

Fettercairn Primary Newsletter



March 2016

Issue No. 30

This term has been very busy but thoroughly enjoyable. The school has been a hive of activity these past few weeks. 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.

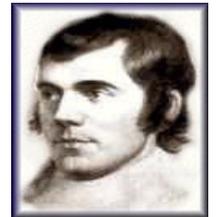
Ian Clarke
Head Teacher

Charity

'UNICEF day for change' – we began our day for change on February 10th and we will be having another one on Friday 13th May. In the meantime we are collecting any loose change. You can bring this in and put it in our money box just at the front door. All money raised on these two days and the loose change will be donated to UNICEF.

Robert Burns Awards

Our annual Robert Burns Awards took place on Tuesday 2nd February. All the children learnt a Scottish poem and took part in a Ceilidh to celebrate Burns' birthday. Mrs Johnstone and Mr Smith had the difficult task of choosing winners from each year group and an overall winner who were:



Primary 1	Sophia Leon
Primary 2	Abigail Williamson
Primary 3	Jodi Dalgetty
Primary 4	Daniel Williamson
Primary 5	Rowan King
Primary 6	Logan Davie
Primary 7	Josie king

Overall Winner Josie King

Well done to all the children for learning their poems. During the evening we had a Ceilidh, which was organised by Mr Smith. 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 6th 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. I would also like to thank Fettercairn Burns Society Club for the kind donation of £100./

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. It would be of great help if parents could park in the square and walk up to the school to pick up the children.

INSET Days in February

On Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th February the staff completed training on technology in the classroom, outdoor learning and inclusive education. We continued to look at our planning documents, our curriculum rationale and what we want our curriculum to look like. We also continued to look at our reporting systems and guidelines.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We have continued the Football Club for P4-7, Morning Multi-sports for P1-5, Film Club and Child led Dance and Drama 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 has started again with a Cluster Competition scheduled for the end of March at Denlethen Woods.

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 as 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 greatly 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 Thursdays for P1-3 and Wednesdays for P4-7.

We would also like the children to have an old shirt 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.

Entering School

Morning times can be a very busy place in a school and especially at 9am when we are trying to get the children into class from the playground and ready to start the day. If for any reason parents need to enter the school please could you wait until the children have entered the building. Also it is important for a child's own resilience, confidence and taking responsibility that any messages or letters should be brought in by your child. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter./

Toy Sale/Talent Show/Kodaly Assembly/School Disco

On Wednesday 23rd March we held a toy fair in aid of 'Archie in Africa'. I would like to thank all those who contributed by donating toys and home bakes and all the children who bought toys. On the day we made approximately £160.

After the toy fair we had our annual talent show and provided the school and visiting parents with a great morning's entertainment. The standard was very high with Anissa Gavin winning the P1-3 trophy, Lilly Greengrass awarded the P4-7 trophy and the Group trophy was awarded to Melina Pavlantis and Emma Watson. Thank you to all the participants and all their hard work. I would also like to thank Mr Smith, Mrs Fleming, Jake Sinclair and Josie King for judging the competition. Finally I would like to thank Eoin Middleton, Bryan Dalgetty and Kevin Smith for doing the music and comparing the competition.

Finally in the afternoon the children showcased the work that they have been doing in Kodaly. Everyone had great fun joining in the games and listening to the music. Many thanks to Mrs Edgar for all her hard work and making Kodaly so enjoyable for the children.

On Thursday 24th March we had a family disco organised by the Parent council. This was well attended and made £103. All the children had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. A special thanks to Mrs Dickson for all her organisational efforts during this event.

Nursery News

The children suggested a focus on 'Building' and have been working hard in our building site and sales office! This has been greatly enhanced by some visitors, so thanks to Floyd's grandpa for telling the children about drilling, Martha's dad who brought in all his joinery equipment and Joe the architect who showed us how he uses a computer drawing package to design buildings. We also hope to have a guided tour of the notable buildings of Fettercairn with P5-7.

Save the date -Trip to Science Centre, Aberdeen on Friday 13th May

Nursery Leavers' Celebration and Strawberry Tea on Thursday 30th June

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. **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 do not use Class Dojo for this purpose.***

*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.** Also take care when visiting the school with siblings who are unwell, please do not let them mix with the other children. This is to prevent other children from getting ill.*

If you know that your child is going to be absent due to an appointment please could you let us know in writing beforehand as soon as you are aware of the appointment, this gives teaching staff prior warning of absences.

PLEASE BE AWARE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS THEREFORE AN ANSWER MACHINE IS IN PLACE/

Fettercairn Parent Council Newsletter – MARCH 2016

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.

Bags to school

Thank you all again for supporting Bags to School which raised £180. We will hold our second Bags to School in May and will remind you closer to the day.

Treasurer

We would like to thank Morag Davidson for all of her support and contribution as Treasurer of the Parent Council and wish her all the best at Marykirk.

Parent Council

Please remember that the Parent Council only continues because of parents and carers getting involved therefore we would welcome anyone who wishes to join us at any point in the term.

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.

BUZZZIN 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

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**
Friday 1st April – School closes for Easter Hols at 3.15pm
Monday 18th April – School re-opens 9am

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e-mail fettercairn.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Head Teacher: Mr I Clarke

If you would prefer to receive the school Newsletter or any school correspondence by email 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 cannot send any information to you via email without your written permission. If already receiving by email you do not need to complete again.

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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 _____