



Monymusk School
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Newsletter 1 2017-18

Tuesday, 22nd August 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the summer holiday and feel refreshed for the months ahead!

Welcome to the new P1 pupils, and their families, and to our other new pupils and their families. Please come along to the various activities planned over the next few months (see later in the newsletter) so that you can meet staff and the other parents. We operate an 'Open Door' policy at Monymusk School, which means you can approach us at any point to talk, ask questions, or make an appointment if it is something that requires a more in-depth conversation.

Staffing update:

P1,2,3 Jane Veitch and Gillian Watt

P4,5 Laura Journé and Esther Gooch

P6,7 James Roulston

Please read this newsletter carefully, as I am aware there is a lot of information and a lot of dates for the diary! As requested, we are sharing dates for future events now, in order that parents can plan ahead. Other dates will be added as the session progresses but we will continue to let you know ASAP. The class notes detailing the focus for learning over the term, will be issued soon.

P1 parents are reminded that the next Induction Meeting will take place on **Thursday, 31st August from 6:15 – 7:30pm**. Please note that this event is for parents only.

Gathimba Edwards Foundation Coffee Morning hosted by Monymusk School and Monymusk Christmas Lights, Saturday 26th August 2017, 10:00am – 12:00pm

This coffee morning is to support Neil McArthur, who actively supports so many projects throughout our community. He plans to go to Kenya in October with the Gathimba Edwards Foundation to build houses for children and their families and is required to fundraise at least £500 to help purchase building materials etc for the project (he will be covering all his personal costs).

Please let the school or Alison Beaton know if you can bake for the coffee morning ASAP please! We are also looking for tombola prizes. Please hand them into the school on Friday. Volunteers would also be very much appreciated. The pupils are planning some activities for the morning to entertain younger people, while their families are enjoying a cuppa and fine piece. Please support us in this venture. We appreciate it is short notice but we are confident we will all rally round. Thank you in advance for your support.

A wee reminder that we do not have a full-time administrator, so there will be times that the phone will not be answered. Please ring back at a later time, if the phone is not answered. Thank you for your understanding.

Gillian Watt
Head Teacher

Outdoor Learning

P4,5 will be outside in the garden this coming Friday afternoon with Mrs Gooch. They will need suitable clothing and footwear. There might also be the possibility of helping to paint the mural. They will need to bring painting clothes for this, as no matter how hard we all try paint seems to get everywhere!

P2,3 will also be outside on Friday afternoon. Please ensure they have suitable footwear and clothing.

School Blog

The school blog has proved to be a positive way of sharing what the pupils do in school on a regular basis. For new families, the school blog is an opportunity for us to give an overview of what the pupils will be learning and will help you to prompt learning conversations at home. If you do not have access to the blog, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter.

Facebook: Monymusk School

The Monymusk School Facebook page continues to be a more informal way of keeping in touch with the wider community. Please 'like' us!

Support for Learning Staff Jan Bewick and Louise Anderson will continue to support us in meeting pupils' needs.

Visiting teachers – 2016-2017 Term One

PE	Mr Jamie Mayo	Friday AM
Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Mr Stuart Cahill	Wednesday
Violin	Miss Sharon Hassan	Monday AM
Piano	Mrs Anne Gray	Tuesday PM

Communication for parents

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

Dinner tickets

Parents and carers of school pupils (P1,2,3 pupils are entitled to free school meals) in Aberdeenshire can pay for school meals via the Aberdeenshire Council website (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Simply click PAY and then School Meal Payments. Once registered, you can pay securely and access a range of services including notifications of school closures and school transport changes, using a single name and password via your myAberdeenshire account.

Lost property A significant amount of property was left at the end of last term. Please encourage your children to look for any missing clothing. Feel free to come to school to check for anything you know is missing. **Anything not claimed by the end of next week, will be washed and donated to charity.**

Skills Audit

Please complete the Skills Audit attached to this newsletter. **Please complete it fully, even if you have completed one in previous years as we need to be sure we have an up to date list.** We are very grateful to the parents, grandparents and friends of the school who volunteer in a variety of ways. If you have time to help, or a particular skill you could share, please consider volunteering. It might be in a one-off capacity or in a more regular way.

Pupil Absence Thank you for keeping us informed promptly of your children's absences. A telephone call to school before the start of the school day is required on each day that your child is off (unless it is known how long the absence will be). A letter of explanation should be taken to school when your child returns from illness.

After-school arrangements If your child is going to a friend's house after school, a note is required from both the friend's parents and yourself. As we start the new term, it would be much appreciated if you could confirm any long-standing arrangements - in writing please as the school administrator is not full-time, so emails are not accessed continuously.

Car Parking Please see the attached sheet regarding safe use of the car park. The rules are particularly important with so many vehicles using the car park at the same time, so please bring this information to the attention of anyone likely to be transporting your child to or from school.

School transport Any changes to what has been agreed with the school bus **must** be given to the bus company **directly**. Contact details were provided during the holidays by the Pupil Transport Unit but if you need assistance, please call the school.

Library Sessions

These will be on a Wednesday morning, with help from our hard-working volunteers. Your assistance would be appreciated in reminding your children to bring in their book each week.

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.

Water Bottles

A water bottle, labelled with your child's name, can be brought to school and filled at the water fountain for drinking in the class. A bottle with a pull-up spout is best to reduce the chances of spilling. These should be used only for water in school time. I read an article over the holidays regarding the cleanliness of water bottles! We will encourage pupils to take them home every week for a good wash!

Names

All children's clothing and personal equipment should be labelled with their names in permanent pen or iron-on or stitch-on labels.

Muddy Monymusketeers (Running): Term One – 1/9/17, 8/9/17, 15/9/17, 6/10/17, 13/10/17 Term Two - 3/11/17, 10/11/17, 17/11/17, 24/11/16 PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO RUNNING ON 22 & 29/9/17

Running is going to change from a Thursday after school to a Friday after school (3:30 – 4:30pm). I appreciate this might be tricky for some pupils but it is the only day I can be there on a fairly regular basis. At the moment we will have one group but if enough pupils and helpers sign up we will split into two groups with a Jogging Group (games based for pupils aiming to improve overall fitness through running/jogging) and a Running Group (this group is a more competitive group for pupils who want to increase their speed, as well as stamina).

The only way we can have these after-school groups is if parents support us by being on a rota. This will now be a requirement when pupils sign up for after school groups. No skill is required!

Football & Netball Coaches required We have a couple of people interested in forming a netball team this year, so watch this space! Mr Roulston will continue to coach football during lunchtime on a Friday but if any parents would like to develop football further please contact Gillian Watt. Training is given by the council. If a small group volunteered, it would share the responsibility and time.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2017 – 2018 ** Further dates will be added in the next newsletter**

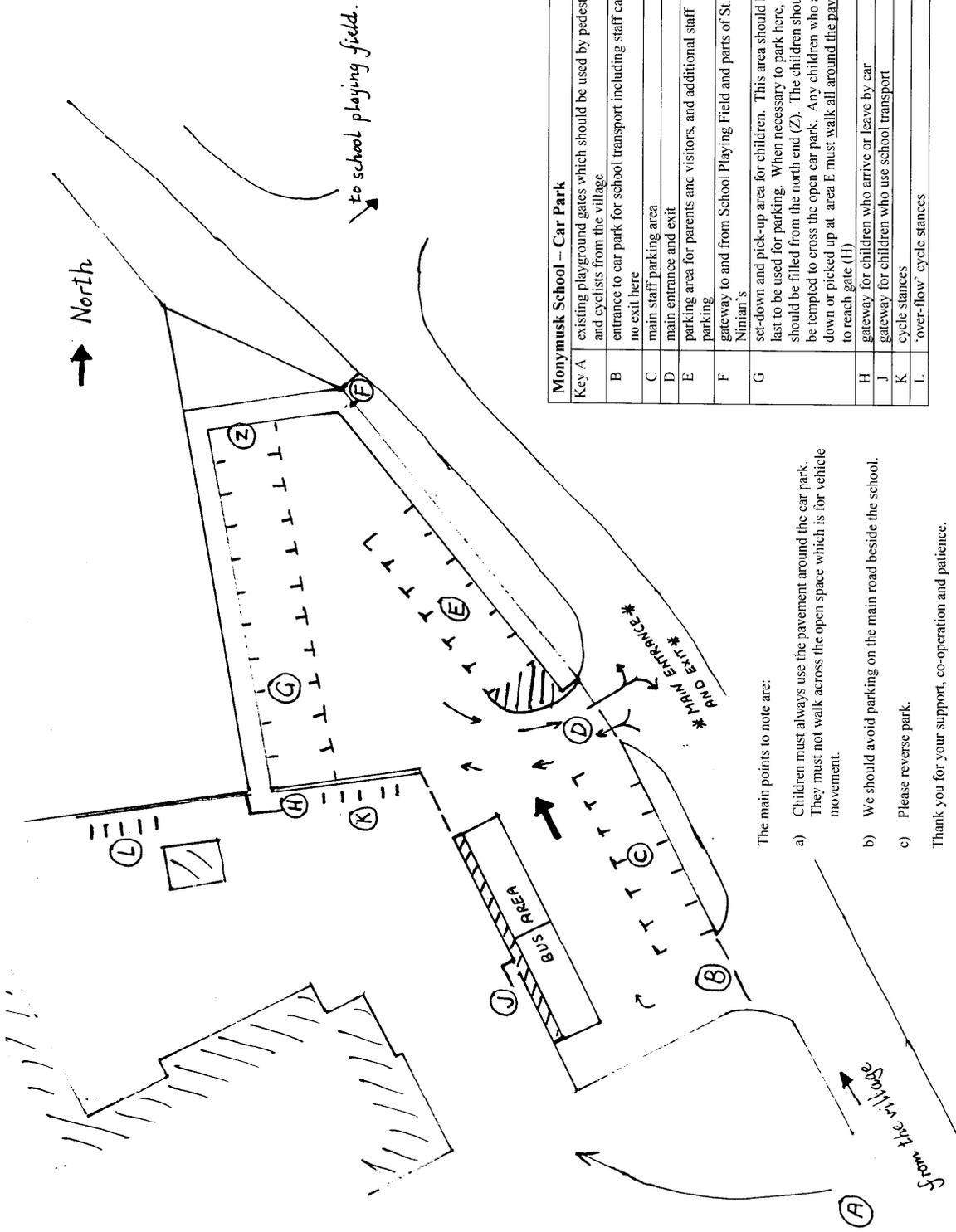
Thursday 31 st August 2017	6:15-7:30pm P1 Induction: Curriculum meeting for P1 parents
Monday 4 th September 2017	P1 pupils begin full days at school
Thursday 28 th September 2017	Hamewith Concert (details to follow)
Thursday, 5 th October 2017	4 pupils will visit the Fairtrade Ship, Northlink Ferry Terminal in Aberdeen (details to follow)
Monday 9 th October –	
Friday 13 th October 2017	Sharing Our Learning: Health & Wellbeing Week (details to follow)
Wednesday 11 th October 2017	6.00 – 7;30pm Sharing Our Learning: Health and Wellbeing
Friday, 13th October 2017	School closes
Monday, 30th October 2017	School opens
Monday 13th November 2017	In-service day 2 (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 14th November 2017	In-service day 3 (school closed for pupils)
Friday, 22 nd December 2017	Church Service (to be confirmed)
Friday, 22nd December 2017	School closes
Monday, 8th January 2018	School opens
Friday 9th February 2018	Holiday
Monday 12th February 2018	Holiday
Tuesday 13th February 2018	In-service day 4 (school closed for pupils)
Wednesday 14th February 2018	In-service day 5 (school closed for pupils)
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Church Service
Thursday 29th March 2018	School closes
Tuesday 16th April 2018	School opens
Monday 7th May 2018	Holiday
Monday 4th June 2018	Holiday
Friday 6 th July 2018	1.30 Church service (TBC)
Friday 6th July 2018	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



Monymusk School – Car Park	
Key A	existing playground gates which should be used by pedestrians and cyclists from the village
B	entrance to car park for school transport including staff cars – no exit here
C	main staff parking area
D	main entrance and exit
E	parking area for parents and visitors, and additional staff parking
F	gateway to and from School Playing Field and parts of St. Ninian's
G	set-down and pick-up area for children. This area should be the last to be used for parking. When necessary to park here, it should be filled from the north end (Z). The children should not be tempted to cross the open car park. Any children who are set down or picked up at area F must walk all around the pavement to reach gate (H)
H	gateway for children who arrive or leave by car
J	gateway for children who use school transport
K	cycle stances
L	'over-flow' cycle stances

The main points to note are:

- Children must always use the pavement around the car park. They must not walk across the open space which is for vehicle movement.
- We should avoid parking on the main road beside the school.
- Please reverse park.

Thank you for your support, co-operation and patience.

Return completed forms to Monymusk School

Please grant me access to the Monymusk School Blog

Name.....

e-mail address.....

Signed.....

Name of child/ren..... Date.....



Monymusk School – audit of community skills and experience available to the school

At Monymusk School, relevant and valuable contributions to the curriculum can be supported by parents and others in the community. These contributions may be through talks, demonstrations, sports or games coaching, general help in the class and school, providing resources, etc. – for pupils or staff or both.

It would help us to know what is available to the school if you would complete and return this form .

If you know people who may be able to help with the pupils' learning but are not parents of pupils at the school, please let us know so that we can contact them. As an alternative, feel free to copy this letter for them.

Name: Telephone:

Signature: Date:

I am able/unable* to help out with school activities.

If able to help, please tick any of the following which usually apply.

School times After School Evenings

Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays Saturdays Sundays

My interests, knowledge and skills are about

Ways in which I would like to help:

Talks Demonstrations Library general help

Training for adults (please specify)

Loaning resources (please specify)

Coaching (please specify)

Other (please specify)

Any other information:

Any queries:

* delete as appropriate