



Clerkhill School Newsletter

Thursday 9th February 2017

Our School Motto - "Inspire - Believe - Work Hard - Achieve"

Dear Parent/Carer,

I can hardly believe that Mid-Term is upon us already. The children have been working very hard so far this term and are looking forward to a few days off next week!

Dates for your Diary			
Term 3		Term 4	
Friday 10 th & Monday 13 th February	School Closed for Mid-Term break	Monday 17 th April	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR EASTER MONDAY
Tuesday 14 th & Wednesday 15 th February	School closed for In Service Training	TUESDAY 18 th April	School re-opens at 9am
Monday 20 th March	P7 Leavers Party meeting - 3:10pm in Room 18 (Mrs Mackey's room)	Friday 21 st April	Reports out to Parents
Thursday 23 rd February	PSA Meeting (6pm) Parent Council Meeting (7pm)	Monday 1 st May	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY DAY
Wednesday 1 st March	Tempest photographer for P1, P7 and Nursery Photos	Tuesday 2 nd May	Parents Evening 3:30 - 5:00 & 6:00 - 8:30
Tuesday 7 th March	P5M & P5R trip to Culloden	Thursday 4 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS
Tuesday 7 th - Friday 10 th March	Alec Caravan		
Wednesday 8 th March @ 7pm	Fashion Show in School Hall for J Rock	Friday 5 th May	Science day at Clerkhill
		Monday 8 th May - Thursday 11 th May	P7 Trip to Edinburgh
Tuesday 14 th March @ 7pm	P3S & P3C Trip to Satrosphere Curriculum Evening for Parents in School hall	Saturday 20 th May	Spring Fayre
Friday 17 th March (1:45 - 2:45)	Open Afternoon	Friday 2 nd June (1:45 - 2:45)	Open Afternoon
		Monday 5 th June	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR LOCAL HOLIDAY
Monday 20 th March	Bingo Tea	Wednesday 7 th June	Sports Day 9:30am - P4-7 Sports 1:30pm - P1-3 Sports
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day	Monday 12 th June - Friday 16 th June	Health Week
		Thursday 15 th June	Shorts and Shades Discos
Friday 31 st March	School finishes at 3pm for Easter Holidays	Friday 16 th June (evening)	P7 Leavers party at the Waterside Inn
		Wednesday 21 st - Friday 23 rd June	P7 Academy Transition days



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		Wednesday 21 st June	Parent Information Evening at Peterhead Academy (TBC)
		Wednesday 28 th June	Scottish Opera to visit school
		Thursday 29 th June @ 9:30am	P7 leavers assembly (P7 parents invited)
		Friday 30 th June	School finishes at 3pm for Summer Holidays

ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

Hopefully our winter weather will be coming to an end shortly, however we still need to think about procedures for possible School Closures during adverse weather. In the event of adverse weather, information regarding school closure / partial closure / changes to school transport arrangements can be found on the website below or by dialling the Aberdeenshire Information Line (number noted below). **Please note:** You will need to enter the Clerkhill Pin Number to hear information recorded on the Aberdeenshire Information Line.

Aberdeenshire Council Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0870 054 4999

Clerkhill Pin number: 02 14 70

CONTACT DETAILS

It is vitally important that we have the most up to date contact details for all parents, held in school. Should you move house or change phone number, please inform the office **immediately** so your details can be changed on our systems. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

PSA (FUNDRAISING GROUP)

Our next Fundraising Group (PSA) meeting will be held at Clerkhill School (in the staffroom) on Thursday 23rd March at 6:00pm. The Parent Council will then take place at 7:00pm. Our fundraising group work extremely hard to raise invaluable funds for our school. The next PSA event to be held at school will be the Bingo Tea. This will take place in the school hall on Monday 20th March.

CLERKHILL'S GOT TALENT

On Monday 6th February we had a fabulous Talent Show in our school hall. This was a fantastic evening of entertainment which included, Highland Dancers, singing, gymnastics, keyboard playing, jokes and magic tricks as well as two items from our very own Clerkhill Choir. It was great to see so many pupils have the confidence to perform in front of a large audience. Thanks are also extended to Simply Events for the use of their staging. Thanks to everyone for their contribution to this evening.



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MID TERM AND IN SERVICE EDUCATION TRAINING

School will be closed on Friday 10th February and Monday 13th February for the Mid-Term break. School will also be closed on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th February for staff In-Service Training.

On Tuesday 14th, some staff will attend training on Reflective Reading whilst others will be involved in training on the use of Digital Technologies in the classroom and on Dyslexia Friendly Approaches. The remaining teachers, PSAs and Early Years Practitioners will attend training about a classroom technique called "The Learning Pit" alongside myself and Mrs Willox.



On Wednesday 15th, teachers will be attending training on Moderation at Port Erroll School with other teachers from across the Peterhead Cluster. Mrs Willox and myself will be working with PSA staff on this day where we shall be looking in depth at Maths strategies.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS (CHOIR / SPORTS ACTIVITIES / J ROCK)

It is vitally important that we account for all children's whereabouts if they are supposed to be attending one of our Extra Curricular clubs (Choir or Sports activities). In this regard I would request that, should your child be a member of choir/after school sports activity, and will not be attending on any occasion, that you inform school via telephone or letter so that the activity leaders are fully aware of any children who will not be attending. This will ensure that all pupils are accounted for and effective registration procedures can take place.



ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRES

As part of our Quality Assurance Procedures we would like to know how you feel about the work of the school. In this regard a set of questionnaires have been issued along with your newsletter. I would be obliged if you would give a wee bit of your time to complete a Parent Questionnaire (one parent questionnaire per family). I would also request that you help each of your children complete the Pupil Questionnaires individually. These should be returned to school by Friday 17th February. The results of these questionnaires will be collated and contribute towards forming some of our Improvement Priorities for next session. I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

PARKING

I would like to extend my thanks to the majority of Clerkhill parents who park considerately in the streets around school at drop off and pick up times - your consideration is much appreciated. Unfortunately a small number of parents are still parking in the school car park at drop off and pick up times. Again I would request that parents refrain from doing this as it compromises safety for



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children who may be walking through the car park at those times and also makes parking for school staff who start work at 9am very tricky.

I would also request that, when parking on the streets that surround Clerkhill, you park safely and considerately.

PUPIL COUNCIL NEWS

Our pupil council have recently been very busy supporting pupils around school log how they come to school on a Wednesday. This is an Aberdeenshire initiative (run by Living Streets) which encourages pupils and their parents to become more active and walk to school or indeed park and stride at least once a week. All pupils in school will log how they come to school each Wednesday initially and if they walk/scoot/bike/park and stride to school each Wednesday in a month they will receive a PIN badge for their efforts. Not only will this encourage our pupils to engage in a healthy life style it will indeed help to alleviate some of the parking issues which cause problems at drop off and pick up times



"SCURRIES"

We have been encountering some issues recently with seagulls hovering over our playgrounds especially at playtimes when pupils have food outside. In an effort to minimise the presence of the seagulls, starting on Thursday 16th February, all pupils who have a playpiece with them to school will be asked to eat their snack in their cloakroom before heading out to play. Pupils who are eating snack indoors will be supervised by Pupil Support Assistants. Once their snack is finished they will head out to play. In order to ensure that pupils have time to both eat their snack and still have some time to play outside, I would request that the snack you provide your child with is easily eaten and not too large!



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING PROVISION

At Clerkhill School we are very ably supported by two Additional Support for Learning teachers. These teachers support many learners across school in Numeracy and Literacy both within classes and through small group work. The nature of their support can vary throughout a school year with some children receiving support for short periods of time and others for more extended periods of time. Mrs Janie Owen (our full time Additional Support for Learning teacher) will be available for parents to chat with during our school Open Afternoon on Friday 17th March and again on Parents Evening on Tuesday 2nd May.



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SHOE CHANGING / INDOOR SHOES / PE KITS

As of Thursday 16th February also, our P1 & P2 pupils will not change into indoor shoes once in school. The rest of the school currently do not change shoes. I would, however, request that all pupils keep an indoor pair of trainers or gym shoes in school to change into for PE or indeed if there is a particularly wet day and they need to change wet footwear. It is also vitally important that pupils have a full PE kit in school at all times to enable them to participate in a vitally important part of their learning.

CLASS OUTINGS

Several of our classes have trips planned this term.

As part of their "Jacobites" topic, P5M & P5R will be visiting Culloden and Fort George on Tuesday 7th March.

As part of their "Space" topic, P3C & P3S will be visiting Satrosphere to participate in some fun, hands on scientific investigations on Tuesday 14th March.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Should you require your child to self-administer medication in school or, indeed, should you require school staff to administer medication, parents **MUST** hand all medicines into the school office and complete the appropriate paperwork. Pupils are not permitted to carry any medication in school and likewise, school staff cannot administer medication without the required paperwork being completed.

SCOTS POETRY WINNERS

On Monday 30th January, Mrs Janet Adie and Mr Andrew Strachan came into school to listen to our poetry finalists.

Listed below are details of our successful Scots Poetry winners from each class. Well done to all children who made the effort to learn a Scots poem this year!

P1F - 1st -Amber Smith	2nd -Caden Watt	3rd-Miley Duthie
P1R - 1st -Kaela Wilson	2nd-Oliver Jaskolka	3rd-Liam Lawrie
P1B - 1st - Jake Forman	2nd- Eoin Buchan	3rd -Faust Naujokas
P1/2P -1st - Alyssa Taylor	2nd- Cian Grant	3rd - Adam Morrison
P2B - 1st equal -Robbie Brown Maggie West		3rd - Natasha Stephen
P2/3S - 1st - Riley Craig	2nd- Ella Buchan	3rd - Lewis Chalmers
P3S - 1st- Ellie Gatt	2nd - Luke Willox	3rd-Eden Stephen
P3C - 1st -Maisy McWilliam	2nd -Sienna Hutchinson	
P4/3C -1st -Josie Buckettt	2nd-Nicole Forman	3rd- Finn Duthie





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P4C - 1st-Jessica Needs	2nd -Paula Zvirbule	3rd-Katie Craighead
P5R - 1st- Demi Dalziel	2nd-Sophie Douglas	3rd - Ellis Moyes
P5M - 1st- Amber Drummond	2nd- Lexie Summers	3rd - Lewis Geddes
P6R - 1st- Olivia Buchan	2nd -Ebonnie Buchan	3rd- Joel Duncan
P6E - 1st - Alfie Mossop	2nd- Megan Davidson	3rd- Eillish Lewis
P7M - 1st - Leah Stephen	2nd - Jamie Buchan	3rd - Dylan Skelton
P7P - 1st-Penny Summers	2nd-Abbie McLean	3rd- Ema Balcikonyte

I wish you a pleasant Mid Term break and look forward to seeing you on Thursday 16th February when school re-opens at 9:00am.

Regards,
Ann-Louise Murray
Head Teacher
February 2017