



Monday 16.9.13

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all of you who were able to attend and support our Official Opening Ceremony on Monday 9th September. We were delighted that Mike Russell, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, from the Scottish Government wanted to attend. He was very impressed with our school building and all the great learning which takes place inside it. He really enjoyed the pupil presentation. I have received a number of emails from South Lanarkshire Council colleagues commending our pupils and staff for a great ceremony. SLC have posted a video clip on U Tube which you can access via the SLC website. We have added a link to this on our own school website.

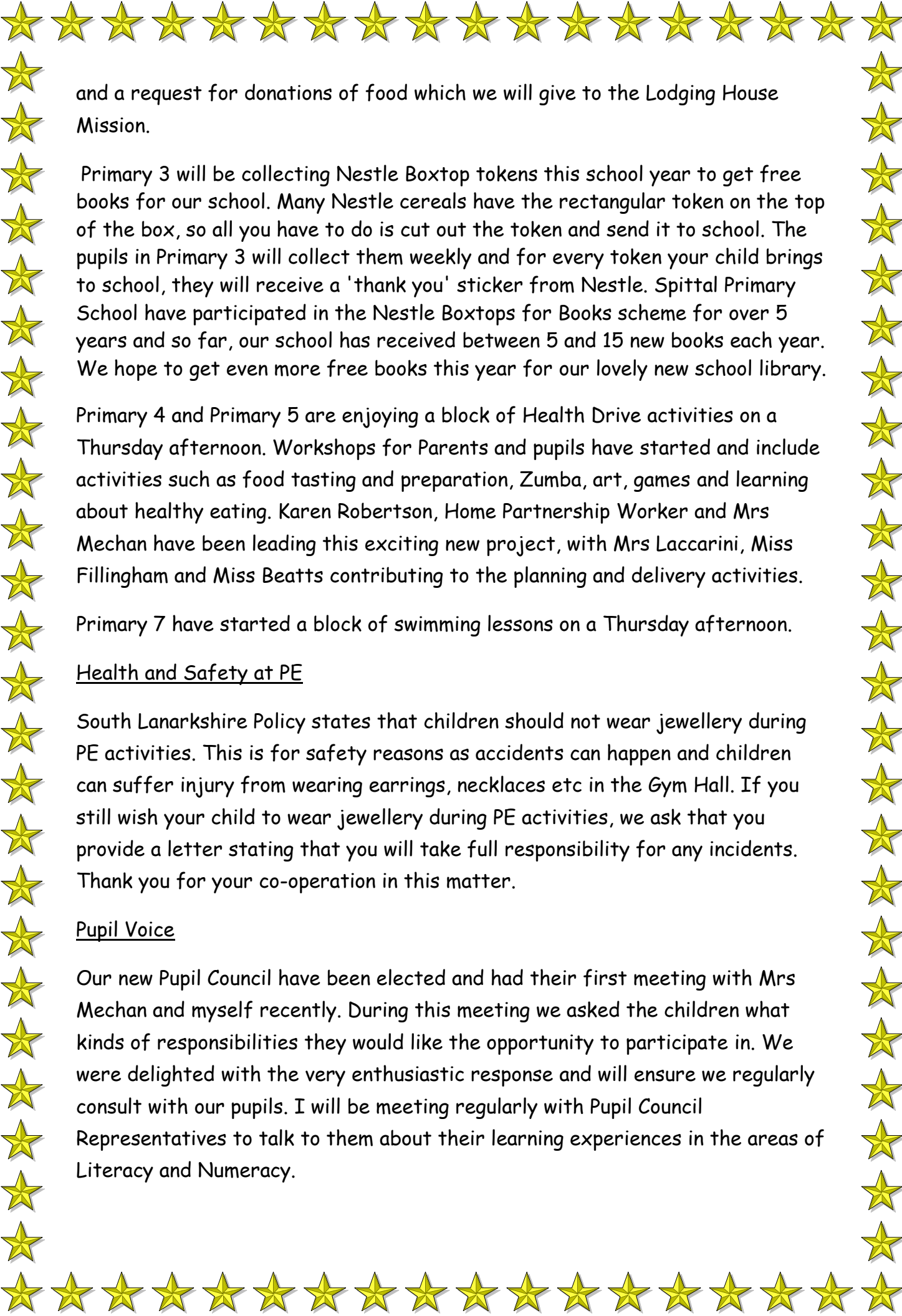
Learning across our school

Class Teachers have been preparing Class Newsletters to keep you informed of the wonderful learning experiences they have been planning with and for our pupils. Teachers regularly consult with pupils regarding their learning and ensure that the children have a say in how the Topic work develops.

Last week we welcomed two visitors from Education Scotland who were interested in speaking to some of our P5-P7 pupils about their views on Technologies in school. The pupils contributed confidently to this discussion and were commended for their enthusiasm.

Our School Assemblies are taking place on a Monday afternoon this term. We have been focussing on our school vision and values and involving the children in sharing ideas and deepening our understanding of what these mean to us. Pupils from across the school have been contributing to these Assemblies. Next term we will focus on the wellbeing factors (SHANARRI). This stands for Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Respected, Responsible and Included. Teachers have been introducing these terms in classes and highlighting their importance for everyone.

Primary 3 and Mrs Clark and Mr Miller are busy preparing for our Harvest Service which will take place at Blairbeth Church on Friday 11th October at 10am. We hope you will be able to join us. Shortly you will receive an invitation



and a request for donations of food which we will give to the Lodging House Mission.

Primary 3 will be collecting Nestle Boxtop tokens this school year to get free books for our school. Many Nestle cereals have the rectangular token on the top of the box, so all you have to do is cut out the token and send it to school. The pupils in Primary 3 will collect them weekly and for every token your child brings to school, they will receive a 'thank you' sticker from Nestle. Spittal Primary School have participated in the Nestle Boxtops for Books scheme for over 5 years and so far, our school has received between 5 and 15 new books each year. We hope to get even more free books this year for our lovely new school library.

Primary 4 and Primary 5 are enjoying a block of Health Drive activities on a Thursday afternoon. Workshops for Parents and pupils have started and include activities such as food tasting and preparation, Zumba, art, games and learning about healthy eating. Karen Robertson, Home Partnership Worker and Mrs Mechan have been leading this exciting new project, with Mrs Laccarini, Miss Fillingham and Miss Beatts contributing to the planning and delivery activities.

Primary 7 have started a block of swimming lessons on a Thursday afternoon.

Health and Safety at PE

South Lanarkshire Policy states that children should not wear jewellery during PE activities. This is for safety reasons as accidents can happen and children can suffer injury from wearing earrings, necklaces etc in the Gym Hall. If you still wish your child to wear jewellery during PE activities, we ask that you provide a letter stating that you will take full responsibility for any incidents. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Pupil Voice

Our new Pupil Council have been elected and had their first meeting with Mrs Mechan and myself recently. During this meeting we asked the children what kinds of responsibilities they would like the opportunity to participate in. We were delighted with the very enthusiastic response and will ensure we regularly consult with our pupils. I will be meeting regularly with Pupil Council Representatives to talk to them about their learning experiences in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy.



Our Pupil Council for 2013-2014 are

P1 Lee Borland and Emma Smyth-Connolly

P2 Lucy Grant and Ben Harkins

P3 Taylor Cambridge and Alexander McLellan

P4 Carly Ramsay and Ciaran Sharkey

P5 Daniel Young and Gavin McKenna

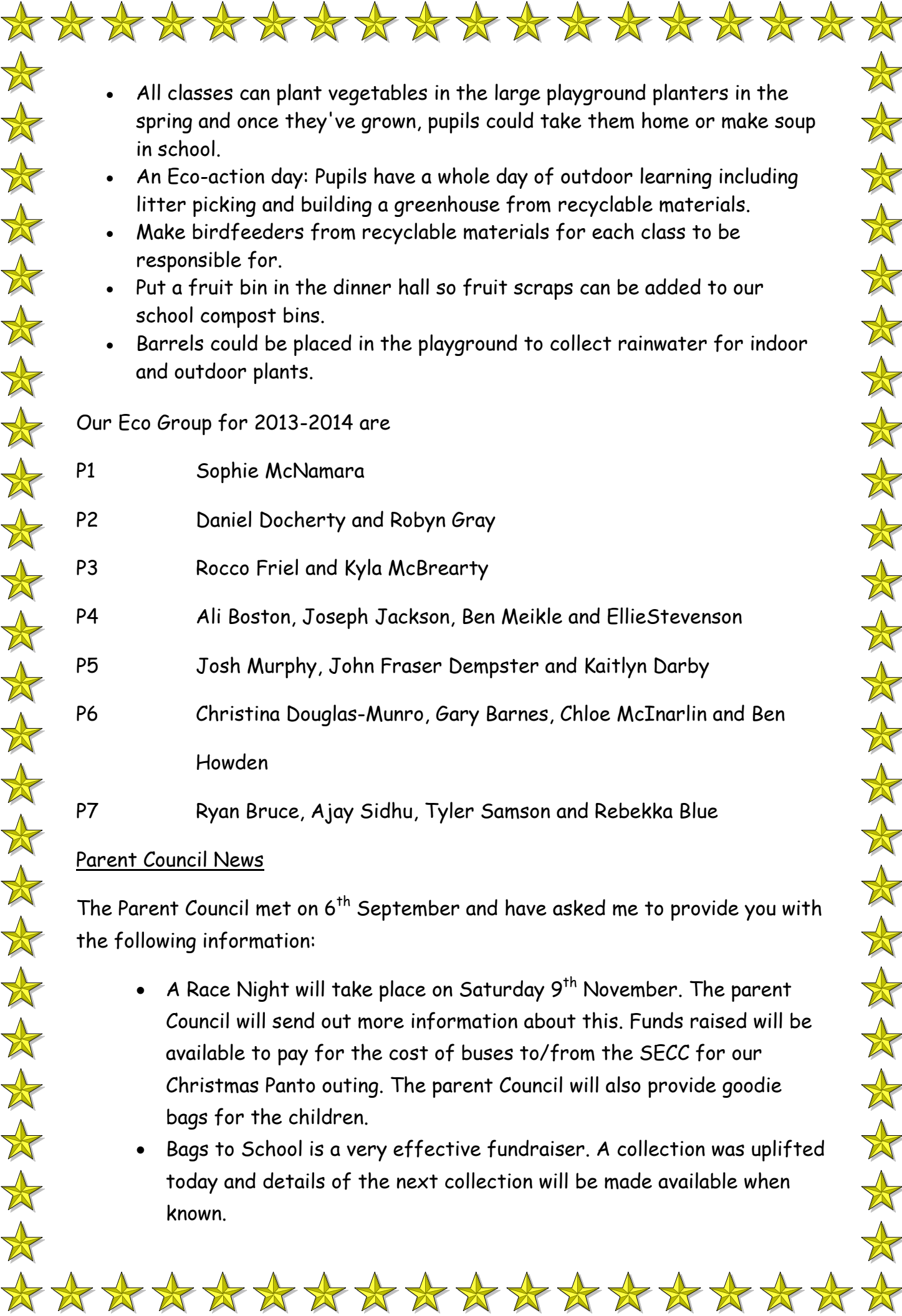
P6 Zoe Forsyth and Zaed Sharif

P7 Holly Rodger, Caitlyn Daly, Robert Barnes and Tyler Clelland

Mrs Mechan and Rebecca and Conner (last year's Junior Road Safety Officers) conducted interviews for this years JRSOs recently. The standard was very high with lots of P6 pupils expressing their interest via a letter. The result of the interviews was that our JRSOs for 2013-2014 are Abbie Hence and Louise Gallacher. Abby and Louise have already started working on their noticeboard and gathered information from all pupils about their journey to school last Friday. This was part of the national Annual School Travel Survey.

The Eco-Committee have been busy already this term. With 22 pupil members from Primary 1 to Primary 7, a parent member and staff members, the committee have had 2 meetings and a school grounds clean-up before our opening ceremony. We have applied for free saplings for our school grounds which should arrive in early November. The children have loads of great ideas and they're enthusiastic to apply for Green Flag status this session. Here are some of their ideas:

- Each class to have a Power Ranger and a Paper Ranger: A pupil who makes sure lights, computer monitors and the interactive whiteboard projectors are switched off. Also, a pupil who puts scrap paper into the recycling bag and ensures that 1 paper towel per pupil is used.
- At an assembly, the Eco-committee will talk about litter in the playground and ask teachers and classes to use 'smart pals' as often as possible to save paper.

- 
- All classes can plant vegetables in the large playground planters in the spring and once they've grown, pupils could take them home or make soup in school.
 - An Eco-action day: Pupils have a whole day of outdoor learning including litter picking and building a greenhouse from recyclable materials.
 - Make birdfeeders from recyclable materials for each class to be responsible for.
 - Put a fruit bin in the dinner hall so fruit scraps can be added to our school compost bins.
 - Barrels could be placed in the playground to collect rainwater for indoor and outdoor plants.

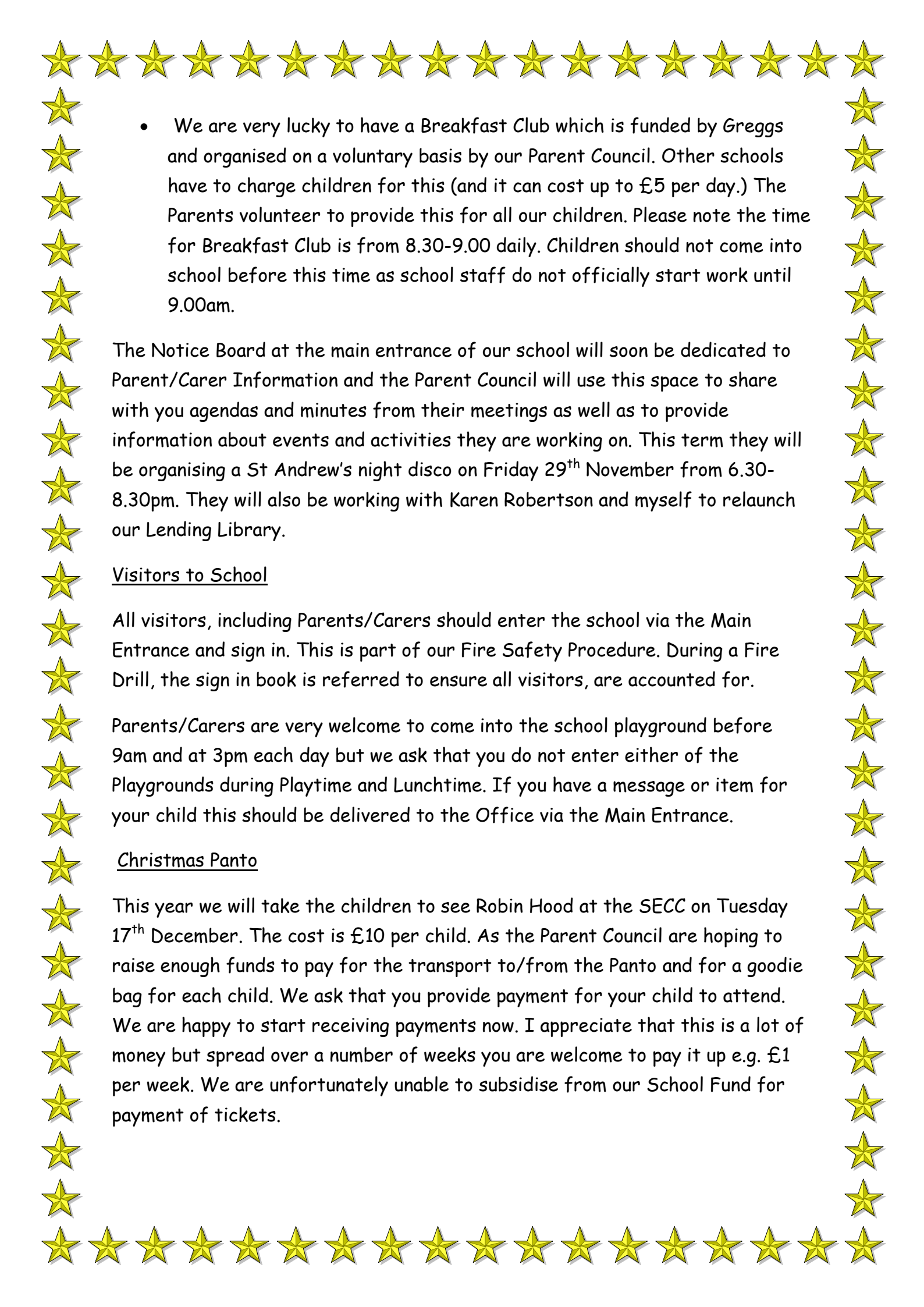
Our Eco Group for 2013-2014 are

- P1 Sophie McNamara
- P2 Daniel Docherty and Robyn Gray
- P3 Rocco Friel and Kyla McBrearty
- P4 Ali Boston, Joseph Jackson, Ben Meikle and Ellie Stevenson
- P5 Josh Murphy, John Fraser Dempster and Kaitlyn Darby
- P6 Christina Douglas-Munro, Gary Barnes, Chloe McInarlin and Ben Howden
- P7 Ryan Bruce, Ajay Sidhu, Tyler Samson and Rebekka Blue

Parent Council News

The Parent Council met on 6th September and have asked me to provide you with the following information:

- A Race Night will take place on Saturday 9th November. The parent Council will send out more information about this. Funds raised will be available to pay for the cost of buses to/from the SECC for our Christmas Panto outing. The parent Council will also provide goodie bags for the children.
- Bags to School is a very effective fundraiser. A collection was uplifted today and details of the next collection will be made available when known.

- 
- We are very lucky to have a Breakfast Club which is funded by Greggs and organised on a voluntary basis by our Parent Council. Other schools have to charge children for this (and it can cost up to £5 per day.) The Parents volunteer to provide this for all our children. Please note the time for Breakfast Club is from 8.30-9.00 daily. Children should not come into school before this time as school staff do not officially start work until 9.00am.

The Notice Board at the main entrance of our school will soon be dedicated to Parent/Carer Information and the Parent Council will use this space to share with you agendas and minutes from their meetings as well as to provide information about events and activities they are working on. This term they will be organising a St Andrew's night disco on Friday 29th November from 6.30-8.30pm. They will also be working with Karen Robertson and myself to relaunch our Lending Library.

Visitors to School

All visitors, including Parents/Carers should enter the school via the Main Entrance and sign in. This is part of our Fire Safety Procedure. During a Fire Drill, the sign in book is referred to ensure all visitors, are accounted for.

Parents/Carers are very welcome to come into the school playground before 9am and at 3pm each day but we ask that you do not enter either of the Playgrounds during Playtime and Lunchtime. If you have a message or item for your child this should be delivered to the Office via the Main Entrance.

Christmas Panto

This year we will take the children to see Robin Hood at the SECC on Tuesday 17th December. The cost is £10 per child. As the Parent Council are hoping to raise enough funds to pay for the transport to/from the Panto and for a goodie bag for each child. We ask that you provide payment for your child to attend. We are happy to start receiving payments now. I appreciate that this is a lot of money but spread over a number of weeks you are welcome to pay it up e.g. £1 per week. We are unfortunately unable to subsidise from our School Fund for payment of tickets.

Key Dates and Events for this Term and next

Term 1

- Thursday 19th September Speak (and dress up) as a Pirate Day in P2
- Friday 27th September School Holiday
- Monday 30th September School Holiday
- Friday 11th October Harvest Service-presented by P3 at Blairbeth Church at 10am

School finishes for the October Holiday at 3.00pm on Friday 11th October.

Term 2

- Monday 21st October School starts back
- Monday 28th October School photographer
- Thursday 31st October Hallowe'en Disco in school (9.30-10.30)
- Wednesday 6th November World Book Day
- Thursday 7th November Parent's Evening
- Tuesday 19th November P7 Volleyball Festival
- Monday 25th November In-Service Day. School closed to pupils
- Friday 29th November St Andrew Disco (6.30-8.30)
- Friday 13th December P6 and P7 Christmas Party
- Monday 16th December P4 and P5 Christmas Party
- Tuesday 17th December Panto at SECC
- Wednesday 18th December P1, P2 and P3 Christmas Party
- Thursday 19th December Christmas Service and Nativity (P1 and 2) held in the school Assembly Hall at 9.30 am.
- Friday 20th December End of term

There's always a lot happening at Spittal Primary School. We value your feedback on what's happening across the school so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments, suggestions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorna Harvey

Head Teacher