



Monymusk School
Monymusk
Inverurie
Aberdeenshire
AB51 7HJ
Telephone: 01467 536980

monymusk.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Newsletter 3 2017-18

Thursday, 16th November 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

I hope you enjoyed the long weekend. Staff enjoyed the two days in-service, which focussed on mental health and wellbeing (pupils and staff).

Following on from the mental health focus, I would remind you of the evening GMHA (Grampian Mental Health Association) session for parents in Echt Hall on Tuesday, 21st November, 7-8pm. Please let us know if you are planning to be there as we need to know numbers. The evening will focus on how to support children to become resilient by working through anxious times.

In term three we will be re-visiting Restorative Practice with families and the community. Our Educational Psychologist has agreed to join us for those sessions. The parent/community evening will be on Wednesday, 21st February 7-8pm. It will be an opportunity to learn more about our approach to encouraging positive behaviour.

Attached to this newsletter is the reporting calendar for this session, as well as the SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessment) leaflet being issued to all parents in Aberdeenshire.

Increasing the use of the outdoors has created additional work for our cleaner and staff. A decision has been made to ask that all pupils have 'indoor shoes' from now on. 'Indoor shoes' could mean normal shoes or trainers (better for children to be wearing supportive shoes through the day in class) with wellies and boots for outdoors. Black gym shoes do not give a lot of support so are maybe not the best option for through the day.

As part of our commitment to 'Learning for Sustainability' we have set up an account with Kool Skools, which means that from now on you will have an additional option for purchasing your child's school uniform. A letter will be coming home soon to explain the process. There is no requirement to purchase from Kool Skools, it is just an ethical option for those who wish to have one.

It has come to light that a number of pupils are bringing in permanent markers. We encourage pupils to use coloured pencils in school as it introduces them to using light and shade when they are colouring in. We do have some felt pens (water based) for activities that require them but we do not use permanent markers, as it makes it very difficult to clean surfaces and clothing. Thank you in advance for your support.

Gillian Watt
Head Teacher

Class Notes

During our whole school assemblies, we continue to be introduced to the seventeen Global Goals. This term we will learn more about goals 3 – 9, which include good health and wellbeing, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth. We will develop our learning further in term four.

The focus in all the classes for PE is Gymnastics and swimming.

Across the school, the Kodaly specialist is sharing music skills through songs and games with P1,2,3, teaching ukulele to P4,5 and guitar to P6,7. In addition, P4-7 are learning recorder skills. We were very fortunate to take part in a bassoon workshop last week and the P1,2,3 class will be learning more about the instruments in the woodwind section this term.

P1,2,3.

Our topic this term continues to be 'The Aul' Days'. We will be investigating the importance of artefacts to help us learn about the past and exploring what life in Monymusk used to be like. We will also be looking at the similarities and differences between Katie Morag's two grannies and comparing them to our own grandparents. We will be exploring things like the games they used to play, food they used to cook and eat, clothes they used to wear. If anyone has any photos, stories, treasures etc that would help us with our learning, please get in touch.

We have a focus this term on imaginative writing and our target is to develop our skills in writing 3 – part stories with a clear beginning, middle and end. We are also developing our use of capital letters and full stops, connectives and openers.

In phonics and reading, we will use a variety of active literacy methods to investigate sounds, letter patterns and commonly used words.

In maths, this term, our focus in beyond number will be Shape, Position and Movement. We will investigate the names and properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects and exploring how to check shapes and patterns for lines of symmetry. We will be also looking at different grid systems and exploring ways to locate positions and follow directions.

In number we will be developing our skills in addition and subtraction.

In French we will continue to practise greeting each other and replying to the question "Ça va?". This term we will also be learning the vocabulary linked to Noël and numbers 1-10.

In health and wellbeing we are all using the 'Bounce Back' resource learning more about fairness, social justice, being responsible, kindness and caring for others.

P4,5

In P4,5, pupils will continue to have a focussed reading session with his/her group and the class teacher at least once per week. A follow up task will be decided with the pupil and further reading will be set to be completed independently.

The follow-up task will vary from tasks flagged up by pupils of interest based on the content of the book e.g. designing or researching; book reviews, accompanying CD Roms or printed worksheet; or reflective reading tasks (metacognition, visualisation, inference, metalinguistics, main ideas, summarising) based on Bloom's Taxonomy such as prediction, inference, design a new front cover and many more. Work carried out on these tasks will provide a source of discussion at the next focus session and some will be displayed on our ever changing Reflective Reading wall.

Pupils will have 30-45 minutes of "Silent Study" time most days. During this time they will complete the above set reading tasks, catch up on any incomplete tasks and can choose from a range of other activities across a variety of curricular areas.

P4 pupils will continue to support P1 pupils with Paired Reading at Alford Library and all pupils will have the opportunity to visit the school library weekly.

PAT and Nussy are spelling resources used by some pupils. Other resources used are North Lanarkshire Active Literacy, where pupils will be introduced to sounds, have the opportunity to play games, learn strategies to support spelling and assess their progress.

The focus for writing this term is narrative. Pupils will engage in narrative poetry through listening and talking about a range of poems and will be encouraged to use the poems, and the outdoors, to stimulate narrative poems or stories of their own.

In addition to this, pupils will work on plurals, speech marks, adverbs and commas, encouraged to include these in their writing.

French lessons will continue to be linked to the class topic of the Romans. Pupils will continue to learn how to say their name, age and birthday through learning about Julius Caesar, they will learn about Roman inventions and about the character Asterix.

Other topic work will include continuing our iMovie about Mount Vesuvius erupting in Pompeii, incorporating freeze frame drama, an assembly based on note taking from a documentary and the creation of an outdoor science experiment. We also hope to combine mosaic art with Christmas craft – any volunteers let us know! Mrs Gooch will teach more about Roman coins and food.

Numeracy will include gaining strategies to add and subtract mentally for the Kittens and Narwhals groups. The Diamonds and AA*s will focus more on strategies for multiplication and division. Stiles and other tactile games, as well as Sumdog and other ICT will be used to support this, along with incorporated problem solving and the 1,2,3 support resource for some pupils.

In addition to weekly updates of Learning Logs using Book Creator and using this to review autumn targets and create winter ones, pupils will continue to embed the principles of our Class Charter by using the online UNICEF Launchpad resource. They will use this to learn more about the UN Articles on the rights of the child. Pupil achievements will continue to be displayed on The Wall (name chosen by pupils) in the classroom.

The Bounceback mental health resource will complement the above by encouraging the children to think about fairness, social justice, being responsible, kindness and caring for others.

Mr Glen, the minister of Monymusk Kirk, will also support us to think about friendship by supporting us to make a Friendship Soup!

Primary 6 and 7

Numeracy - The class will continue to complete daily mental maths problems. On Monday and Wednesday the children will answer a set of questions and on Tuesday and Thursday we will work together and use Number Talks to discuss strategies for these problems and work out the correct answers. We will also focus on Information Handling and Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. Children will aim to become much more confident in these particular maths areas. Children will also complete daily Sumdog assessments and other games.

Literacy - Children will continue to work through a variety of different reading activities during the week. These include carousel reading, drama, freeze frames, comic strip creations, paired reading, book reviews and many more. These activities allow the children to work on and improve a wide variety of skills. Also with Christmas fast approaching the children have suggested creating a Christmas drama performance, which could be performed during an assembly. Watch this space.

The writing focus for this term is story writing/narrative writing. The children have already created story mountain planners which will help them create stories which are orientated correctly. As a group they will be trying to expand their vocabulary to help write detailed descriptions of settings and characters. Also in writing children will complete daily comprehension activities. The focus will be to complete full sentence answers and use the skills of inference and deduction to create well informed answers. These full sentence answers will also be written in excellently presented joined handwriting.

Topic - Having enjoyed looking at the Picts and the Celts we have decided to move our attention further afield. This term we will be studying the Ancient Egyptians. So far the children have created spider diagrams with different aspects of Egyptians life that they would like to look at in more detail. These include finding out about Tutankhamun and of course some of the girls want to know about what Egyptian fashion was like many thousands years ago.

HWB - We plan to continue with our outdoor activities. Children will build dens, create outdoor art and play lots of other games. The children are also taking part in swimming lessons every Monday and are enjoying improving their strokes. Everyone will also take part in activities which show the importance of being honest, respectful and kind.

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).

Swimming

Swimming lessons are going well. Please remember that there is no swimming on 27th November but there is swimming on 20th November, 4th, 11th and 18th December. Violin pupils are having their lesson at Alford Academy on a Monday afternoon as well.

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 – 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. The next Muddy Monymusk Run will be held on Sunday, 20th May 2018 which leaves plenty time for children and adults to get started with their preparation!

Football & Netball: Netball practice will be held in the village hall over the winter months. Parents have already been contacted with details.

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.

SPIKIN AUTISM & MORE

Sharing our experiences
Promoting our voice
Ideas for future development
Kindness
Information sharing
Needing some support
Acceptance of ASC's & ASN's
Understanding
Tea & tissues
Inspiring each other
Sharing the joy
Meet and have fun

Alford Community Campus
Greystone Rd, Alford AB33 8TY

Every Wednesday from 9.30 to 12noon
(Term Time) & Organised Activities During Holidays
Contact: spikinoutismandmore@gmail.com

Find us on **facebook.** To Join & Find Up to Date Information

SPIKIN AUTISM AND MORE
What Does The "and more" mean?

Weekly Wednesday
Peer Support
over Coffee & Cake
Will Continue
But
We Would
also Like
To Open
Our Sessions
To All
Parent Carer's
on the Last
Wednesday of
the Month -
1st being
Wednesday 29th
November
9.30 - 12noon.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2017 – 2018

Thursday 16 th November 2017	Netball practices start in Village Hall 3:30-4:30pm
Friday 17 th November 2017	Children in Need Day – wear something spotty
Monday 20 th November 2017	Swimming (week 3 of 6)
Tuesday 21 st November 2017	Wellbeing Sessions for all classes with Nicky Goode 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 Reminder: No swimming today
Tuesday 28 th November 2017	Wellbeing Sessions for all classes with Nicky Goode
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 2:00-3:30pm and 6:00- 7:30pm
Wednesday 13 th December 2017	ALEC van inc parent/carer session– 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)
Tuesday 19 th December 2017	Wellbeing Sessions for all classes with Nicky Goode
Thursday 21 st December 2017	No netball
Friday, 22 nd December 2017	Church Service (to be confirmed)
Friday, 22nd December 2017	School closes
Monday, 8th January 2018	School opens
Wednesday 23 rd January 2018	NSPCC visit to all classes and Pupil Council
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)
Wednesday 21 st February 2018	Restorative Practice workshop for parents and carers 7:00 – 8:00pm
Friday 9 th March 2018	DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) transition event for P7
Wednesday 28 th March 2018	Sharing Our Learning: Maths & Science 2:00 – 3:30pm and 6:00 – 7:30pm
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Church Service
Thursday 29th March 2018	School closes
Tuesday 16th April 2018	School opens
Wednesday 2 nd May 2018	Induction 1 for new P1s 9:30 – 10:15am
Monday 7th May 2018	Holiday
Tuesday 15 th May	Induction 2 for new P1s: Literacy & Numeracy walk 6:15 – 7:30pm
Sunday 20 th May 2018	Muddy Monymusk Run
Monday 4th June 2018	Holiday
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	Sharing Our Learning: Next Steps 4:00 – 6:30pm
Wednesday 13 th June 2018	Sharing Our Learning: Next Steps 4:00 – 6:30pm
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd June 2018	Link week at Alford Academy
Thursday 21 st June 2018	Induction 3 for new P1s 1:40 - 2:30pm
Thursday 21 st June 2018	New P1s in class 1:40 – 2:30pm
Friday 22 nd June 2018	New P1s in class 9:15 – 11:40 followed by trial school dinner with parents
Tuesday 2 rd July 2018	Summer Fayre
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

