



Braehead School Newsletter



February has been a very busy month and March has begun the same way! This Newsletter will share some key dates for your diary up until the end of Term and will highlight some of the exciting learning that has been going on in school.

Education Scotland Further Inspection Report and Celebration Morning

Following the publication of our very positive further inspection report we were delighted to open the doors for the morning on Thursday 26th February. It was great to see so many families having fun looking around the school on our letter hunt which highlighted key aspects of learning that helped us to achieve such a positive report.

Thanks to everyone for the very kind donations that were collected at the P5 Fairtrade café - a grand total of £239 was raised. The money will be used to help fund future Enterprise project. A huge thanks goes to our local co-op who donated all of the fairtrade items that were at the tasting station and who gave the children the opportunity to visit the store and ask questions.

If you have not yet had the chance to read the report then click on the link below or simply visit the Education Scotland website and search for Braehead School.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BraeheadSchoolCEV240215_tcm4-853374.pdf

Our Primary 7 pupils have written a super article following the publication which is at the end of this Newsletter. A big thank you to those who left such positive comments at the end of the event - a copy of those comments are attached to the end of this Newsletter.

Newsletter / Pupil Post Survey

Thanks to those of you who completed our online survey monkey in relation to our Newsletters and Pupil Posts. We are currently in the process of analysing the results and will use your suggestions to inform future communication. We will collate and share key points in the next couple of weeks.





Eco Schools News

The Eco Committee would like to share the fabulous news that grand total of 2707 Christmas Cards were collected and recycled this year. We have also had a super response for our stamp collection and they have been set off to the RSPB.

We are now very close to applying for our Silver Award - one key criteria is that we have a parent member on our committee. If you would be interested or would like more information on becoming a member then please contact the school office.

We now have a suggestion box at the front entrance of the school if you have any ideas as to how we can be more Eco Friendly then please let us know.

Some of the key work we have done this session to help gain our award is -



All classes have a chance to do Litter Duty



Traffic Duty—we have a rota for children to help keep our car park a safer place



The Lidl bus has visited school and helped us to learn about healthy food and exercise



P1 have been learning about the water cycle and how we have clean water to drink



Recycled and reused milk cartons to build a reading igloo



P3 planned and presented an Eco Assembly for the whole school to raise awareness



Promoting Positive Behaviour

Due to requests from pupils and parents we have recently revived the Golden Table!



In order to tie this in with the work we have been doing to promote positive behaviour the PSA staff nominate 2 children from each class to attend the Golden Table as a result of what they see and hear in the playground. Children have been nominated so far for being good friends, having good manners, being good helpers and for always playing nicely.

Every Thursday the children who are nominated are presented with a Golden Ticket to take home and show off before lunch on the Friday. As a privilege for being at the Golden Table the children are given 10 mins extra for their lunch, they get served first and get their lunch on special plates. The children at the Golden Table also get unlimited juice and tomato sauce!

Every fortnight the children also have the chance to nominate a member of staff to join them at the Golden Table! Alan our janitor was the outright winner for the first Golden Table - he had lots of votes! All the children recognise and appreciate that Alan gives up part of his lunch time every day to play football, he is always there to help out when needed and is generally the best janitor we could ask for!

We would like you as parents to also become involved in this! We have a 'Golden Box' just inside the front entrance of the school with little slips for you to nominate a member of staff to join the Golden Table.

We have also made some changes to the routine at lunch time. P4-7 now get served first while the P1-3 children have some time to play before coming in for their lunch.



Lunch Tickets

Just a wee reminder that lunch tickets are on sale from 8:45am on a Monday morning. If you are unable to purchase them on a Monday, your child can hand over money at lunch time as long as it is in an envelope with your child's name, class and amount as Mrs Keith cannot handle the money during lunch service. Thank you.

A form for a 'Primary Meal' ticket. It has a white background with a light blue border. The text 'Primary Meal' is at the top in a purple font. Below it, 'Name' and 'Class' are followed by dotted lines for writing. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL' and the text 'School Catering'.

Dates for your diary.....

Comic Relief - Friday 13th March

This Red Nose Day, we want you to make your face funny! All children can come to school dressed as they please and / or with a funny face! If you wish you can bring a £1 donation which we will send to Comic Relief. We will have some red nose in school for sale on Friday too - also at a cost of £1 per nose. Primary 5 are preparing an assembly to present to the rest of the school to help us learn all about this charity event.



Big Maths Parent Session Reminder - Wednesday 18th March @ 2pm and 6pm

On Wednesday 18th March we will be leading two sessions for parents who are interested in learning more about how we use Big Maths in school and how to support your children at home; one at 2.00 p.m. and the other at 6.00 p.m.

Please indicate by returning the slip at the end of the newsletter, replying to the email or contacting the school office to let us know if you would like to attend either of the sessions.



ARCHIE in Africa Day - Friday 27th March

The ARCHIE Foundation is delighted to have helped twin the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital with children's services at the Mulago and Naguru Hospitals. In assembly a couple of weeks ago the children learned all about this wonderful charity and how they aim to create Uganda's first dedicated children's operating theatre.

On Friday 27th March from 9.15—11.00 a.m. a working group of children from Primary 2/3, P3 & 6 are hosting a community café in aid of this event and we invite you all to come along and support this charity. In the children's bags tonight there will be a letter from Archie with more details along with an African challenge leaflet. The teachers will have discussed these with the pupils and this is optional and for you as a family to decide to take part in the sponsorship.

Church Service - Thursday 2nd April @ 9:30am

Just a reminder that the last day of term is Thursday 2nd April. The whole school will be attending our end of term service at St Columbas Church at 9:30am - it would be great to see lots of your there.



More dates for your diary.....

Parent / Teacher Consultations

Teachers are in the process of writing your child's annual Report - these should be with you in the next few weeks. You will have an opportunity to come and discuss your child's progress with the class teacher on Tuesday 31st March or Wednesday 2nd April from 3:30pm - 6:30pm. More details will follow along with the report.



Art Gallery

While you are in school for these meetings there will also be a chance for you to visit our Art Gallery. Mrs Mundie has been working with all classes throughout the session teaching Art and she has collected a piece of art work from every child to be displayed in the gallery. Primary 5 have been helping to organise and prepare for this event so it would be great if you could keep some time to spend browsing the different pieces of art work that will be on show.



Goblin Car Race - Saturday 13th June

P6 have won a bid for a Goblin car for Braehead School. The kit is valued at £1100.

The goblin car is awarded as part of The IET Formula Goblin project which aims to inspire children ages 9 – 11 years old to take an interest in engineering in a fun and innovative way. ***The project is for children to build their very own***

functioning and drivable electric car. The kit comes flat packed with step by step instructions guiding the team through the build in an easy to understand manner. The build introduces children to basic mechanics and on completion they can use it at the race event in Alford.

The build will be integrated into the curriculum to highlight areas such as friction, electricity, materials, maths and design technology – whilst being a fun and hands on activity for children to be a part of.

The project also encourages parental participation. To help with this project we are calling on parents, grandparents - anyone with time during the day, who has interest in building cars, to help out.

To participate in this event, we will need to purchase additional items to complete the car. To acquire these, we will be holding fundraising activities to raise money for: boiler suits, a crash helmet, work gloves, tools, battery charger, a racing seat, foam core board, etc. We are fortunate to have a class that enjoys and are experienced in enterprise and will be sure to manage this challenge.

Should you have an interest in becoming involved, have any of the items listed above that can be donated, have additional questions or can suggest contacts that we can approach for sponsorship, please email

braehead@aberdeencity.gov.uk or call the school office on 01224 702330.



and more dates for your diary.....

School Closed

Please note that the school will be closed on **Friday 1st May** due to a School In-Service Day. Staff will be in school that day and the focus will be on developing teaching of Maths.

On this same week the school is closed on **Monday 4th May** as this is a Public Holiday.

Also note that the school will also be closed on **Thursday 7th May** due to the school being used as a Polling Station. Again staff will be working on the development of our curriculum rationale.

Please see Term holiday dates at the end of this newsletter.

Braehead Way - Road Closure

We have just heard from Aberdeen City Council they have notified us that Braehead Way will be closed from 8.00 a.m. on Thursday 12th March to allow work to be carried out. The work will take place between Braehead Shopping Centre and Gleneagles Drive. This should take 1 day to complete, weather permitting.

The Torcher

The LARGEST student-led parade in Europe, the Torcher Parade is celebrating its 126th birthday! Due to recent changes with the University of Aberdeen's academic calendar, the parade will take place earlier this year on Saturday 28th March 2015 starting from the Gallowgate at 6.30pm.

We want to encourage as many people in Aberdeen to come and watch as over 30 torch bearers lead more than 2000 students in fancy dress on 30 floats around the city centre. Outfits and floats range from silly to outrageous, with stars from "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" rubbing shoulders with the cast of "Harry Potter", all competing for coins! We aim to fundraise as much money as possible which we then disburse to our chosen 37 local charities, including CLAN, The Breadmaker and The Archie Foundation.



RAG TORCHER PARADE 2015

ABDN

Saturday 28th March
Starting from the Gallowgate at 18:30

"Giesapennyaweelgieitaemany!"
Aberdeen RAG supports 37 local charities operating across the North-East of Scotland

@AUSACharities #Torcher2015

World Book Day - Friday 6th March

We had a super assembly to celebrate World Book Day. Lots of children and staff dressed up as their favourite book character. We welcomed Miss Pauline Brown into school from the University of Aberdeen who spoke about her love of books and read one of her favourite stories to the children. Throughout the day children had lots of opportunities to read their books and take part in fun book day activities. Some classes have taken up the Book Day video challenge—check out our Facebook page to see the Nursery children singing ‘it’s all about the books!’



Lidl Health Bus - Friday 6th March

We were delighted to welcome the Lidl Health bus to school to tie in with the work the children have been doing in Health and Well-Being. The Lidl programme aims at highlighting the importance of exercise and also proving that making healthy snacks can be fun – and they taste great too!



All children from P3-P7 had the chance to visit the bus for a fun smoothie making session! Each child was able to take away their very own plastic smoothie cup and a super cook book which has lots of simple recipes for the children to try at home.



Nursery

The boys and girls in Nursery have had great fun learning about Chinese New Year. They tried lovely Chinese food. They ate their snack using chopsticks. It was a bit tricky!



The Dental Nurse has also been in to Nursery to talk about keeping our teeth healthy!



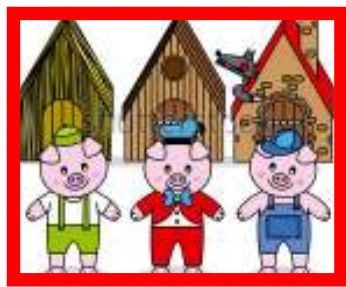
P1

P1 have been learning about Chinese New Year. They made super Chinese dragons. They are also learning about the Water Cycle and how we get water into our homes.



P1/2

P1/2 have also been learning about Chinese New Year. They made super Chinese dragons and are making a giant dragon for the class. The boys and girls wrote fantastic newspaper reports about the Three Little Pigs Disaster!



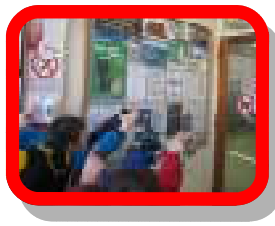
P2/3

P2/3 are learning about their local community. They were very excited when the Police came to visit. The children got to try on the Police equipment and were even allowed to sit in the police car! The siren was very loud! Some of the class went to visit Scotstown Medical Practice where they had the chance to interview the doctors about their job.



P3

The boys and girls visited the residents at Hamewith to sing Scottish songs and recite poems in Scots and Doric. The residents thoroughly enjoyed their visit from P3 and have invited them back. The class also went to the Bible Travellers workshop at the local church where they learned about different Bible Stories. P3 are learning about the local community. They went for a walk to Scotstown library and they invited the dental nurse in to talk about how we can all try to have healthy teeth.



P4

Primary 4 have designed and made super comics. These will be added to our school library for the children to read. The class are also working on a story writing workshop. The theme for their writing is 'Meeting an Alien'. The children are using their knowledge of V.C.O.P skills to enhance their writing including incredible openers, fabulous connectives and amazing vocabulary.



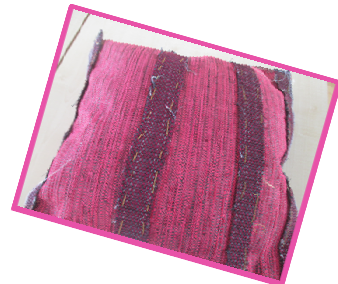
P5

Primary 5 ran a fantastic Fair trade café last week. They planned, organised and ran the event. During the event, the children had Fairtrade quizzes, games and a Fair Trade food and drink tasting station.



P6 & P7

Primary 6 & 7 have been very busy using their mathematical skills and knowledge to design and make their very own cushions. Working with specific criteria each pillow has a symmetrical pattern and is unique in shape and size.



At last the milk bottles have transformed into a reading igloo! Many of our younger boys and girls have had the chance to read a story snuggled up inside.



P6 and P7 have also had a focus on Internet Safety. We have arranged for our local police liaison officer to come in and talk to the children about the serious issues that can arise from mis-using the internet. We are aware that lots of our senior pupils have Facebook accounts and are aware of many other social networking apps. It is becoming increasingly concerning about the amount of inappropriate language and content that the children are being exposed to - I would ask if all parents to be vigilant and monitor what their children are accessing. I've also seen proof of Facebook messages that are of a bullying nature and can be very hurtful to individual children. Although this happens out of school and we have very little control over this it does affect children's learning when they are upset. Again we would appreciate your support in this matter.



Active Schools

Active Schools have asked me to let you all know that the bookings for the Sport Aberdeen Easter Holiday Camps are now open.

You'll find all the info you need here:

<http://www.sportaberdeen.co.uk/activities/kids/holiday-programmes/>

Cults Lawn Tennis Club Easter Camps - I have attached details to this email.

P5 – P7 Girls football = Tuesday's 4:00pm – 5:00pm at the Jesmond; starts Tuesday 3rd March. Please contact Mike Wallace at MiWallace@sportaberdeen.co.uk or on 07825 228177.

Like "Active Schools Bridge of Don" on Facebook and get information like this straight to your newsfeed: <https://www.facebook.com/activeschoolsbridgeofdon?ref=hl>

Aberdeen City Library - Event

Following the successful events held to mark World Book Day Aberdeen City Libraries will hold a family storytime event on World Book Night April 23rd 2015 featuring Linda Strachan author of the "Hamish McHaggis" books.

The event at Aberdeen Central Library will begin at 5pm



RSVP - Big Maths Parent Session Reminder -

Wednesday 18th March @ 2pm and 6pm

I/We will be attending the above session by indicating in the box below.

2.00 p.m.

6.00 p.m.

Neither

Child's Name _____ Child's Class _____

Parent's Signature _____

Triumphant turnaround at Braehead!

A Report by Primary 7

Recently the HM Inspector revisited Braehead School, to see if they had improved from their previous visit in December 2013. The inspectors were extremely impressed with the significant changes in the learning. They were amazed at the high standards of both pupils and staff.

Children are now lots more confident speaking about their learning to their classmates and teachers. They are becoming much better at using what they have learned. For example Primary 7's are able to use their money skills to calculate change to give to customers at the tuckshop they run.

Instead of boring textbooks, children now work in a variety of ways including partners, teams and individually. Technology has also been a big part of the turnaround at Braehead, iPads and computers help children to research independently and to build their internet safety skills.

The whole school is working hard towards improving their mental maths. Children at all stages are practising fast recall of number facts, by using a maths scheme called Big Maths. Children now have access to lots of tools to help them with their spelling and do activities on computers.

There have been lots of enterprising activities happening. Some pupils have been organising and running special events like cafés, which demonstrate the pupils using real life skills. The local community have benefited from these cafes because it lets them see how hard the school has been working. One group of P6 children have been using their maths and technology skills by making an igloo as a reading area for the nursery children.



To help celebrate the successful changes, the school held an open morning for families. There were lots of activities such as Fair Trade café and a word hunt with parents. Letters were placed around the school to highlight different learning children have succeeded in throughout the year. The letter came together to spell **SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS @ BRAEHEAD!**

The initial visit was such a catastrophe that some people were worried that the school couldn't be turned around but the children were able to surprise them by working hard and improving immensely. The school is determined to keep going with their hard work to make sure Braehead is the best it can be!

Term and Holiday Dates Session 2014-2016

Term 3

Thursday 2nd April, 2015 - Last day Term ends

Term 4

Monday 20th April, 2015 - Start of Term

Monday 4th May, 2015 - May Day Holiday

Friday 3rd July, 2015 - Term ends

Term 1

Monday 17th August, 2015 - Staff Return closed to pupils

Tuesday 18th August, 2015 - Pupils return

Friday 9th October 2015 - Term ends

Term 2

Monday 26th October 2015 - Start of Term

Friday 18th December, 2015 - Term ends

Term 3

Wednesday 6th January, 2016 - Start of Term

Monday 15th February, 2016 - Mid Term Holiday

Friday 25th March, 2016 - Good Friday Holiday

Friday 1st April, 2016 - Term ends

Term 4

Monday 18th April, 2016 - Start of Term

Monday 2nd May, 2016 - May Day Holiday

Friday 1st July, 2016 - Term ends

Term 1

Monday 15th August, 2016 - Staff Return closed to pupils

Tuesday 16th August, 2016 - Pupils return

Friday 7th October, 2016 - Term ends

Term 2

Monday 24th October 2016 - Start of Term

Friday 23rd December, 2016 - Term ends

In-Service days for session 2014-15

Friday 1st May, 2015

These dates are correct as at date of print