



Monymusk School
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Newsletter 5 2016-17

Thursday, 15th December 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

We hope that you enjoyed your visit to school to share in your child's learning on Tuesday. It was good to see so many families represented. Next term's focus will be Literacy and Science and will be shared through the context of a musical concert. More about that to follow!

After consulting parents, pupils and staff, the updated Homework Policy is now available on the school website. Whilst we all recognise the potential benefits of homework, we have a varied response as to the practicalities of completing tasks at home. To this end, reading books will continue to come home to be shared, but the linked tasks will be completed within school time. There will be 'Challenges' set each term and it will be up to the pupils themselves if they wish to complete the tasks. These 'Challenges' will also be used during 'Emergency Closure days', in place of the Emergency Closure packs previously issued. There is also recognition that as pupils begin the transition to the academy, it is important that they begin to manage their personal study time. P6,7 pupils are given personal study slots throughout the week for assigned tasks. They are expected to complete those tasks within the allotted time and, if they wish, can complete the tasks at home, leaving the school personal study time for other activities.

This is the last paper-based newsletter, although hard copies will be made available for those without access to the internet. As of January, our communications will be made through *Groupcall*. Please read the attached letter. We are always looking for ways to be more Eco-friendly, so this is a very positive step, cutting our use of paper drastically. You will receive newsletters and letters primarily by email, with other options, if preferred. There is also a Groupcall Xpressions App that can be downloaded, which might be preferable for many of you. Let us support each other through this transition!

Thank you for your support at the weekend for the Parent Council's Christmas Fayre. It was another huge success, with over £1000 being raised. However, a wee reminder to everyone that parents are responsible for their children at a school event. The same health and safety rules apply out of school hours, as during school hours. Pupils should always be with a responsible adult (i.e. not necessarily a parent/carer), classrooms and the 'Quiet Room' are not part of the Christmas Fayre and we respectfully ask that the corridors are only used to go to and from the toilets. There should be no cycling or pedal vehicles being ridden in the playground, especially when there are smaller children present. We encourage cycling and pedal vehicles being ridden to school but, ask that they be guided on foot to their parking places within the playground. This will allow everyone to enjoy the event safely. Thank you for your understanding.

Plans continue for the P6,7 visit to Alltnacriche. There will opportunities leading up to the trip for our pupils to meet the pupils from Craigievar, Tough and Lumsden schools beforehand. There are also plans to fundraise to help reduce overall costs of the trip. More to follow.

Our Christmas lunch was today (delicious, as always, thanks to Mrs Mitchell), the P7s put up Santa's Grotto yesterday (I think he will be very happy with this year's decor!) and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the end of term service next Wednesday at 1:30pm. The pupils have been busy practicing their Christmas songs, especially the P1,2,3 class who have some extra songs for you all to enjoy.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2017. Enjoy the holidays!

Regards,

Gillian Watt
Head Teacher

Doric Dictionaries are now available in school – please see the end of this newsletter for an order form.

Registration Week for Primary 1 is 9th January to 13th January 2017.

All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2018 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admissions in August 2017.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services has a common starting date for all its school in the middle of August in any particular year. You will be informed of this year's starting date at the time of registration at school.

Parents are asked to visit the Primary school of their choice during Registration Week. If this is not possible, should try and visit the school by the end of February 2017. To register for Primary 1 the child's birth certificate is required as evidence of their date of birth.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services make no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported for Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery for playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception".

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): The Muddy Monymusketeers are on a break until after the February mid-term break.

Cycling Club: Cycling club members are on a break until after the February mid-term break. More details to follow.

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.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2016 – 2017

Tuesday, 20 th December 2016	Christmas Party
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	Church Service 1:30pm, 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)
Monday 27 th February – 3 rd March 2017	Week in a jotter
Monday, 27 th February to Sunday 12 th March 2017	Fairtrade Fortnight
Tues 7 th – Thurs 9 th March 2017	P6,7 Residential Visit to Alltnacriche with Craigievar, Lumsden and Tough Schools
20 th – 31 st March 2017	The Big Pedal
29 th March 2017	School concert PM and evening
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 Websitewww.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 pagewww.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
Parentzonewww.parentzonescotland.gov.uk
‘Books -what’s in them for me and my child?.....www.readtogether.co.uk
Parents and Carers Website Sectionwww.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parents/carers/index.asp
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)www.there4me.com
Parenting Across Scotlandwww.parentingacrossscotland.org

During the recent Doric concert, some of you placed orders for our Doric Dictionary “Haud it Chappin”, produced by Primary 4,5 pupils as an Enterprise Project. Copies are still available and if you would like to place an order, please complete the form below.

Haud it Chappin Order Form

Name.....

Phone number.....

e-mail address.....

Number of dictionaries required.....

Cost.....

(Dictionaries are priced at £3.50 each or 2 copies for £6 – please enclose payment with your order)