



Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023



Our School Motto: "Reach Up"

Our School Values: Respect-Effort-Aim High-Care & Nurture
Honesty-Understanding-Perseverance

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17 th April 2023	Term 4 starts at 9:00pm		Monday 5 th June 2023	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PETERHEAD CLUSTER OCCASIONAL DAY
Saturday 22 nd April 2023 (TBC)	Rotary Regional Finals in Inverurie		Thursday 8 th June 2023	Open Afternoon (2:00pm - 2:45pm & 3:15pm - 4:00pm) & issuing of reports
Monday 24 th April 2023	P7 Dalguise Trip leaves		Wednesday 21 st June 2023	P1 - Shorts and Shades Disco (3:45pm - 4:45pm)
Thursday 27 th April 2023	P7 Dalguise Trip returns		Thursday 22 nd June 2023	Shorts and Shades Discos P2 & P3 - 3:45pm - 5:00pm P4 & P5 - 6:00pm - 7:15pm P6 & P7 - 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Thursday 27 th April 2023	Parent Council and Fundraising Meeting (6:00pm)		Monday 19 th - Friday 23 rd June 2023	Walk to School Week (1)
Monday 1 st May 2023	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY DAY		Monday 26 th June - Friday 30 th June 2023	Health Week / Walk to School Week (2)
Monday 8 th May 2023	SCHOOL CLOSED (KINGS' CORONATION)		Monday 26 th June 2023	P7 Show (7:00pm)
Wednesday 10 th May 2023	Bike Breakfast (1)		Wednesday 28 th , Thursday 29 th and Friday 30 th June 2023	P7 Transition Days
Friday 12 th May 2023	Nursery, P1 & P7 Class Photos only		Friday 30 th June 2023	Moving up morning for P1-6 pupils
Tuesday 16 th May 2023	Sports Day P4-7 - 9:30am P1-3 - 11:15am		Friday 7 th July 2023	P7 Leavers' Assembly (9:30am) and piped procession (2:30pm)
Wednesday 17 th May 2023	Bike Breakfast (2)		Friday 7 th July 2023	Session 2022 - 2023 finishes at 3:00pm
Tuesday 23 rd May 2023	Alternative Sports Day (only if required)			



Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023

Comic Relief

Friday 17th March was a fabulous day of fun and games at our school as we participated in a variety of fundraising activities for Comic Relief. Thanks to your generosity a grand total of £656.05 was raised on the day.

Class Topics

Over the past term, our whole school have been focussing on "Our Wider World, Internet Safety and My World of Work". Classes have enjoyed learning about a variety of jobs in our community and about the many skills needed for different careers.

Next term our whole school focus will be "Our Creative World".

As part of our whole school Health Focus next term all classes will be looking at the Sexual Health and Relationships section of our Health Progression. Mrs Macintosh will send further information on the content of this input for all classes in the new term. I would encourage all parents to take time to look at the materials once they are shared next term and to get in touch with the school should they have any further questions they wish to ask.

Good News

Lego League

On Thursday 16th February a group of our P7s travelled to Fraserburgh with Mrs Stephens and Miss Moir to take part in this year's Lego League competition. The pupils worked very hard on their coding skills during their after school club each week and won the Innovation Project Award. They had to come up with a way to improve the distribution of energy. They designed a new style of electric car where fully charged batteries were swapped for empty ones. These would then be charged for another customer. Well done Lego Leaguers!





Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023

Science Club

Despite the very snowy weather, Mrs Pressley and a group of parents accompanied our P7 Science Club to their regional competition in Aberdeen on Thursday 9th March. Like their Lego League peers, our budding scientists worked hard to prepare for their competition during their after school club each week, under the skillful direction of Mrs Pressley. Both teams had to present to a group of judges what they had been learning each week at Science Club. Once again our Science Club were very successful in this competition, winning the Climate Smarter Award for designing and building a model of a sustainable, eco friendly school. The Carbon Capture and Storage Award was where the team had to conduct several experiments and research into Carbon Dioxide and its effects on the environment. Once again, Mrs Pressley and her scientists won the coveted title of "Regional Science Club of the Year" for the fifth time. In addition to this success, the Science Club over the years have also won Science Club of the Year at national level on two occasions. Well done Science Club and Mrs Pressley!



of

Sadly, Mrs Dianne Pressley is to be retiring at the end of Term 4 to enjoy more time with her lovely family. Dianne has been a tremendous asset to the Clerkhill Team and will be a huge miss when she leaves us on Friday 7th July. More information regarding Mrs Pressley's time at Clerkhill and indeed her time as an employee of Aberdeenshire Council will be shared in my final newsletter of the session.

Rotary Quiz

On Monday 20th March, two P7 Teams, Clerkhill 1 and Clerkhill 2 entered the local Rotary Quiz at the Palace Hotel. This is the first time since March 2020 this competition has taken place. I am delighted to say that Clerkhill 2 were the winners of this local competition and will go on to compete in the Regional Finals in Inverurie on Saturday 22nd April (TBC).

The standard of the local competition was extremely high and Clerkhill 1 also did extremely well, placing 5th out of 12 teams. The behaviour and conduct of both teams was exemplary and both their parents and school staff were very proud of their efforts on the night.

Good luck for the Regional Finals Clerkhill 2.



Clerkhill 2



Clerkhill 1



Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023

Bike Breakfast



We are excited to welcome back our Bike Breakfasts! In term 4 we will be hosting two bike breakfasts. The first on Wednesday 10th May and the second on Wednesday 17th May . Look out for information coming home next term.

Staffing

This term we have welcomed back **Mrs Holly Yates** who has returned from maternity leave. Mrs Yates will be providing non-class contact time to some of our teachers next term.

We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Esson and Miss Jones back towards the end of next term.

Parent Survey

Thanks to those of you who took the time to respond to our survey which was issued at the end of February.

Our results were very encouraging and will be shared with you next term.

These results will help us to evaluate the work of the school so far this session and to set our improvement priorities for next session.

Parental Involvement

As we begin to think about our Improvement Priorities for next session, we would like to work with a small group of parents to look at sharing some information on Pupil Equity Funding, what we have used our allocated funds for this session and to seek your views on how best we may consider using our funds next session. This group will be led by myself and Mrs Colleen Mackey.

If you are interested in being part of this short life focus group, please email the school office on Clerkhill.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, noting your availability.

Thank you. We would love to work alongside you.

Parent Council / Fundraising News

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 27th April at 6:00pm. This will take place in school.



Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023

If you are not a regular attendee at our Parent Council Meetings but you would like to join us on the 27th April, please e-mail the school mailbox on clerkhill.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we can have your details passed on to the secretary for our Parent Council.

As always we are very grateful for the tremendous support of our dedicated Fundraising Committee. The funds they raise ensure our pupils can access many resources and experiences they wouldn't otherwise be in receipt of.

Recently, money donated by our Fundraising Committee has been used to purchase resources for our newly developed Skills Hubs in the middle area and senior end of school as well as some additional technology which is crucial to support our pupils' learning.

On Monday 27th March we held our first Bingo Tea since March 2020. It was a super evening full of fun and prizes for all the family. A fabulous total of £1560 was raised on the night. Thanks are extended to all who helped organise, attended or indeed donated baking or raffle prizes. Each contribution is very much appreciated.

Due to the tremendous efforts of our fundraising committee last year, as intimated earlier in the session, we have decided not to hold a Summer Fayre this session. Instead we would like to invite all our pupils to enjoy an activity day with their peers at some point during Term 4. Mrs Willox has been busy organising these events and will be in touch shortly with sepcific details.

P7 Leavers' Assembly and Leavers' Procession

We shall look forward to inviting our P7 parents into school on Friday 7th July at 9:30am for our P7 leavers assembly. Further information on tickets for this event (two per family) will be communicated nearer the time.

We shall also have our P7s piped from the school grounds at 2:35pm on this day and parents will again be welcome to attend this, as in previous years.

End of Year Reports

These will be issued to P1-7 parents on Thursday 8th June at our Open Afternoon. Following instructions from our Head of Education these must be handed directly to a parent and can no longer be sent home with your child in their school bag. Any parent who is unable to attend the Open Afternoon will be able to collect their child's report from the office at a more suitable time.

Playgrounds

May I remind parents that dogs are not allowed in our play areas at drop-off or pick-up times. This is to ensure we keep all our children safe until they leave the school grounds. The riding of bikes and scooters within the school grounds (**by any of our pupils or indeed younger siblings**) is also prohibited. Again, this is to ensure the safety of all our pupils whilst in the school grounds.



Clerkhill School Newsletter

March 2023

As another busy term draws to a close, once again I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a pleasant Spring Break. We look forward to welcoming all our learners back with us on **Monday 17th April** at 9am.

Regards,
Ann-Louise Murray
Head Teacher
March 2023