

November
2015

BURNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter Update

We are now into the second term and the school improvement priorities are beginning to have a measurable impact on children's learning within the school. Our focus on a new approach to accelerating learning and progression will be with you shortly via the work wallets. We would ask you to please comment on this approach so we can keep improving. Our focus on GRIT (Get Really Into Trying) has ensured all children are able to share a common language towards difficult and challenging work. The use of the school aims flower is now used in every aspect of school life and we have worked very hard to ensure the aims are more than just something which sits in a folder and informs and improves every aspect of school life. Please continue to support us by using the language in the flower (school aims) when speaking to your children about school which will help us continue to progress. Our "positive attitude to learning" target is also showing a measurable improvement, with two classes sampled, showing improvement in every aspect of the questionnaire. This has been affected by our whole school assemblies and protected time each week to talk about learning. We are all invested in building confident children who see themselves as learners and able to learn anything, anytime, anywhere. Feedback will be discussed at the upcoming INSET days (professional development for staff) and we will keep you updated of our progress. Thanks you for your continued support in helping us to improve and make this part of Scotland the best place in the world for children to grow up.

Nicky Murray—Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—QUICK REMINDERS

19.11.15	Parents' Evening 6.00—8.30 pm (not P6B)
23.11.15	Parents' Evening 6.00—8.30 pm (P6B only)
23.11.15	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm
25.11.15	Parents' Evening 4.00—6.30 pm
26.11.15	School closed to pupils—INSET 2
27.11.15	School closed to pupils—INSET 3
30.11.15	St Andrews Day Holiday—school closed
09.12.15	M&M Panto for P1-7 pupils 1.45 pm
10.12.15	School Christmas Lunch for pupils
18.12.15	Church Service—St Annes—10.00 am
22.12.15	School closes for holiday at end of day, returning Thursday 7 January 2016

MRS SMITH—HELLO FROM DUBAI

Mrs Smith has e-mailed to say a huge 'Thank you' for all the kind messages, cards and gifts she received when she left us to start her new adventure in Dubai.

She sends her best wishes to everyone at Burnside and says she was sad to leave here after such a long time. The family have settled in well to their new life in Dubai and are adjusting to the early mornings, as school there starts at 7.40 am!

HEAD LICE

Every now and again head lice becomes an issue in school. In the past a letter was issued to all the parents of the children in the class alerting them to this. On quite clear and direct advice from our colleagues in the NHS this will no longer happen. Their advice is simply to check hair regularly. Further information on this can be obtained from your local Health Centre. They will provide you with detailed, accurate and up to date information.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!



We are always focused on developing our curriculum. Due to the unique situation of being a Public/Private Partnership school, we are being creative with food preparation opportunities and facilities. As we put together a pathway, we are also looking for any parent who has links with supermarkets and restaurants to offer us support in creating opportunities for children to have hands-on experience and learn about food technology. Please drop us a little note or an e-mail to help us develop these opportunities.



PUPIL ABSENCE - REMINDER

If your child is unable to attend school through illness please telephone the school between 8.30 am and 9.30 am on each day of his/her absence. Tel 01241 803472. Or if you prefer, you could email the school with this information. burnside@burnside.angus.sch.uk. Many thanks.

FLU IMMUNISATION

Further to the immunisations carried out recently, your child will have received a slip if they were immunised. Please contact the Health Centre if your child wasn't immunised at school and you wish to make an appointment for them to have immunisation at the Health Centre.

Classroom News

Nursery We are still excited about seeing fireworks on Bonfire Night. We have had opportunities to recreate our experiences in various forms—transient art activities; using the paint programme on the computer; using real paint and various techniques such as splatter painting and stamping; using sparkly/shiny/glittery collage materials; adults are writing down our stories to record our thoughts and to give meaning to our pictures.

P1A, P1B and P1C We had a great trip to the recent Dundee Film Festival. We were responsible and safe on the bus and we enjoyed the 9 short films we saw. Each class has also recently received a very special parcel from the moon. It included a letter, books and a moon. We are going to be learning about the differences between night and day, learning about sun, moon and stars and animals which come out at night.

P2A and P2B During our topic time we are looking at plans and mapping. We have made a plan of the school grounds. We hope to extend our mapping to include the wider community. We enjoyed Hallowe'en activities and wearing our fancy dress costumes.

P2/3C, P3A and P3B We have enjoyed taking our learning outdoors to explore the Millennium Forest looking for signs of Autumn and investigating leaves and seeds. We talked about seed dispersal and had fun with sycamore seeds, seeing how far the 'helicopters' could travel in the wind.

P4A and P4B This term we will be learning what life was like for children during Victorian times. We will find out more about Queen Victoria, including making timelines. We will discover what life was like at home, school and for a lot of children work! During this topic we will be using non-fiction books to help us find out information and developing our note-taking skills. Both classes are lucky enough to have parent helpers working with us this term. P4A have Mrs Hirst on a Tuesday and P4B have Mrs McLaren on a Friday. We are loving having them with us.

P5A and P5B Primary 5's will be investigating Scotland during their next topic. This will include a focus on historical events in Scotland and their impact on society today. We will also be learning about geographical and cultural aspects of Scotland including map skills, tourist information, landscapes, Scottish poetry, Scottish artists and much more. Thank you for your involvement from home—we are looking forward to researching what the children want to learn.

P6A and P6B This term both primary 6 classes have been involved in Fairtrade learning and had responsibility for running the 'Fairtrade Café' at the Parent Council Christmas Fayre. Food vocabulary in French will be covered this term. Our topic is Space and the classes will be learning about the features of the solar system.

P7A and P7B P7 have a busy term planned. We have a variety of transition visits to Carnoustie High School and have already welcomed the transition teacher into our classrooms. We have launched our Peer Mediation Service in our playground and members of the choir are busy rehearsing. This term our topic is a health topic 'Body in Balance'. We will be learning about body systems and organs and how to maintain good physical, emotional and social health.

The Den The Den have explored ways of how we can keep safe indoors and outdoors, finding out how to stay safe at bonfire night and being around fireworks. The children make colourful fireworks pictures using salt and paint, exploring textures and patterns as well as ensuring we listened carefully to the instructions. We have really enjoyed making snack and baking, working as a team to achieve tasty results.

BURNSIDE PARENT COUNCIL XMAS FAYRE

Many thanks to all the parents who supported our Xmas Fayre on Thursday 12 November. It was a huge success! Christmas Raffle Tickets will be sent home soon and the total amount raised will be announced after the draw has been made.

