



December 2017



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Dear Parents,

Not long to go now and the excitement is mounting as we get ready to perform our Christmas play and get ready for the festive season.

Sumdog

We recently introduced the maths programme 'Sum Dog'. This is an on line programme designed to support the children's mental agility skills. The programme is also available for the children to use at home.

Swimming

Next term the Primary 3 children will be receiving swimming tuition at Aboyne swimming pool. It will take place each Tuesday starting 16th January 2018. The last session will take place on Tuesday 20th February 2018.

Appropriate Clothing for the Weather

As we go outside in all but the worse weather, can you please ensure that the children come to school suitably dressed? Until we are having better weather, it might be a good idea to keep a spare pair of socks in your child's school bag.

Staffing

We have welcomed Mrs Amanda Scott to our team as a PSA. Mrs Scott will be with us each Monday, Thursday and Friday.
The 0.4FTE teaching post in P4/5/6 is in the process of being re-advertised as no one was successful at the interview.

Staff Training

Staff have been involved in the following training/ development work this term.

- French Up skilling
- Challenging Learning in Aberdeenshire
- Using Technology
- I.E.P. writing

Harvest Festival

On 4th October some pupils represented the school during the Harvest Festival celebrations at Aboyne Academy. The whole school participated in creating a stunning display for the event. The Duchess of Rothesay was in attendance and took the time to visit the display which the pupils introduced to her. Two of our Primary 1 pupils were then chosen to present a hamper of locally produced food to the Duchess.



Visits

During October Pupils from Primary 6 and Primary 7 experienced the skill of green woodworking. We had a visit from Green Aspirations www.greenaspirationsscotland.co.uk who worked with the pupils to whittle wood and make their own spoons and stirrers. Some of the pupils also had a go at weaving with willow.

Children In Need

The Pupil Council organised a series of events to celebrate and raise funds for the Children in Need Appeal. The activities included; A Spotty Talent Show; Making the School Spotty; Find the Hidden Pudsey Treasure Hunt; A Pudsey Bake Sale; A Spotty Bake Off competition for parents and in the afternoon the whole school got together in the Hall to decorate a 'Spotty Biscuit'. Thank you to all the parents that baked a cake and entered our 'Bake Off'. It was lovely to see everyone joining in, having fun and raising an amazing £145.75



Open Morning Numeracy

On 24th November we held an open morning with a focus on numeracy. Although the event was not well attended it hopefully gave our parents an insight into what the children have been learning this term and the methods that we use to teach numeracy.

Christmas Production

We are all busy, learning lines, singing songs and generally getting ready for our Christmas show - 'Super Star'. We would love you to join us on Tuesday 19th December either in the afternoon or the evening. Tickets are available from the office.

Interim Reports

Our new 'Reporting to Parents' calendar, aims to keep you informed about your child's progress. With this in mind, we recently issued an interim report. This was designed to give you a 'snapshot' of the progress made so far through the Curriculum for Excellence levels. At the end of this newsletter is a tear off slip. We would welcome any constructive feedback on

- How useful the interim report was,
- Whether it served the purpose of giving you an insight into how your child is doing.
- Any areas which you think can be improved on the report.

Class Learning Leaflets

To help and support you to know what your child is doing each term in their learning, we also issued you with a class learning leaflet. This allows you to see what your child will be studying this term in numeracy, literacy, health and wellbeing and social studies. It also provides you with ideas to support your child with their learning at home. The back cover provides information about homework, visiting specialists, PE days etc. Again we would welcome any comments you have to let us know how useful you find this; whether you wish this to be continued and any improvements we could make to the leaflets.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19th December - School Show 2pm & 6.30pm (packed lunch only)

Wednesday 20th December - P1-3 Christmas Party (Hot Dogs for lunch)

Wednesday 20th December - P4-7 Disco 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Friday 22nd December - Last day of Term 2 (Burgers & Chips lunch - Movie afternoon)

Monday 25th December - Friday 5th January - Christmas holidays

Monday 8th January - 1st Day of Term 3

Monday 15th January - Friday 19th January - P1 Enrolment week

W/C 22nd January 2018 - P6's and P7's proposed Ski Week

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a very Happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year.

We look forward to seeing everybody back at school on
Monday 8th January 2018.