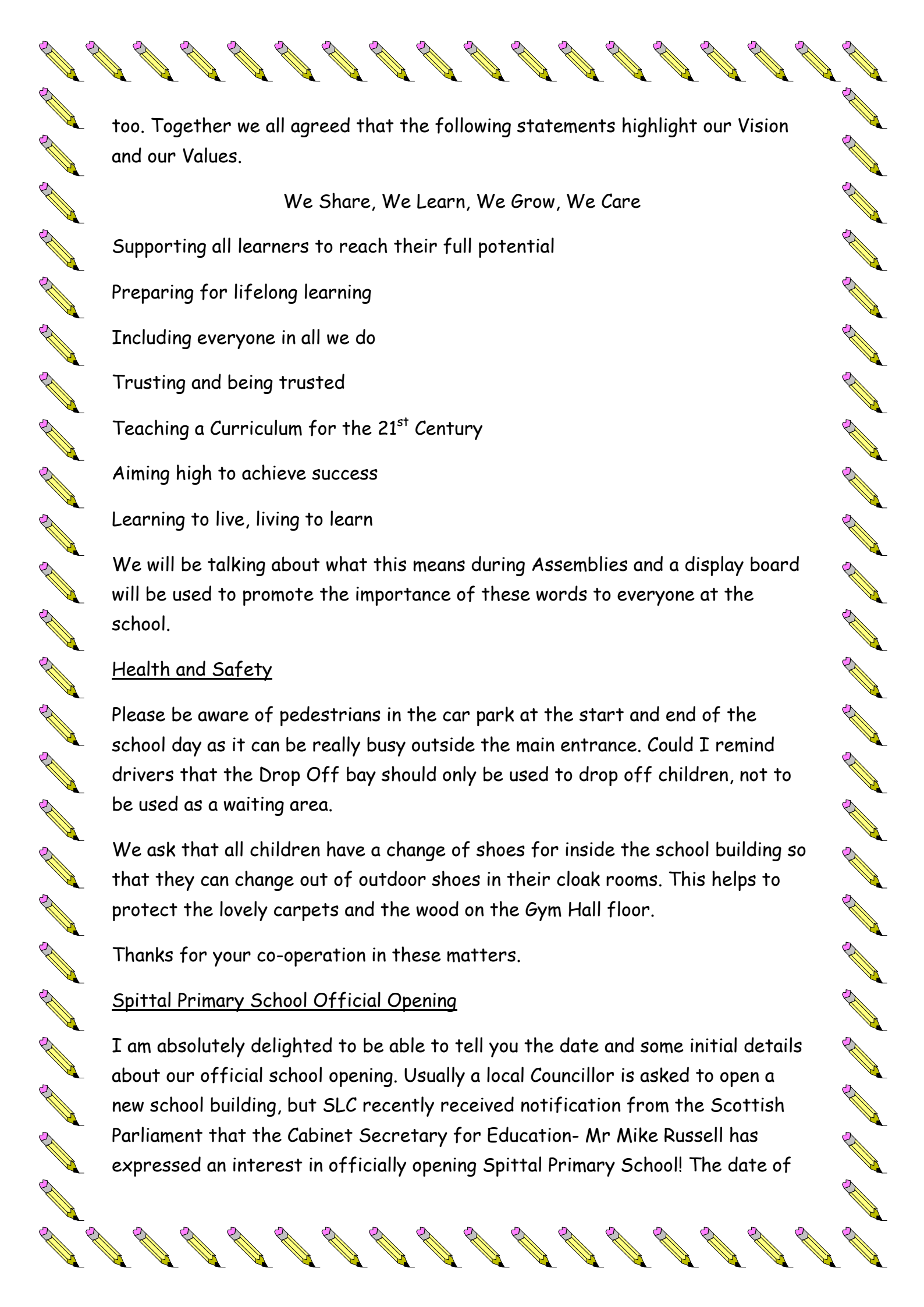
This session, we have identified the following areas:

- Numeracy-developing Money Week and assessment of numeracy skills
- Literacy-developing reading strategies and improving spelling
- Science
- Music
- Getting it Right for Every Child-promoting health and wellbeing
- Learning Visits where staff visit other classrooms to share good practice

The Parent Council will be contributing to our Improvement Plan by providing an after school Guitar Club for some Primary 5 pupils.

### School Vision Statement and Values

Throughout last session the Teachers worked together to create a Vision statement and a set of Values to reflect Spittal Primary School. We thought about what is important to us. The Pupil Council were asked for their thoughts



too. Together we all agreed that the following statements highlight our Vision and our Values.

*We Share, We Learn, We Grow, We Care*

Supporting all learners to reach their full potential

Preparing for lifelong learning

Including everyone in all we do

Trusting and being trusted

Teaching a Curriculum for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Aiming high to achieve success

Learning to live, living to learn

We will be talking about what this means during Assemblies and a display board will be used to promote the importance of these words to everyone at the school.

Health and Safety


Please be aware of pedestrians in the car park at the start and end of the school day as it can be really busy outside the main entrance. Could I remind drivers that the Drop Off bay should only be used to drop off children, not to be used as a waiting area.

We ask that all children have a change of shoes for inside the school building so that they can change out of outdoor shoes in their cloak rooms. This helps to protect the lovely carpets and the wood on the Gym Hall floor.

Thanks for your co-operation in these matters.

Spittal Primary School Official Opening

I am absolutely delighted to be able to tell you the date and some initial details about our official school opening. Usually a local Councillor is asked to open a new school building, but SLC recently received notification from the Scottish Parliament that the Cabinet Secretary for Education- Mr Mike Russell has expressed an interest in officially opening Spittal Primary School! The date of



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September has been set and both Mr Russell and Councillor Brian McKenna will officially declare our school open. We are all very excited about this news and despite the tight timescale we are really looking forward to it. Pupil reps from each class will share with the audience their thoughts and feelings about our beautiful school building. I will send out invitations for all Parents/Carers over the next few weeks. There will be a lot of guests invited by SLC, including former staff members, therefore we cannot include invitations to extended family members.

We would like our Parents/Carers to be involved in our celebrations and so Mrs Laccarini would like to offer some art workshops for Parents/Carers to create clay tiles which will reflect your feelings about our new school. Workshop sessions will run on the following dates:

- 1. Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August                      create the clay tile
- 2. Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August                      paint and glaze the clay tile

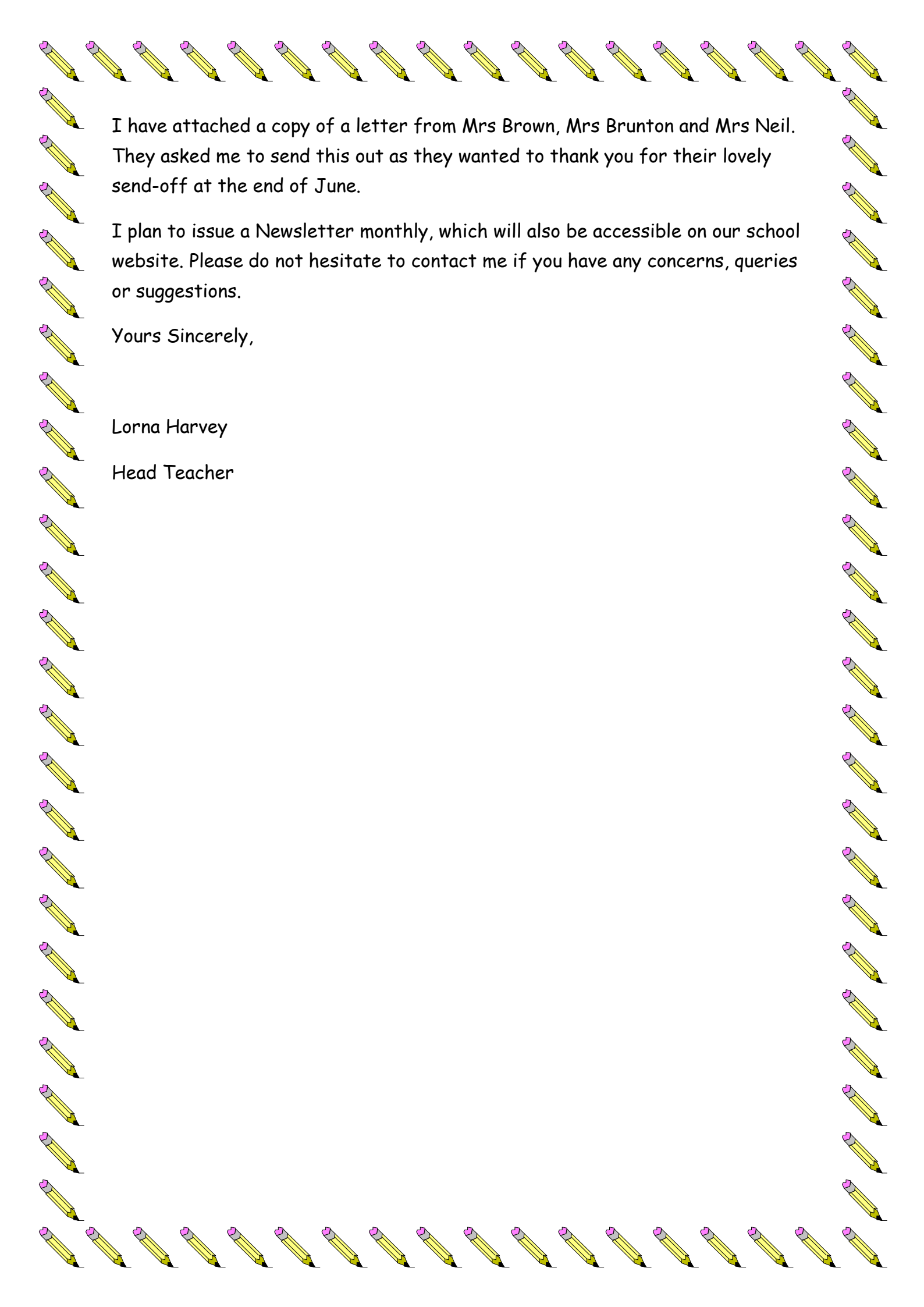
and

- 1. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August                      create the clay tile
- 2. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August                      paint and glaze the clay tile

We do hope many of you can come along and help to create another wonderful piece of art to display in our school. All sessions will run from 9.00-10.30. Please come in via the main entrance and sign in at the office if you would like to take part.

Diary Dates for Term 1

- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August                      P7 start swimming lessons
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August                      P1 in all day
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August                      P7 at Crucial Crew (Safety Event)
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September                      Official School Opening
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September                      School Holiday
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September                      School Holiday
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October                      Last day of Term 1



I have attached a copy of a letter from Mrs Brown, Mrs Brunton and Mrs Neil. They asked me to send this out as they wanted to thank you for their lovely send-off at the end of June.

I plan to issue a Newsletter monthly, which will also be accessible on our school website. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns, queries or suggestions.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorna Harvey

Head Teacher