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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Maria Walker
Director of Education, Learning & Leisure

November Newsletter

Welcome back to the new term! We hope it will be a productive and exciting term.

Breakfast Club

We are very pleased to be able to offer a breakfast club for the first time. This is available from 8.20 to 8.50am and is open to all pupils. Attendees need to enter via the canteen door and price lists have been sent out already. We are working with Parent Council and Community Learning Development to look at how to develop this further. We hope to offer a more extensive service if this is successful.

Deveron Digital Expo

On 18th November we are hosting the biggest ICT event to have happened in Banff and Buchan. Working with partners in industry, Macduff Regeneration Partnership, NESCOL and Banff Academy we are producing an expo to showcase the ICT talent that is here in the North East. The idea is that there will be something for everyone and that whether you are a beginner or ICT manager there will be something to interest you. We hope to gather information about the ICT projects you are working on too and to look at what could be done to support this to become a business opportunity. This is an event for all ages not just children and refreshments will be available. 10am -3pm
Please come to enjoy yourself and support regeneration in Macduff.

Primary 7 Digital Project

Primary 7 have recently been working with Global treasure apps to create virtual walks around Macduff and Duff House in partnership with Banff Primary who have been creating walks around Banff. The purpose has been to create guided walks around the communities and promote tourism. Please take a look when it is complete.

Nursery expansion to 1140 hours

We have been selected as one of 9 sites to trial the expansion of nursery hours ahead of the government's implementation in 2020. We have a lot of development to do before we take any children on this basis and one of the first areas is to consult with parents which should happen in November – date TBC. This will be a meeting for all existing parents in Nursery and we welcome discussion and your ideas around this project. I will send out an invitation in the normal ways when a date has been found. The idea is we will start on a small scale and that we will be able to see the pitfalls and address them as we start to operate. This is an exciting project and we are very pleased to be a pilot site.

Adverse Weather

You should have a letter detailing what will happen should there be an occasion where we need to close the school for adverse weather- or indeed for any reason. We will send out emergency information using the dedicated phone line for Aberdeenshire Council Schools to enquire whether the school is open or closed on a specific day. **Tel. No. 0870 054 4999 PIN**

02 2150. Please also listen to the following radio stations for information in the event the school has to be closed at short notice:- MFR on FM 97.4

- o BBC Radio Scotland on FM 92.4 – 94.7
- o NECR on FM 97.1 – 106.4
- o ORIGINAL on FM 106.8

Please make sure your details are up to date on Groupcall for further messages.

Communication

We follow Aberdeenshire Councils policy in sending out all correspondence by email using the Groupcall system. Please can you make sure you have an up to date email address. A printed copy is available on request at the office. Please support us in saving paper and energy to reduce our impact on the environment.

If you need to speak to a teacher please either ring to make an appointment for after school or put a note in the home school diary. Please do not approach staff as they are taking their line in to school as they have their entire class to supervise and are not able to deal with questions effectively at this point. If your query is urgent please feel free to contact a member of the management team. We try our best to meet the needs of parents and children so please remember this when speaking to staff – we have a zero tolerance to verbal aggression and bad language.

End of the day

As I have asked in the last newsletters please can parents at the end of the day stand away from door when picking up children. Please stand on the playground and not next to school. We are struggling to get out of the building because of the number of parents standing close to the building and we are unable to keep track of which children go with which parent. We have already had an instance where a child could not see their parent and went home with the wrong person and we do not want any children getting lost. Please help us by standing on the playground.

School Snack

As a health promoting school we are constantly evaluating what we offer in our canteen and tuck shop however we have become aware on an increasing number of children bringing large quantities of sweets and chocolate, sometimes even whole cakes that they have bought on the way to school. We are aware that it is sometimes cheaper to buy in bulk but that does not mean it is the healthiest course.

Pupil Council are concerned about promoting healthy choices and would like to start a Fruity Friday where children aim to bring fruit as their snack and not sweets or crisps. Children who do will be awarded with points for their house.

Footwear and jackets

Please remember that children should wear sensible footwear to school especially as the weather changes and have a change of footwear for PE. We do not allow 'heellies' or similar in school. As the weather gets worse we would like children to be able to play out still and therefore we need them to have appropriate clothing including a jacket. We know that some children find it hard to wear jackets and we will encourage them to wear them. Please remember we have a lot of grass and it does get muddy.

Jewellery

Please do not send your child into school with jewellery as it is a hazard in the play environment. This is especially true with hooped earrings.

Bikeability Appeal

We need you – We are looking for volunteers to be trained to help deliver bikeability this year. If you can give up some of your time to deliver this important course we will arrange training with Active Schools and we will be able to get children trained in bike safety as soon as possible. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

Road Safety

Just a reminder that there are lots of cars at the end of the school day and to be very careful when crossing the road. We have had complaints from parents about children cutting corners when crossing and being forced to walk into the road to avoid the volume of pavement traffic at this point. Please be considerate when picking up children and remind your child about the importance of road safety.

Consultation on Early Learning and Childcare

Aberdeenshire are currently running a survey to find out from parents and carers, the types of Early Learning and Childcare that best meet children and parent's needs. With the prospect of the authority being asked to provide 1140 hours per year for eligible two year olds and all three and four year olds, the council are committed to finding provision that best suits the needs of children and their families. The survey runs until the 31st of December 2017.

I would be grateful if you could encourage parents and carers to complete the survey. It is a very brief survey and should take between 5 to 10 minutes at the very most.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AberdeenshireELC>

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 31st October – Christmas card artwork home. Orders can be made online.

Wednesday 1st November – Parent Evening 6-7.30pm **check homework diary for**

Thursday 2nd November – Parent afternoon 3.30-5pm **individual appointment**

Wednesday 8th November – School Christmas Fair

Sunday 12th November – deadline for Christmas card orders.

Monday 13th November – **In-service Day**

Tuesday 14th November – **In-service Day**

Saturday 18th November – Deveron Digital Expo 2017

Monday 20th November – Christmas card orders due to arrive in school.

Thursday 30th November – St Andrew's Day

13th -14th December – Primary 1-3 Nativity pm.

Friday 15th December - Nursery Nativity

Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper day

18th-21st December – Christmas Parties – School.

Friday 22nd December – Church Service and last day

Monday 25th December – Friday 5th January – Christmas Holidays – Any volunteers to help walk to the church would be appreciated.