



Monymusk School
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Newsletter 2 2017-18

Tuesday, 31st October 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the October holiday and feel refreshed and ready for the term ahead!

We were fortunate to be offered swimming lesson for this term so every Monday (except 13th & 27th November) we will all be travelling to Alford on a Monday afternoon. We will be making best use of Alford library when we are not swimming. Violin pupils will also have their lessons at Alford for this term, something else to remember!

We have also been fortunate to have been offered a free workshop by bassoonist, Laurence Perkins, as part of his Scottish tour. He is performing at the Monymusk Arts Trust on Sunday, 5th November at 3pm and will join us on Monday, 6th November at school. The event has been funded by Howarth of London and the Musicians Union education department. The recital at the Monymusk Arts Trust will be a family friendly event.

The presentation on Monday (at school) is called 'Bear-faced Bassoonery!' - an entertaining and informative introduction to the bassoon with question-and-answer interaction. The presentation will include Howarth's woodwind stall with a chance to look at instruments and accessories, or possibly try an instrument for the first time.

The Alford Cluster schools have invested in a number of resources to support mental health. All schools are using a resource called 'Bounce Back'. And the GMHA (Grampian Mental Health Association) are also leading workshops for pupils in all schools. Workshops for Monymusk will be on Monday, 27th November. A GMHA evening for parents is currently being planned and will take place on Tuesday, 21st November 7-8pm at Echt village hall. I will share additional information as soon as I can.

The outdoor area at school continues to be developed and refreshed by the school community and beyond. The P1,2,3 pupils are learning outside as I write this newsletter. The focus is Literacy and pathways have been made (by pupils using blocks) with laminated words laid out to read along the way. The flow wall has balls rolling down, with sounds written on them for pupils to create words, the new sand box is very busy and the alphabet floor jigsaw is being laid out on the floor of one of the shelter shed. It is good to see the enthusiasm and engagement of all the pupils. They are about to use the outdoors as a stimulus for their 'writing' task of the morning.

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.

A wee reminder that the school phone number is now 01467 536980 (using Skype for Business) and this gives the option to leave a message if there is nobody available to answer it. The "old" number is still working at present but we understand it will be switched off at some stage so it would be advisable to get used to the new one if you haven't done so already.

Gillian Watt
Head Teacher

Outdoor Learning

P1,2,3 Outdoor Learning will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please make sure your children have warm clothing and sturdy footwear at school this term. We will be outside in all sorts of weather.

P4,5 will be outside on Fridays and **P6,7** will be outside on Tuesdays. An additional letter/email has been sent out requesting a volunteer for each of those classes (not P1,2,3).

Monymusk Arts Trust

Bassoon Voyager

3.00pm Sunday 5th November
The Arts Centre

Join Laurence Perkins on a musical journey to inspiring parts of the world in this live concert performance with stunning video!

- **The English Lake District at dusk** - evocative music and stunning images
- **A Shakespearean magical island** - and a mischievous airy spirit
- **Brazilian dance music** - and a 'tango homage' to Astor Piazzolla
- **Scottish islands** - traditional music and landscape in perfect harmony
- **The Swiss Alps** - a new piece based on traditional music, inspired by snow-covered mountains

This is a concert performance with a difference - a musical journey with Laurence Perkins to inspiring places around the world. The bassoon's evocative solo voice takes you to the Swiss Alps, the south of France, the ocean, South America, and wonderful parts of the British Isles including the magnificent Hebridean islands off the west coast of Scotland. This live concert performance runs to a continuous video, which includes stunning images of the Lake District by Perth photographer Mike Bell, alongside stills and video footage from these wonderful areas

The music includes traditional folk melodies from the British Isles, baroque music by Michel Corrette, very recent works by Reto Stadelmann and Robin Walker, Renaissance English dance tunes from the Playford Collection, and 20th century gems from Alan Ridout, Cameron Sinclair, Otto Oromszegi, Francisco Mignone, and a wonderfully vibrant tango tribute to Astor Piazzolla.

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. Unfortunately we have had ongoing issues with the blog but these will hopefully be sorted. Thank you all for your understanding.

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!

Visiting teachers – 2016-2017 Term Two

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

Lost property: We continue to have a large amount of lost property at school. Please encourage your children to look for any missing clothing. Also feel free to come to school to check for anything you know is missing.

Muddy Monymusketeers (Running): Term Two – 31/10, 7/11, 21/11. 28/11/17. December dates TBC
Running has changed to a Tuesday morning at 8am for now. We have been very lucky with the weather so far! I appreciate this might be tricky for some pupils but Ms Watt cannot make a commitment to Monday-Thursday after school and Fridays were not at all popular (with pupils and Ms Watt!). If any parents would like to lead an after-school session it would be much appreciated.

Knockburn Winter Cross Country race is this weekend. Please check online. Run Garioch is now open for entries too. Let's try to get a record number of entries!

Football & Netball: Thank you to Nell Milligan and Nicky Goode for leading netball practices. It is lovely to have a netball team again.

Active Schools: Please check the school website for details of a number of after-school activities run by Active Schools at the Alford community Campus.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2017 – 2018

Thursday 2 nd November 2017	Bag2School Collection
Monday 6 th November 2017	Bassoon Presentations to all classes Swimming (week 2 of 6)
Monday 13th November 2017	In-service day 2 (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 14th November 2017	In-service day 3 (school closed for pupils)
Monday 20 th November 2017	Swimming (week 3 of 6)
Tuesday 21 st November 2017	7-8pm GMHA (Grampian Mental Health Association) Parent workshops at Echt Hall
Monday 27 th November 2017	Grampian Mental Health Associates – workshops for all classes Flu vaccinations (letters being issued today – for return within 7 days please) Reminder: No swimming today
Monday 4 th December 2017	Swimming (week 4 of 6)
Tuesday 5 th December 2017	ALEC van – details to follow Gruffalo/BFG - Scots Drama Workshops
Monday 11 th December 2017	Swimming (week 5 of 6)
Tuesday 12 th December 2017	Sharing Our Learning: Literacy 2:00pm - 3:30pm and 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Wednesday 13 th December 2017	ALEC van – details to follow
Friday 15 th December 2017	11am-12pm Community Café hosted by P1,2,3
Monday 18 th December 2017	Swimming (week 6 of 6)
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

