



Monymusk School
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Newsletter 4 2017-18

Wednesday, 29th November 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Monymusk School,

As we enter December, it is a good time to share diary dates and some additional events that are being planned between now and the end of term that involve parents being invited to school. Please also check the diary at the end of the newsletter.

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| 1st – 22nd December | Advent Foodbank: See below |
| Thursday 7 th December | 2:30 – 3:30 Official Re-Launch of the Garden and Wildlife Area |
| Tuesday 12 th December | Sharing Our Learning: Literacy 2:00-3:30pm and 6:00- 7:30pm |
| Wednesday 13 th December | ALEC van including parent/carer session– details to follow |
| Thursday 14 th December | 9:30 – 12:00 ‘Granny Day’ – see below |
| Friday 15 th December | 11am-12pm Christmas Community Café hosted by P1,2,3 |
| Friday 22 nd December | 1:30pm Church Service |

The evening GMHA (Grampian Mental Health Association) session for parents in Echt Hall was very helpful and informative for all parents. The evening focused on how to support children as they work through anxious times. I have asked that we are invited to the other mini-cluster parent events, so if you missed the evening and would like to attend, there will be a second opportunity over the next few months.

I indicated in the last newsletter that we will be re-visiting Restorative Practice in term three 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.

As part of our focus on health and wellbeing, we have changed the school dinnertime to 12:20 – 1:15pm, shortening the time by 15 minutes, which means we will now have an official afternoon break from 2:15 to 2:30pm.

Please consider the request detailed below regarding ‘Developing the Young Workforce’. In addition to this P7 transition cluster event, we will be planning our own event for pupils across Monymusk School later in the year.

Most pupils are remembering to change from outdoor shoes to indoor shoes and back again. Please ensure that your children have shoes to wear inside, as well as a full PE kit throughout the week. The change has already made an impact on the cleaner’s workload, but I know it could be better if everyone remembered to change shoes.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we operate an ‘Open Door’ policy at school. This means that, if we are able, we will meet with parents who come to school without an appointment. However, there will be times when we will not be able to meet at that moment and an appointment will be made for either later in the day, or as soon as possible after that. I would ask that parents please respect that the time immediately before school starts is for the teaching staff to ensure they are prepared for the day. Please wait at the office in order that office staff can find out if it is convenient to talk.

Regards
Gillian Watt
Head Teacher

Developing the Young Workforce:

Our local cluster schools: Midmar, Cluny, Monymusk, Echt, Dunecht and Skene (MCMEDS) often work collaboratively on a number of projects throughout the year to support effective pupil transitions to Alford Academy or other destinations. This year we plan to hold a Careers Fair for P7 pupils as part of a new cluster transition project linked to Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

‘An ambition of Developing the Young Workforce is that education and employers work closely together to equip all young people with the skills and knowledge they will need to flourish in work, and to support diversity in the workforce.’

*Developing the Young Workforce School/Employer Partnerships Guidance for schools
September 2015*

The aim of the Careers Fair would be three fold:

1. For pupils to be able to identify the skills and qualities required for a range of different jobs/careers directly from the employers in a real life context.
2. For cluster schools to form mutually beneficial links with wide range of local employers to support effective learning and teaching of the skills for learning, life and work.
3. To provide a transition opportunity for P7 pupils to work collaboratively with local businesses and their peers in preparation for S1 next year.

We are hoping to make this an ongoing project and aim to build strong links between schools and local businesses. If you own a business, work for a company, are self-employed or feel you may be able to contribute to creating effective partnerships between schools and businesses please let us know by email by Wednesday, 6th December. We intend to build a database of businesses from every sector who we can work closely with over the coming months and years. By giving your details you are agreeing to be part of a database of businesses willing to support local cluster schools.

Please give the following details:

Name and contact number/email address

Name of business and which sector it is part of.

Are you interested in supporting the Careers Fair in March.

If you would like to know more about ‘Developing the Young Workforce’ please have a look at the Aberdeenshire website <http://dywaberdeenshire.org/> .

Advent Foodbank

We have been learning about UNICEF’s 17 Global Goals. One Global Goal is ‘No Hunger’ and a pupil suggested we have a foodbank. There is an Advent Foodbank planned at school, where everyone is invited to donate an item for the foodbank at some point between 1st and 22nd December. We will deliver the collected items, along with the toys that are collected by Santa.

Granny Day

P1,2,3 are hosting a ‘Granny Day’ on Thursday, 14th December from 9:30a.m. – 12:00pm. They are planning a rotation of activities, which the children will be involved in, along with their ‘Granny’ (adopted Grannies welcome!). We would like each child matched with a granny, so if your ‘Granny’ is not available please let us know, as we have a few in reserve! ☺

Swimming

Swimming lessons are going well. Last three sessions are on 4th, 11th and 18th December. Violin pupils are having their lesson at Alford Academy on a Monday afternoon as well.

Muddy Monymusketeers (Running): Last running session for this year was on Tuesday 28th November. We will re-start around the February mid-term. Watch this space!

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 new after-school activities run by Active Schools at the Alford community Campus.

Dates for your Diary - Session 2017 – 2018

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| Monday 4 th December 2017 | Swimming (week 4 of 6) |
| Wednesday 6 th December 2017 | Final library session of term – handing in books only |
| Tuesday 5 th December 2017 | ALEC van – details to follow |
| | Gruffalo/The BFG - Scots Drama Workshops |
| Thursday 7 th December 2017 | 2:30-3:30pm “Official Opening” of Garden Wildlife Area |
| 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 |
| Thursday 14 th December 2017 | 9:30am-12pm Granny Day |
| 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 | Christmas lunch and party |
| Thursday 21 st December 2017 | No netball |
| Friday, 22 nd December 2017 | 1:30pm Church Service, St Mary’s Kirk – all welcome |
| 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 (to be confirmed) |
| Thursday 29th March 2018 | School closes |
| Tuesday 16th April 2018 | School opens |
| Friday 20 th April 2018 | SSPCA Workshops for all classes |
| Wednesday 2 nd May 2018 | Induction 1 for new P1s 9:30 – 10:15am |
| Monday 7th May 2018 | Holiday |
| Tuesday 15 th May | Police Liaison Officer visiting all classes |
| | 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 (to be confirmed) |
| Friday 6th July 2018 | School closes |

Useful Telephone Numbers

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|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

