



Monymusk School
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Newsletter 4 2016-17

Friday 18th November 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend. All the staff had a good two days of professional development, including the Alford Cluster event on Tuesday; 'Getting it Right for Everybody'. This event focussed on mental health (pupils and staff), as it is widely recognised within current research that mental health plays an important role in not only the health and wellbeing of our pupils but in attainment levels achieved throughout school. Mental health forms part of our school's Improvement Plan so we will take what we have learned and look at how to apply it across the school.

A **reminder to P6,7 parents** that there is a pre-trip meeting on Tuesday, 22nd November. This meeting has been organised with Alan Myles, staff member from Altnacriche, to share some of the experiences your child will have during this residential trip. This will be held for all schools at Tough School starting at 6.30pm. We are looking to fundraise to help support this residential trip and suggestions will be taken and discussed at this meeting.

The Monymusk - Cluny After-School Club is growing in numbers every week. Please ensure that you continue to hand in a note to school when there are changes in all after-school arrangements. This includes after-school club.

Thank you to members of the Parent Council who are planning the Christmas Fair. I am sure we will be hearing much more about it over the next few weeks! It is taking place on Sunday, 11th December.

As always, we appreciate your support, seen and un-seen. We have a growing band of parents who join us through the week, helping with outdoor learning, reading, library and general support. The garden elves are also making a very good job of preparing the wildlife area for winter and ready for a spring 'make-over'. They appear to work when no-one else is around so we haven't caught them on camera yet!

Regards,

Gillian Watt
 Head Teacher

P4/5 in Monymusk School are involved in an enterprise project called "Haud it chappin" (keep it alive). We are trying to keep the culture and tradition of the north east of Scotland going. To do that, we are making a Doric dictionary, so that more people know the language and we are performing a concert on Wednesday, 30th of November (St Andrews Day) at the Monymusk Arts Trust at 2pm. We would love to see all you folk there.

SPIKIN AUTISM

S	haring our experiences
P	romoting our voice
I	deas for future development
K	indness
I	nformation sharing
N	eeding some support
A	ccceptance of Autism & Aspergers
U	nderstanding our needs
T	ea & tissues
I	nspiring each other
S	haring the joy
M	EET US AND HAVE FUN



Wednesday Morning Fortnightly 10am - 11.30am
 Contact: graemelyn@aol.com or shonabarclay1@sky.com

Class Notes

P1,2,3 Class Notes:

Literacy - Children will be focusing on narrative writing. The structure of a good story should include a beginning, middle and an end. Correct punctuation and grammar will also be included in this work and we are paying particular attention to “wow words” and adjectives.

Topic - Our topic is Farming and we are going to continue creating some interesting pieces of craft related to farm animals and machinery. We will also learn about the journey our food takes from the farm to the fork. We are hoping for a classroom visit from a local farmer to add some specific details related to farming life.

HWB- Children will take part in a weekly outdoor learning session every Wednesday. This will allow us to investigate the local area. We will relate this learning to farming. This Wednesday we had a lot of fun looking at straw bales and stubble which had been left in the fields since the harvest.

P4/5 Class notes:

This term we have welcomed Jane Harper, a PGDE student who has been working with us for the last four weeks.

Throughout the year we hope to promote awareness and enjoyment of our local culture and dialect through a number of concerts and events in partnership with the Monymusk Arts Trust.

To begin the term we will focus on our Enterprise project – 'Haud it Chappin'. This will involve the production of a Doric Dictionary which is currently being planned, designed and created by our P4/5 Enterprise company – DD45. #DIY DORIC. Orders will be taken soon!

In language, our focus is imaginative writing. We will look at ways to use grammar and punctuation to develop our writing and investigate how the use of characters and settings can make our writing more interesting and engage the reader. We will continue to use our 'writing toolkits' to help us to use ideas from the authors in our personal reading books and transfer them to our own stories.

In reading, we are looking closely at the skills involved in the reading process and using these to gain a deeper understanding of the texts we read. We have allocated 'reading time' each day where the children work together in their reading groups to read, discuss and explore different aspects of the books they read.

In phonics, we will continue to use a variety of active spelling methods to investigate spelling rules, letter patterns and commonly-used words. We will also investigate useful ways and resources to help us spell tricky or unfamiliar words.

In RME we are learning more about Christianity through the 'Miracles' stories and Christmas.

In Health and Wellbeing, our focus will be learning more about 'Multiple Intelligences' and how we all learn differently, having different strengths. Some of our learning tasks in other areas of the curriculum will be completed using a multiple intelligence that we feel is a strength but sometimes we will challenge ourselves to complete a learning task in a style that is not so easy for us. We are learning that sometimes it is good to use different skills so we can develop more.

In addition to the visiting music specialist, we will be learning more about Scottish culture through songs in our P4-7 school choir.

P6,7 Class Notes

Literacy and Language

Spelling:

Pupils will discuss spelling patterns in a group at the start of the week, with Support for Learning teacher Jan Bewick working with pupils in class, and will play games with peers to reinforce patterns later in the week. Accompanying written exercises will support pupils to retain spelling patterns, in addition to enhancing understanding of the meanings of words.

Reading/Engaging with texts:

Pupils will read aloud and/or discuss texts. Texts may include those issued as school readers, anything they have been enjoying at home (taking "text" in its widest form as seen in North Lanarkshire Active Literacy for Second Level) and those taken from the school library.

They will complete specific reading tasks, which can either be done at home or during focused class reading sessions, to support understanding of texts and writer's craft.

Pupils will visit the school library to peruse texts. They will also bring and share texts they have enjoyed.

Grammar, Punctuation and Comprehension:

Pupils will look at examples of parentheses and similes this term, using various stimuli for discussion.

Independent writing and reading tasks will encourage pupils to use these techniques.

Pupils will provide written answers to questions based on comprehension cards and will be introduced to Read Theory, an online resource to develop comprehension skills. As part of this, pupils might be asked to make posters, charts, models, diagrams and/or pictures to enhance learning about the topic on a given card.

French:

Pupils will use prior knowledge and taught vocabulary/ phrases to discuss the topics of Greetings & salutations, saying your name, asking someone else's name, saying the alphabet, taking the register, numbers 0-69, saying your age, asking someone's age and saying their age, saying where you live, saying your nationality and discussion about how Christmas is celebrated in France. They might be asked to write useful vocabulary or draw pictures or may make posters with useful vocabulary for wall displays. They will also be introduced to Duolingo, an online resource used to develop learning of a language, and they will visit the blog of Visiting Specialist teacher Sorley Johnston, to hear about his travels in Spain.

Writing:

Pupils will discuss amphibious animals and use what they learn to take part in a creative writing and art competition. They will use various resources to research these animals, including watching videos and taking notes. They will use the information gathered to write creatively and to create poetry.

Persuasion and debate:

Pupils will share their thoughts about homework and draw together ideas to be represented by Pupil Council at a debate. Pupils will create a display with emotive posters.

Health and Wellbeing

Pupils will discuss the school's Rationale and Curriculum Design document issued to parents earlier in the year. Last session pupils began to use the programme VideoScribe on iPads to summarise the main points. This term pupils will review their progress, make any changes and complete.

In mixed groups across the whole school, pupils will work together using the strengths of combining multiple intelligences, to bring together a set of school rules, based on groupwork linked to Rights of the Child last term.

Pupils will learn about the rights of other children in the world by researching how the money raised during Children In Need is used. They will continue to learn about the rights of refugee children in Ms Watt's assemblies as part of the Outright Campaign. Unicef Launchpad will be used to support the learning of this and other issues (listening to the national resource being read by our former P7 pupils!)

To ensure a continuation of a restorative approach, respecting the rights of all, pupils will revisit the topic of bullying, linked to the "Respect Me" national campaign and to follow-up from a talk last term by the SSPCA, pupils will also revisit the importance of looking after and respecting animals too.

A visit from the Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres caravan will also focus on this, along with developing understanding about biological systems. The free Tig Tag science resource, accessible from school or home via Glow, will be used to support learning about the digestive system, circulatory system, drugs awareness and dental health.

P6 pupils will use Book Creator on the iPads to produce an "Emotionary" - a class interactive resource about emotions.

Learning will be evaluated on an ongoing basis through target setting and One Note learning logs.

PE will be taught across the school by Jamie Mayo on Fridays.

Expressive arts: Following from a week of African culture with Bruno from Zimbabwe, we will have weekly choir to learn about Scottish heritage through song; Kodaly where pupils will play an instrument as part of a class band and music with specialist Lesley Thornton where guitar will continue to be a focus.

ICT

Although ICT (digital literacy) is clearly embedded across the curriculum, as outlined above, visiting specialist Stuart Cahill will continue to teach discrete ICT skills, with P6,7 as a class and with P7s for an additional separate block.

Outdoor Learning - Literacy/writing

We will continue to read 'My side of the mountain' as an inspiration for writing outdoors. We will explore journal writing in response to both the text and the environment itself.

RME

Miracles – learner-led collaborative enquiry on the topic of miracles

MATHS ACROSS THE SCHOOL

Early/First Levels

In the **Whales** Group, pupils will build on addition and subtraction skills from 5 to 10. They will discuss doubles up to 20.

The **Kittens** will take a large number of objects and share them into equal groups. They will also count objects in groups to find out totals, recording their calculations. They will move on from repeated addition, for example a set of 2 plus another set of 2 plus another set of 2, to using the language 3×2 .

The **Jaguars** will use arrays and numberlines to represent multiplication. They will learn to make links between times tables and begin to work more confidently with the 2, 4, 8 then the 10 and 5 and finally the 3, 6 and 9 times tables.

As some pupils in these groups will be learning about farming this term, additional maths might include creating tally charts, pictograms and graphs of favourite farm animals, sorting animals according to criteria, learning about dozens through sorting eggs, using 2D shapes to make animals, programming BEEBOTS to roam around a farm, making own jigsaw shape puzzles with farm scenes and learning farm number songs such as 5 little ducks and 5 little speckled frogs.

Middle/End First Level and Beginning Second Level

In maths, this term our focus in number will be number processes:

The Mathematicians are discussing the digits in numbers up to, and beyond 1000, their position, their value and why zero is important.

The Diamonds are comparing numbers and putting them in order up to and beyond 1000, as well as using symbols to help describe number relationships

AAStars are working at level 2 and are using their knowledge of place value to count, read, write, partition and order numbers. They will also recall number bonds quickly and accurately, using multiples of 10 and 100 to create new facts.

In Beyond Number our focus will be Money and Finance which fits in very well with our Enterprise project.

Middle/End Second Level and beginning of Third Level

Numeracy- We are working on fractions and decimals over the coming weeks. Children will learn about equivalent fractions, being able to order them from biggest to smallest and visa versa and also the ability to multiply decimals and whole numbers.

In October, Bruno joined us for a hugely enjoyable week of African Drumming, Singing, Dancing and Storytelling. Monymusk Playgroup also visited us to take part.



Art Aprons A number of children still do not have art aprons. Children need a long sleeved apron or old shirt, etc. to protect their school clothes. Please supply a boiler suit or similar overalls if you want complete protection of school clothes.

PE Kit Each pupil should have a full PE kit available in school daily. Pupils with long hair should also have a soft hair band for safety reasons. In addition, earrings need to be taped during PE. Pupils with earrings should have their own tape at school.

Extra-curricular activities

Muddy Monymusketeers (Running):

We have 24 regular runners across the two running groups. Thank you to the parent volunteers who are assisting us. The final session for this term is on Thursday 24th November 2016. We will be taking a break from Thursday night sessions until after the February mid-term.

Cycling Club: A reminder that the final session for this term is on Wednesday 23rd November 2016.

Football & Netball Coaches required

We currently do not have a football or netball team. There are several football & netball tournaments throughout the year and the pupils have very much enjoyed these events in the past. If anyone thinks they would like to take on the role of football or netball coach please contact Gillian Watt. Training is given by the council. If a small group volunteered, it would share the responsibility and time. Mr Roulston has offered to take some football training at lunchtimes, for now.

Scholastic Book Fair

We made sales of £320 which entitled the school to choose free books worth £80. This is a great achievement for a school this size and thank you to the Parent Council volunteers who manned the fair, as well as to everybody who purchased books.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2016 – 2017

Tuesday, 22 nd November 2016	6:30pm at Tough School - Pre-trip meeting for Alltnacriche residential trip
Wednesday 30 th November 2016	2:00pm Doric concert at Monymusk Arts Trust, 2:00pm
Tuesday 6 th December 2016	ALEC van visit (details to follow)
Tuesday 13 th December 2016	K'Nex Christmas Workshops for all classes 6:30 – 7:30pm Sharing Our Learning: Numeracy
Thursday 15 th December 2016	Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff
Monday 19 th December 2016	Christmas Party
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	Church Service 1:00pm, St Mary's Kirk, Monymusk
Weds 21st December 2016	School closes
Thursday 5th January 2017	School opens
Wednesday 25 th January 2017	Burns Celebration – details to follow
Friday 10th February 2017	Holiday
Monday 13th February 2017	Holiday
Tuesday 14th February 2017	In-service day 4 (school closed for pupils)
Wednesday 15th February 2017	In-service day 5 (school closed for pupils)
Tues 7 th – Thurs 9 th March 2017	P6,7 Residential Visit to Alltnacriche with Craigievar, Lumsden and Tough Schools
Friday 31 st March 2017	Church Service
Friday 31st March 2017	School closes
Tuesday 18th April 2017	School opens
Monday 1st May 2017	Holiday
Monday 5th June 2017	Holiday
Friday 30 th June 2017	1.30 Church service
Friday 30th June 2017	School closes

Useful Telephone Numbers

Alford Academy	019755 62251	Child Protection Line	0800 0223222
Alford Community Ed (Gymnastics)	01467 628283	Grampian Police (Non-Emergencies)	08456 005 700
Monymusk School Kitchen	01467 651574	Central Taxis	01224 890089
		Allways Taxis	01467 633333

Useful Websites:

Monymusk School Website	www.monymusk.aberdeenshire.sch.uk
Glow	https://secure.glowscotland.org.uk/login/login.asp?/
Eco Schools Scotland	http://www.ecoschoolsscotland.org/home/index.asp?linkID=224
GridClub-Safe Online Educational Fun for 7–11 year olds ..	www.gridclub.com (user name: mon011p, password: ab517hj)
School Meals Service web page	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school_meals
Curriculum for Excellence	http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/index.asp
Up-to-date information on early years education.....	www.LTScotland.com/earlyyears
Internet Safety (e-mail, Chat, File-sharing)	www.BeSafeOnline.org
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOPS).....	www.ceop.gov.uk
Parentzone	www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk
'Books -what's in them for me and my child?.....	www.readtogether.co.uk
Parents and Carers Website Section	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers/index.asp
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)	www.there4me.com
Parenting Across Scotland	www.parentingacrossscotland.org