

Fettercairn Primary Newsletter



December 2014

Issue No 25

Another busy time ahead!



As ever, this term seems a flurry of activity! We have had three days of In-service training for the teachers on 17th, 18th and 19th November, so the children will have had a nice long weekend. All the staff attended training on Attachment Theory and SEEMIS tracking and monitoring. We also worked on our planning and the school curriculum.

Mr I Clarke
Head Teacher

Parent Interviews

We have been busy speaking to parents over the last couple of weeks about the children's progress. If you have been unable to attend please contact the school to arrange an interview at a convenient time.

Poppy Appeal

This year the school and community collected £214.96 in support of our service men and women. We would like to thank all those who contributed to this wonderful cause.

Children in Need

I would like to congratulate the Pupil Council for organising a very successful day. All the children enjoyed the day and they collected a total of £39.75 Well done!

UNICEF Rights Respecting School

On Thursday 20th November the children celebrated 25 years of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child by working together on a number of different activities to promote Children's rights. Their work culminated in an assembly they presented to their parents. As part of this work the children have to promote their rights throughout their community so we hope to be displaying some of the work in different places in the village. Our Rights respecting Group will be organising this. I would like to thank Mrs Thornton and her group for organising a great day. Well Done.

Achievements!

Congratulations go to Eoin Middleton for winning the Under 12 Young Handler prize at the New Deer Show and Turriff Show with his yearling bull Archie of Barna. Eoin has previously won second and third place prizes but this is his first time taking the Top Prize. Well done Eoin!

Soup and Sweet

What a fantastic day! I would really like to thank the Parent Council, Pupils, Staff and Parents who made this, such a successful day. I was so amazed by the amount of money (£1836) that was raised that you should all be very proud of your contribution. Well done and thank you to the Parent Council for organising this.

Christmas Tree

This year's school Christmas tree was again kindly donated by the Fasque Estate. We would like to thank them again for this kind gesture.

Christmas Carol Concert

Our Christmas Concert is on Wednesday 17th December at 6.30pm in West Mearns Parish Church. The children have been busy making props, writing poems and learning songs. It would be of great help if you could ensure your child is at the **Church for 6.15pm**. The theme of the Carol concert is the 'Victorian' era, so we would be grateful if you were able to dress your child/ren as a 'Victorian Child' (waistcoat etc.) If you have any problems with this please let us know. After the show the teachers will bring the children back to their classrooms where we ask you to collect them from. The Parent Council will also be serving mulled wine and mince pies back in the school after the show. Everyone is extremely welcome to join us!

Absences

We would like to remind you all that if your child is not going to be in school for any reason it is essential that you ring the school (Tel No. 01561 340250) between 8.45am and 9.30am Monday - Thursday (as Mrs Johnstone, School Administrator is in to take messages) to let us know that they are safe. The answer machine is available on Fridays when it will be checked for absences. It is the policy of Aberdeenshire Council that if we don't hear from you then we do have to start calling you or your emergency contacts to confirm that the pupil is indeed safe.

Extra Curricular Activities

We have continued the football club for P4-7, and Morning multi-sports for P1-4 on a Tuesday morning. We have also started a film club on a Wednesday, the cross-country running club on a Tuesday lunchtime and an Art club after school on Mondays. Thank you to Mrs Gibbons-Wood and Mrs Armstrong.

Emergency Contacts

It is very important that you keep all your details up to date with the school, just in case we need to contact you about anything. Please if you have recently changed mobile etc. let us know so we can update our records. Also storm address forms for pupils outwith the village should be returned completed in preparation for winter!/

Nursery News

We have just finished our Autumn focus when we enjoyed going for an Autumn walk then using the natural objects we found to count, sort and make pictures with. Thanks to all parents who were able to come with us. We also had a pyjama party, investigated spiders, harvested our carrots, learned about Diwali and Rights Respecting Nursery. Ellie brought in her Tractor Ted Autumn DVD, and the children were so interested in learning about farms that we put out an appeal for a farmer to visit us. Eoin Middleton from P6 responded with a fabulous presentation where we learned all about Archie his Highland bull and were very impressed by his farming knowledge.

Rose's mum has been helping us to bake on a Tuesday, and we have made hummus, scones and cheese butterflies. We would like to have at least one more Nursery parent with PVG disclosure so that we are able to go out on walks, so please ask for a form if you are able. Catherine from the library welcomed us with a lovely Autumn story, and we look forward to our next library visit on 8th December. The library is open on Mondays directly after the Nursery session, and we would encourage you to take your child in to choose a book. Our focus is now 'Christmas' and we are working hard rehearsing our Nativity play, details will be given on a separate sheet. Please sign up to 'Come and Play' on the 4th of December, we are looking forward to seeing you!

Parking

Again I have had numerous conversations this Session regarding the parking so please could I ask that the bus lane is kept clear and that when parking we respect the needs of our neighbours. Also if possible please park in the square and walk to collect your child/children. Please note that it is an offence to obstruct marked safe areas outside the school (bus box and yellow zig-zag lines) at any time.

P1-3 Free School Lunches

From Monday 5 January 2015 all P1 to P3 pupils will be entitled to Free School Meals in all of Aberdeenshire's Primary Schools. Lunch tickets will no longer be required for these pupils and parents and carers of P1-P3 pupils are advised to ensure that any tickets they have purchased should be used before the end of this term as refunds cannot be made for any unused tickets. For parents or carers of pupils that have not previously taken lunch in school the current primary school menu cycle and information on primary school meals can be viewed on the school catering web pages at: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school_meals/primary.asp Lunch tickets will still require to be purchased for pupils in P4 to P7 unless pupils are entitled to Free School Meals.

Snow Procedure

In times of severe weather it is sometimes necessary for the school to remain closed. This decision is made as soon as it is evident that pupils and staff may be putting themselves at risk by travelling to school. The decision is not taken lightly by any Head Teacher and in the event that the weather does turn inclement I will be liaising with the transport companies, members of staff and Mearns Academy before making my decision. Occasionally parents feel that the conditions in their area do not justify us closing but we hope that you can appreciate that we have to make an overall judgement that covers many miles and that at the time the decision was made, it was the right decision for all concerned./



To hear whether or not the school is closed you can-
Call our School Information Line on
0870 054 4999 entering the code 021690 when prompted



or
listen to the radio stations
BBC Scotland, Northsound
Or

Go onto the internet on www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures

We understand and share your frustration on these days but are at the mercy of the weather I'm afraid. The staff are prepared for these, having identified work that is to be carried out at home, should the school be closed.

Fettercairn Parent Council News - December 2014

Soup n Sweet

We are delighted to say that we have had another successful Soup and Sweet Christmas Fayre raising a gross amount of £1836! Thank you so much to everyone for your help and kind donations, without which we could not have achieved such an amount. All money raised will go directly to help support our school which includes being able to fully fund this year's pantomime trip for all school and nursery pupils.

Thank you!

Bags2School

Thanks also to everyone who returned the Bags2school donations. We raised a total amount of £125. Again all moneys raised will go directly to support our school. The next Bags2school collection will be in May.

Christmas Concert refreshments

After the children's Christmas concert in the Adult Lounge, we will be serving refreshments of mulled wine, tea, coffee and juice with a selection of mince pies and shortbread. Any donation of mince pies/shortbread will be gratefully received.

Adults and children very welcome.

Halloween Party

We would like to thank Helene and Vicky for organising the Halloween Party with any money raised being split between the FPC and village hall. £40 has been kindly donated to the FPC as a result so THANK YOU ladies!

Parent Council meeting

The next FPC meeting will be held at 7 pm on **Wednesday 21st January** in the Adult Lounge
All welcome/

USEFUL INFORMATION

EasyFundraising

Earn cash for us when you shop online by logging on first to the EasyFundraising website (www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fettercairnpc) This is free and simple to use with over 2000 retailers including Amazon, Ebay, Argos, etc. It also offers exclusive retailer voucher codes so you can save money when you shop. /

This is a really easy FREE way to donate to our funds when you do your normal online shopping. Please tell your friends and families too as the more members we have the more money we make!!

Uniform swap shop

A uniform swap shop has been opened for school jumpers. If you have any old school jumpers which are in good condition you can either donate them to the swap shop or swap them for a larger size. If you need a new school jumper but don't have any to swap there is also a donation box.

BUZZIN BEES GROUP

A group for Bumps, Babies and Bairns is held in the Adult Lounge every **Wednesday morning from 10am - 11.30am**. Tea/Coffee is provided for the parents/carers and juice and snack are provided along with stories, singing and games. For more information please contact Jessica Pollock on 01561 340357 (jessiebabev@hotmail.co.uk).

If you would like a copy of the minutes FPC meetings to be sent to you by email please contact Sarah Adams with your email address. Alternatively you can log on to www.fettercairn.aberdeenshire.sch.uk and click on Parent Information. There is always a copy of the minutes on the Parent Council Notice board in the Adult Lounge If you are unable to attend the meetings or in the interim have any ideas, comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact the current office bearers:

Lisa Gibbons-Wood (Chairperson)		l.gibbons-wood@rgu.ac.uk
Sarah Adams (Secretary)		Sarahadams777@live.co.uk
Morag Williamson (Treasurer)		Diablowidow@hotmail.com

Dates for your Diaries

- Tuesday 9th December** *Pantomime in Arbroath*
- Wednesday 10th December** *Learning Journeys out back in for Monday 15th December*
- Friday 12th December** *Christmas Jumper Day – Whole school to wear their Xmas jumper to school or something Christmas related.*
- Tuesday 16th December** *Christmas Lunch for whole school*
- Wednesday 17th December** *Christmas Carol Concert 6.30pm in Church hall.*
- Thursday 18th December** *Christmas Enterprise day and P1-7 Party. Parents invited in from 11.15am to spend the rest of the day with us.*
- Friday 19th December** *Nursery Party and School Closes for Christmas at 3.15pm*
- Monday 5th January 2015** *School Re-opens./*

Future Correspondence

If you would prefer to receive the school Newsletter or any school correspondence by email and you do not already please tear of the slip below and send it back to school, where we will begin to send any relevant information to you via email. We can not send any information to you via email without your written permission.

FETTERCAIRN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DISTILLERY ROAD, FETTERCAIRN, ABERDEENSHIRE,
AB30 1YB, Tel 01561 340250 & Fax 01561 340541
e-mail fettercairn.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Head Teacher: Mr I Clarke

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Future Correspondence

I would prefer to receive school information via email and I give you permission to send school correspondence to my email address _____

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____