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| **Walker Road School**  **November / December 2014** |
| **School News**  Hello  Well here we are in November and the countdown to Christmas has started! The time between the Bonfire night celebrations and the Christmas celebrations seem to be getting shorter and shorter.  The Christmas dates have been firmed up and updated in the dates for the diary section so keep that somewhere safe! |
| **So …what’s been happening?**  **Hello to …..**  Miss Bronagh Gaynor who has come all the way from Ireland to teach at Walker Road!. She has taken over the class previously taught in a jobshare fashion by Miss Munro and Miss Graham. We look forward to working with her over the next few years.  **Grounds for Learning**  Hopefully by the time you get this letter the playground will be completed by the final fitting of the fence across the Nursery entrance. This will allow our children to access both playgrounds and have a ‘free flow’ situation. This will be a welcome close to a very long project but will allow for the planning of teaching and learning in the playground to be done more thoroughly. The children are already enjoying learning in our outside environment, something we are keen to develop future in the coming months. Our leads in this , since Mrs Connon has gone off to have her baby, are Miss Stacy Stewart and Miss Eilidh Munro  **Painting classrooms**  I am pleased to announce that all the classrooms on the top floor have been painted and very fresh and clean they look to. It always makes a difference to the way the children work if they are coming into a bright pleasing environment. I hope to have the rest of the classrooms on the middle floor painted in the April break along with the corridor to the gym hall. I am also making plans to put bright clean more efficient roller blinds into every classroom which should make a great difference to being able to see the interactive whiteboards.  **Office** **renovation and move**  The office is moving along though it does not look to be finished for at least another two to three weeks. Can I just say again a great big thank you to all for their patience in this trying time and a thank you to the workmen who have been very professional in the way they have gone about their business.  **Drumming expert!**  Well done to P6’s Liam Sim who is currently competing at international level in drumming. He has worked so hard and has gained so much experience and is currently ranked 8th. An amazing achievement.  **Tennis**  The P3s went along to the Torry Sports centre to take part in a tennis taster as part of the charity work of Give It Your Max foundation. The P3s will be offered tennis coaching after school and those not able to be given a place will have access to tennis coaching within school.  **Cinema**  As you are aware the children went along to see some fabulous films at the cinema  Box Trolls, Muppets Most Wanted and the Gruffalo. The children had a great time, even the children who got wet on the terrible day of rain, and there has been a lot of literacy work and discussion had from this trip. We are always looking for great ways to stimulate our children and their interest in literacy.  **A New Friend**  A new lady, who replaces Katrina Blackwood, came along to help us with our relations with the local churches by coming along to do her first assembly with the P1s and 2s. We welcome to the Walker Road Team Mrs Katy Fraser. Both she and the children had a great time!  **Flu injections**  Most of the children in school have had their Flu immunisation done and all were very brave – well done!  **Visitors from Latvia**  We were very privileged to have three Head Teachers across form Latvia to look at our school and discover how we teach our curriculum and how our children learn. They were met by a small group of Latvian children and to their great surprise, and hers, discovered that Samanta Lauga was greeting her Head teacher from her old school in Latvia. They had a great chance to catch up! The visitors were very impressed with our school and the way our children learn and behave. Well done Walker Road!  **Super Hero day**  Another fun day was had by all raising money for the Children in need charity. We either, dressed up as a super hero or came as we pleased. The new events committee , in P 7 organised the day and were very successful in raising £500 for this wonderful charity  **Bailey’s Bingo Business**  A wonderful night was had last week at Baileys Bingos Night. This event was again organised by our very busy P7 activities committee in order to raise funds for their activities week later on in the session. Bailey did a grand job calling out all the numbers and the rest of the children were great in keeping the evening going, giving out prizes and making teas, coffees and juice for all. A great night and I look forward to having more nights like this. Well done P7!  **Sainsbury’s Enterprise**  The school is currently working with Sainsbury’s to share ideas/activities in Literacy and Numeracy with P4 and P5. The P6s took part in a mini Dragons’ Den.  **Feedback from P1**  Thank you to all our P1 parents who completed the Induction Survey.  We value all feedback, as this helps us to improve arrangements in the future.  Key Findings/Actions:   * Almost all those who completed the survey thought their child benefited from the visits to P1 before the summer and we hope to increase number visits next year. * All found the P1 induction meeting in June informative. * The curriculum workshop was not well attended but those who attended found it useful.  We intend to review the times for this event and offer a day and evening session to include more families. * Almost all parents/carers thought the set up for their child’s first day was acceptable but that lines could be better organised.  We will pay careful consideration to this in August 2015. |
| **Still to come**  **Big Noise News**  We have been in meetings with the new Big Noise coordinators in Torry Lorna Horn and Masrtitza Patino Suarez. They are now at the stage of interviewing for the instructors who will be working with our children. These interviews will take place at Walker Road in the next few weeks. This is such an exciting initiative and it is lovely to see it beginning to take shape!  **Christmas Disco**  The P7’s have been working closely with two members of the Parent Council / PTA Mrs Yates and Mrs Burnett in order to organise their P7 disco for the whole school  They said that it has been fun to organise this disco and we are looking forward to making this the best disco ever. We thank Mrs Yates and Mrs Burnett for coming to help us to organise this disco. It is going to happen on Tuesday 16th December and the times are  P1-3 6.15 – 7.15 pm  P4-7 7.30 – 8.45 pm  We are selling tickets at the door and hope you all come.  **Christmas Jumper Day**  Remember to put on your favourite Christmas Jumper on the 12th of December which is the National Christmas Jumper day! We will be joining the rest of the country in this great fun way of raising money for charity.  **PSQM award**  The Science team have been working very hard on collecting evidence for the Primary Science Quality Mark which shows our school is at Bronze Level. We will be beginning our work for Silver in the summer term and we look forward to sharing some of our Science ideas with you. Well done to Mrs MacDonald for her hard work in pulling together our profile. We will be getting a certificate on Tuesday 9th December at Aberdeen Art Gallery. |
| **And finally ….**  **Winter weather is acoming!**  Can we again please remind you that it is essential for all pupils to come to school with a waterproof and warm jacket. This is particularly true as we enter the time of year when there is a likelihood of wet windy weather and all too soon, snow.  Can I remind you that in the unlikely event that we have to close Walker Road School because of snow we will, of course ,keep you informed by   * Groupcall * The school information line – phone 0870 054 1999, the school Pin number is 011720 * Through the Aberdeen city website at [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closures/](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closures/)   **Lost property**  We are continuing to try and keep on top of our lost property this year I would ask you to ensure that your child checks the lost property for any items they feel that might be theirs **by Thursday 18th of December . After that date we will clear the lost property.** Please make sure that this important job is done by your child or yourself before that date.  **Head Lice**  We have had a number of cases recently of head lice in school and the nursery. Please check your child’s head regularly and treat if necessary. Your local chemist will be able to supply you with lotion and advice. Please also contact the school office so that all cases are recorded.  **Crossing Patrol**  Good News! Our Lollypop lady June is to return to work on Wednesday 3rd December.  **Dates for the diary**  Just a reminder that we have many important events coming up in the next month such as Christmas events. Please look out for these dates in the diary on **page 5.**  As always we welcome any comments on the communication you get through this newsletter as we are always looking to improve and we value your opinions. Please feel free to feedback to us any comments you may have by email  [walkerroad@aberdeencity.gov/uk](mailto:walkerroad@aberdeencity.gov/uk) or by letter    Kind regards  **Jill Merchant**  Head Teacher |
| **Walker Road Parent Group**  *The past month has been extremely busy time for the Parent Council and PTA with the first major event being the Halloween Disco.****268****pupils went to the disco across all age groups and the fantastic sum of****£332.39  profit was made****– this money will help in funding future events throughout the school year.*  *There was a survey sent to parents on the disco and at our next meeting results will be analysed and any feedback given will be taken into account for future events moving forward.*  *Unfortunately there will be no Christmas fayre this year due to the reformation of the Parents Council and PTA but do not be disheartened as this is firmly on our 2015 calendar.*  *For anyone interested the next meeting with Parent Council is*[*Tuesday 2ndDecember at 6pm*](x-apple-data-detectors://11)*in the staffroom and all parents are welcome.  It is your school so please feel free to come and let us know what we can improve upon for everyone involved with the school.*  *Finally it just remains for both the Parent Council and PTA to wish all involved with the school a very merry Christmas and prosperous 2015.*  *Thanks and Best Wishes*    **Chris Harrison**  **Chair person** |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Dates for the Diary**  **Session 2014/15** | | | | | **Date** | **Event** | **Time** | **Location** | | Tuesday 2nd December 2014 | P1 and 2 Nativity show – Busy Busy Bethlehem | 9.30 am | Gym Hall | | Parent Council / PTA Meeting – all welcome | 6.00 pm | Staff Room | | Wednesday 3rd December 2014 | P1 and 2 Nativity show Busy Busy Bethlehem | 1.30 pm | Gym Hall | | Thursday 4th December 2014 | P1 and 2 Nativity show Busy Busy Bethlehem | 9.30 am | Gym Hall | | Tuesday 9th December 2014 | P3-7 pantomime – Porridge | 1.30pm | Gym Hall | | Wednesday 10th December 2014 | P1 & 2 to see Frozen at the cinema  P3-7 pantomime – Porridge | AM  7.00 pm | Gym Hall | | Thursday 11th December 2014 | P3-7 pantomime – Porridge | 9.30am | Gym Hall | | Friday 12th December 2014 | P5-7 to see Arthur Christmas in the cinema | AM | Cinema | | Christmas party – P2 | AM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | Christmas party– P1 | PM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | Christmas Jumper day | All day | Whole School | | Monday 15th December 2014 | P3&4 to see Arthur Christmas in the cinema | AM | Cinema | | Christmas party – P4 Party clothes should be worn | PM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | Tuesday 16th December 2014 | Christmas Lunch – School Dinners | Lunchtime | Dinner Hall | | Christmas party – P5 Party clothes should be worn | PM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | Christmas Disco – run by the P7 Events committee  P 1-3  P4-7 | 6.15 7.30  7.30-8.45 | Gym Hall | | Wednesday 17th December 2014 | Christmas party – P3– Party clothes should be worn | PM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | Thursday 18th December 2014 | Christmas party – P6, 6/7, 7 Party clothes should be worn | PM | Classroom / Gym Hall | | **Friday 19th December 2014** | Christmas Service in Torry St Fitticks  **Term Ends** | AM | Whole school | | **Monday 5th January 2015** | * **Term Starts** | **9.00 am** | **Whole school** | |  | | | | |