



# Clerkhill School Newsletter

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Our School Motto - "Inspire - Believe - Work hard - Achieve"**

**Our School Values - Respect - Inclusion - Honesty - Hard Work - Care - Nurture**

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	School resumes at 9:00am		Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Concerts P5 Christmas party (1:30pm)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	School Christmas Fayre (12 - 4)		Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery Party (am) P6 Christmas party (1:30pm)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evenings (3:30 - 5:00 & 6:00 - 8:30)  Scholastic Book Fair in school		Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	P7 Christmas party (1:30pm)  School closes at 3pm for Christmas break
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff In-Service Training (SCHOOL CLOSED)		Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School resumes at 9:00am
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Programme		Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	6:00pm - PSA Meeting 7:00pm - Parent Council Meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need Day		Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Variety Show in Peterhead Community centre in aid of J Rock
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm)		Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Scots Night at Clerkhill School (7:00pm)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Christmas Party (1:30pm)		Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February & Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed for mid term
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P2 Christmas Party (1:30pm) Choir Christmas Concert (7:00pm) - TBC		Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff In-Service Training (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 & P4 Christmas Parties (1:30pm)		Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Tempest Class Photos (Nursery, P1 & P7)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Travelling Pantomime in school (pm)		Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Bingo Tea (7:00pm)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> , Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concerts (9:30am & 1:30pm)		Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Junior Rock Challenge Event at AECC
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	P7s Panto Trip		Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Term 3 ends

*Dear Parent / Carer,*

*I can hardly believe that we are at the end of Term 1 - what a busy term it's been! All our P1 pupils have settled easily into their new classes and are thoroughly enjoying their school experience. Indeed, most children across school have been working extremely hard and I have been very impressed by the work being completed and conversations taking place during my visits to classes.*



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### Bingo Tea

Our annual Bingo Tea took place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. It was a fun filled evening with approximately £1200 being raised for the school. Thanks are extended to those who contributed in any way towards our Bingo Tea.

### Staff News

Mrs Kimberley Buchan officially begins her maternity leave on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. We wish Mrs Buchan and her husband our sincere best wishes as they look forward to a new and exciting chapter in their lives.

Mrs Jennifer Sutherland joined our Early Years Team at the start of October as our Lunchtime Early Years' Practitioner. We are delighted to welcome Jennifer to the team here at Clerkhill.

### ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

As we approach the winter months, we 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](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures)

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0870 054 4999

Clerkhill Pin number: 02 14 70

### Wet Weather Information

Should the weather be inclement in the morning, playground doors will be opened at 8.45am to allow children to shelter from the rain. However, on such days, parents should try to take children to school as close to 9:00am as possible.



It is at the Head Teacher's discretion that the doors are opened prior to 9:00am on days when the weather is bad. Acceptable standards of behaviour are expected at these times.

If the weather is inclement at lunchtimes, children who are returning from home dinners should return to school **no more than five minutes before the bell.** On their return to school, pupils should enter via the main door as individual playground doors will not be open. Again, an acceptable standard of behaviour is expected at these times.



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### Indoor Shoes

Children are allowed to change into their indoor/gym shoes at any point during the day. We often encourage children who come wearing boots or wellies to change into their indoor/gym shoes if these are more comfortable for them to wear in school.

### Head / Depute Head Boys and Girls / House Captains / Head Prefects

It was very encouraging to see so many boys and girls from P7 put themselves forward for the roles noted above. All of the children involved were interviewed by myself and Mrs Willox and presented themselves in a very positive manner; making the final decisions very difficult. After a lot of deliberation, due to the high standard of presentations given by all of the P7 pupils involved, I am pleased to announce that our successful Head / Depute Head boys and girls / House / Vice Captains and Head / Depute Head Prefects this year are:

**Head Boy** - Aaron Stephen (P7P)

**Head Girl** - Zoe Birnie (P7P)

**Depute Head Boy** - Ewan Pirie (P7P)

**Depute Head Girl** - Ebonnie Buchan (P7P)

### **Eden**

House Captain - Joseph Mackay (P7P)

Vice-Captains - Daniel Ramsay (P7M) & Stephen Jones (P7P)

### **Richmond**

House Captain - Olivia Buchan (P7P)

Vice-Captains - Joshua Hawkins (P7P) & Megan Davidson (P7M)

### **Grange**

House Captain - Joel Duncan (P7P)

Vice-Captains - Taylor Youngson (P7P) & Ashlyn Robertson (P7M)

### **Links**

House Captain - Charley Grant (P7M)

Vice-Captains - Alfie Mossop (P7P) & Arianna Helm (P7P)

Our Head / Depute boys and girls have been busy getting our end of term assembly organised and House Captains and Vice Captains have been busy counting up the House points gained throughout the term.

**Head Prefects** - Teagan Summers (P7P) & Julia Buda (P7P)

**Depute Head Prefects** - Logan Strachan (P7P) & Caitlin Clark (P7P)

### Parking & Car Park Safety

May I again take this opportunity to remind you that the School Car Park is for the use of School Staff, After School





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Transport and Visitors to School only. Parents are not permitted to park in the Car Park when dropping off or collecting their children from school/nursery unless a prior arrangement has been made with the Head Teacher.

Your cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated.

I must also ask that parents **DO NOT** walk through the staff car park when making their way to or from the play areas with their child. Please escort your child to their playground by walking through the play areas to the front of the school and **NOT** via the car park. This will ensure the safety of all our pupils here at Clerkhill. Your support and cooperation in this matter is **essential** and also appreciated.

### **Bikes and Scooters in the Playground**

On numerous occasions recently I have seen pupils riding their bikes and scooters whilst in the school grounds. School policy is that pupils should not ride their bikes or scooters after they have entered the school grounds but should, instead, walk through the school grounds with their bike or scooter. This will mean that all our smaller children walking through the playgrounds will be kept safe and not be knocked over by someone riding their bike or scooter. Should you accompany your child to school I would ask for your co-operation in this matter by reminding your child to disembark their bike or scooter once inside the school grounds.

I have also been made aware that some pupils who are riding their bike to school are not wearing a helmet. Please ensure that, should your child be taking their bike to school, they are also wearing a helmet.

### **Class News**

Several of our classes have embarked on trips to places of interest in our local area this term.



In relation to their topic "The Titanic", P5/6M paid a visit to our local harbour and even got to spend some time on board a fishing boat. Thanks are extended to Phil and Andrew Buchan of the "Favonius" for facilitating this for our pupils.

#keepinglearninglocal #communitylearning



Our P5S class also visited the harbour and boarded the "Quantus". All the children had a great time, learning what life is like as a fisherman!



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Our P2/3S class had a fantastic trip to the Lighthouse Museum in Fraserburgh in relation their class topic "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch". The boys and girls in p2/3 had a fantastic trip away.



Finally, some of our p6 pupils spent four days on a residential trip at the Compass Christian Centre near Glenshee where they undertook a variety of outdoor pursuits. Again, the children had a wonderful, if exhausting time away!



#### Sportshall Badminton

Last week 10 our P4 pupils participated in a Badminton Tournament alongside some other Peterhead Schools. Our team did very well and came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Well done to Elizabete Klaus, Eden Stephen, Charlotte Flowerdew, Demi Ritchie, Cayla Lesbirel, Blair Summers, Ivans Novozilovs, Aaron Bowie, David West & Callum McNeill

#### PARENT COUNCIL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our next Parent Council Meeting takes place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 6:30pm. A warm invitation is extended to parents in this regard. At this meeting I shall be giving an update on recent school developments and our improvement priorities for the remainder of the session.

Our next Fundraising event will be our Christmas Fayre which takes place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 12-4 at the school. This year we have lots of exciting things planned, including a visit from some reindeer!

Our next Fundraising Meeting will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 6:00pm. Without the support of our PSA group, our pupils at Clerkhill would not benefit from the many extras they do. Over the past few years we have used much of the money raised through our PSA events to buy technology for our school. Over the next few sessions we shall be concentrating our efforts of fundraising to improve our play areas at school.

#### Parents as Partners in Learning (Parental Engagement)



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This year, it is our aim as a school to involve our parents where possible in our school improvements and our pupils' learning.

#### **Homework Survey**

Thanks to all parents who took part in our Homework Survey. Mrs Willox is currently collating responses as well as surveying our pupils and staff in regard to homework. Results of our surveys will be shared in due course. A Homework Working Group will be starting in term 3 and we are still looking for parents who would be interested in working alongside school staff (for approximately one hour per fortnight) to create an amended Homework Policy for Clerkhill School. If you are interested in joining our Homework Group, please call school on 01779 472473

#### **Approaches to Reporting**

This session, how we report to parents is also changing and, as a school, we have established a Reporting Working Group. This group are in the process of developing a reporting / parental engagement calendar and will shortly be devising a new reporting format. Again we are looking for any parents who would be interested in working alongside school staff (for approximately one hour per fortnight) to develop our approaches to reporting here at Clerkhill School. If you are interested in joining our Reporting Group, please call school on 01779 472473.

#### **In-Service Training**

Our staff are going to be very busy on our two In-Service Days in November. Our teaching staff will be spending Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November with their colleagues from across the Cluster learning about Visible Learning and its implementation in the classroom. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, our Early Years' Practitioners along with P1 & P2 staff will embark on an Outdoor Learning course whilst P3-7 teachers participate in a course relating to the effective teaching of reading strategies called "Reflective Reading". Our PSA staff will be refreshing their First Aid Training.

I wish you all a relaxing October break and look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Ann-Louise Murray  
Head Teacher  
October 2017