

Fettercairn Primary Newsletter



February 2015

Issue No. 26

The start of term has been very busy but thoroughly enjoyable. The school has been a hive of activity these past few weeks and the next few weeks sees no let up. It is a real credit to the staff and you, the parents who support us that we are able to achieve so much and provide the children with such a variety of opportunities and experiences.

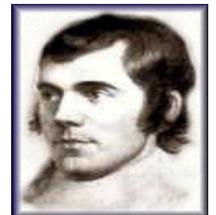
Ian Clarke
Head Teacher

Charity

'UNICEF day for change' – The children dressed up as a person from around the world and they had a Disaster Afternoon on Wednesday 11th February in support of UNICEF.

Robert Burns Awards

Our annual Robert Burns Awards took place on Friday 30th January. All the children learnt a Scottish Poem and took part in a Ceilidh to celebrate Burns' Birthday. Mrs Robson and Mrs McIntosh had the difficult task of choosing winners from each year group and an overall winner who were:



Primary 1	Rhys Mackie
Primary 2	Emma Watson
Primary 3	Lily Greengrass
Primary 4	Connor Donald
Primary 5	Aidan Ferrier
Primary 6	Eoin Middleton
Primary 7	Megan Donaldson

Overall Winner Eoin Middleton

Well done to all of the children for learning their poems. On the day we had a Ceilidh, which was organised by Mr Smith and Mrs Thornton. Everyone who attended had a great time. I would like to thank the teachers for their time in organising the event and to all the parents who supported it. The winners also performed at Fettercairn Burns Society Club Annual Supper on Saturday 7th February. This is a very brave and hard thing to do and all the children were great ambassadors for our school. Well done! I would like to thank the parents and the pupils who attended the event and Mrs Hay for the time she gave up to be there./

Parking

Again it has been brought to my attention about the way some parents/carers park outside the school. Please take extra care when picking up and dropping off your children and allow for pedestrians to use the pavement. Please could I ask that the bus lane is kept clear and that when parking we respect the needs of our neighbours. 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. It would be of great help if parents could park in the square and walk up to the school to pick up the children. Due to ongoing issues about parking the police have been informed.

INSET Days in February

On Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th February the staff completed training on the new Risk Assessment System (Evolve), we continued to look at our planning documents, our curriculum rationale and what we want our curriculum to look like. We have asked the children for their input on this and there will be a Curriculum afternoon to ask you for your input. The staff also had a refresh about the maths scheme Active Heinemann.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have continued the Football Club for P4-7, Morning Multi-sports for P1-5, Film Club and child led Dance Club. All clubs are enjoyed tremendously by the pupils. During Curricular time the P1-5s will be working on the Badminton Sports hall Challenge with a Cluster event towards the end of the term. The Cross-country Running Club will be starting again after the mid term break with a Cluster competition scheduled for the end of March at Luthermuir Woods. After the mid-term break the new Science Club will begin and I would like to thank Mrs Gibbons-Wood and Mrs Armstrong for organising this and Mearns Academy for providing us with some equipment. Also our Parent Tuesday Coffee Club started this term. Thanks to those parents who came and did some well needed tidying in the school.

Donations

Over the last month we have had a few donations to the school, which have caught us all by surprise. Just before Christmas we were given a donation of £500 from a lady called Diane McLeay. Her father came to Fettercairn School many years ago and he spoke fondly of the school. She contacted me to talk about his 'school day book', which we now have and this will be hung up in the school. She asked if we would like a donation and of course I accepted but the staff and children were overjoyed when the donation came in. We were also given £35 from the Farmers Club and £100 from Sandy Milne. The children have spent this money on playground equipment, and sports equipment such as tennis racquets and nets.

School Uniform and PE

School uniform is an important part of our school as it helps with the school ethos and gives the children a sense of belonging. It is also important when we are out with the children that they are easily recognisable in crowded places. However recently we have seen a number of children not being in school uniform. It would help us a lot if the children could come to school in uniform./

Also the staff and I have noticed a number of children not bringing an appropriate change of clothing to take part in PE lessons. It is very important that the children either bring with them a change of clothing for PE or they can leave their PE clothes in a bag on their peg. Please can you check with your child that they have their PE kits and that they have a change of footwear. PE is an important part of the curriculum and is always on Mondays for both classes and Thursday for P1-3 and Wednesday for P4-7.

We would also like the children to have an old shirt of some kind for art, to help protect their school clothes, which could also be left in the school.

Finally it is also really important that all clothes are marked with your child's name. It is amazing how many jumpers we can no longer find owners for.

Scottish Gallery

During our Burns Celebration there was an opportunity to view some of the children's artwork displayed in the hall. All the school children drew or created a piece of artwork about Scotland. We gave you the opportunity to buy these wonderful masterpieces and a number of parents asked to purchase their child's artwork. If you would still like buy your child's framed artwork please fill in the form at the end of this Newsletter and send back to school with £3 in a named envelope. Thank you.

Fair Trade Café

I would like to thank the parents who so far have donated items for our Toy sale/nearly new fair trade café on Tuesday 3rd March. However we are still needing lots more items. So please if you have any toys, nearly new clothing, books that you would like to donate then do not hesitate to send them in. I will find some place to store them! Remember all the money we raise will be donated to Cancer Research.

Nursery News

We rounded off our African Animals focus with a drumming session, and a visit from Animates who brought in some Giant African Land Snails and Millipedes, a snake and tortoise as well as some examples of animal skins and ivory (which had been confiscated by HMRC). However it was the baby albino hedgehog which won everyone's hearts! We have just celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making and eating pancakes, and will be learning about Chinese New Year by singing, watching a video clip, eating a Chinese snack and making lanterns. Our next focus 'FairyTales and Nursery Rhymes' has been inspired by the children's love of 'Frozen'. Please feel free to contribute ideas and resources for this topic! Our next visit to Fettercairn Library for a storytelling session is Monday 23rd February, and we will be starting our own Nursery Lending Library soon. Books will go home on a Wednesday to be returned by the following Wednesday.

The Orthoptist will visit nursery on Thursday March 19th to carry out eye tests for the preschool aged children. These tests are fun and are geared to the age and ability of the children, so we would encourage you to make sure your pre-school child attends that day.

Admission application forms are now available either online or at the school office for year 2015-16. Returners should also complete a form, to be submitted by 6th March, 2015.

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parentscarers/earlylearningandchildcare

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 8.45a.m and 9.30a.m Monday - Thursday (as Mrs Johnstone, School Administrator is in to take messages) to let us know that they are safe. On Fridays please leave message on answer machine which will be picked up. 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. Please keep your child off school if they are not well enough to attend, no matter how much they want to come. School is not a good place for children when they aren't well. **Remember too that if your child has sickness / upset tummy then 48hrs must be left between the last bout and them returning to school.** This is to prevent other children/staff from getting it. If you know that your child is going to be absent due to an appointment please could you let us know in writing beforehand where possible.

Fettercairn Parent Council Newsletter – FEBRUARY 2015

Thank you to all those who supported the Xmas Card/Tree where one Xmas card was given to everyone and displayed in the school in return for a small donation. Around £30 was raised and with the money going to the village Xmas lights fund.

Fair Trade Café

The School is organising a Fair Trade Café on 3rd March which incorporates the annual book swap supporting World Book Day. All donations of toys, books and nearly new items will be gratefully received with all money raised going to Cancer Research.

The Parent Council have been asked to help with serving of refreshments etc so please if you can help on the day let us know.

Stirling Castle Trip

On Thursday 19th February all the school will be going on a trip to Stirling Castle. This event is partially funded by Historic Scotland and to ensure the amount of parental contribution is limited to £5 per child, the remainder will be funded by the FPC. This would not have been possible without our successful fundraising events so thank you all for your continued support!

Parent Council Meeting

Unfortunately the date of the next parent council meeting is to be postponed. The next meeting has been rearranged for 25th March at 7 pm in the Parent Lounge. Please don't miss this opportunity to directly support your child's education, influencing decisions about school matters and fundraising for equipment and trips. Joining the Parent Council is also a great way to get to know other parents and the teachers at the school. 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. 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

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 Cluster Head Teachers 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 is made, it has to be 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. /

Dates for your Diaries

- **TERM 3**

Tuesday 3rd March – Fair trade Cafe

End of March – Laurencekirk Cluster Cross Country Race at Luthermuir Woods

Thursday 2nd April – wear something yellow day in support of Marie Curie.

Thursday 2nd April – School closes for Easter at 3.15pm

Monday 21st April – School re-opens 9am/

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e-mail fettercairn.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Mr I Clarke

Children’s Artwork 2015

I would like to purchase my child (name)’s
Artwork and I enclose £3. Cheques to made payable to ‘Fettercairn Primary School’.

Signed.....(Parent/Carer)

Print

Date