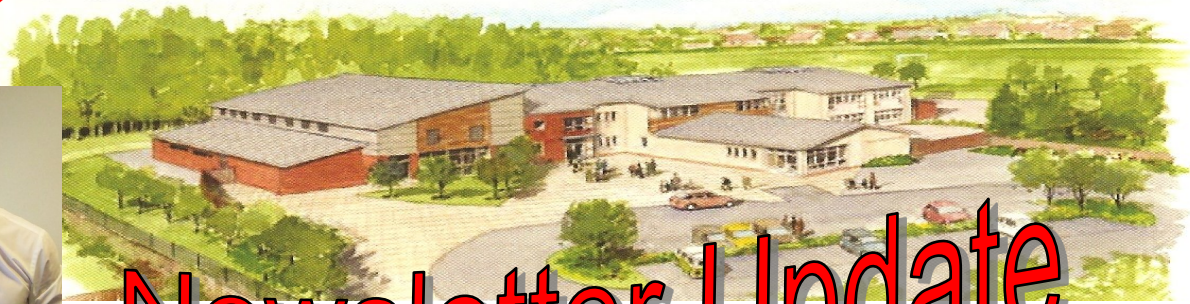


January
2017

BURNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter Update

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community for their support and helping our school continue to grow. Next week will mark the second year of my time as Head Teacher at Burnside. In two short years, thanks to your efforts and support, we have introduced GRIT (a whole school focus on effort and not giving up), our school aims flower, cold/hot tasks in our work wallets and assemblies with a focus on learning. We have also delivered for the last two years our highest recorded standards of attainment results. A huge thank you for your support. Our outstanding teachers, support staff and Nursery have all made a massive contribution to these results and it really is a community success. This year, we are building our ability to know exactly what your children can and cannot do and what we need to do to correct the misunderstandings they might have in maths, reading and writing. We look forward to welcoming you on World Book Day, sharing our learning and we will be asking for your views on areas of our work to keep us moving forward. We have also made sure every class has a quality French experience provided by Mrs Ching. This new lesson experience is in keeping with the Government requirement all children will be learning another language (and P5-7 will be learning two) by 2020. We are now delighted to announce we are a "Mandarin Hub" and one of 12 primary hubs in Scotland. Mrs Liu has already started to teach Mandarin Chinese to all classes and we will be launching our hub in a special event over the next several months. Please keep an eye open for the invitation.

Our projected whole school attainment sits at 92% and 93% for maths and literacy this year. This is a figure we are very proud of, considering we now have close to 500 children (set to rise this year) coming through our doors each day. Next year's focus will include work on digital technologies and we are already starting to build our staff confidence by seven members of our team attending film education courses after the school day finishes. Lights, camera, action! We have introduced whole school stuck strategies which your children will talk to you about in time. We want everyone to be able to use these strategies to meet the challenge of difficult work and we will be asking for your help with this in a separate flyer. A big thank you to all our teachers who support lunch time clubs and after school clubs. The lights of our school are often on well into the evening and this shows anyone driving up and down Thomas Street how much time and effort our teachers put into making sure all our children fulfil their potential each and every day here. We continue to support all our children through our dedicated team and our continued use of partnerships: Social Work, health centre/GP surgery, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, CAMHS and hearing impaired teams to do our very best to Get it Right for Every Child who attends our school. Our successful performances in local and national competitions continues to be a feature of our school tradition.

The current Parent Council and I are working hard to develop their role in moving us forward. We have or are developing new partnerships with AWARE (Womens Aid - domestic violence support), Edinburgh zoo (Mandarin), Angus Foodbank and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The last partnership will result in a partnership morning in May so watch this space for further details. We would like the Parent Council to drive forward these partnerships and share with you the impact these are having on your children. Our recent consultation on what skills you would like us to consider teaching as a community is underway and our health and wellbeing working group will be in contact with you again shortly.

This year I have been appointed Chair of the cluster schools and our work will enable us to make a massive contribution to the local schools in the area, preparing all our children for a high quality learning experience at Carnoustie High School. This week we will send home our annual questionnaire and we are hoping for a high return of these (111 last year) and are setting the ambitious target of being one of the few schools in Angus to achieve 100% in as many question responses as possible. Please use the comments section to give us feedback if you have anything you would like me to take forward and work with our team. Once again thank you on behalf of our team for your time, attention, effort, support and contribution.

Mr N Murray—Head Teacher

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please ensure that school lunches are paid on or before they are taken.

All P1-3 pupils are entitled to a free lunch and if parents are in receipt of certain benefits then they may be entitled to free lunches for P4-7 children if you apply via the ACCESS Office.

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.

Classroom News

Nursery We are developing children's listening and talking skills through 'show and tell'. Through familiar stories such as Rainbow Fish, we are developing awareness of our school aim 'Respect' for others. Pre-schoolers have started visiting the library as part of transition and becoming familiar with other areas of the school.

P1A, P1B and P1C We are looking forward to exploring our new topic, all about 'people who help us'. We are hoping some family members can come in to talk to us about their jobs, to help us with our learning. We have also started learning our Scottish poem 'The Circus' and are looking forward to reciting it soon.

P2A and P2B Primary 2 have settled in well after our Christmas break and are enjoying our Scottish activities in the class. We are trying really hard to learn our Gruffalo Scots poem and have been practising in class. We are looking forward to our Space topic and working on our writing for World Book Day.

P3A and P3B Our topic this term is Scotland. We will be learning a Scottish poem and will enjoy looking into Scottish culture through music, dance and song. We will also look at the work of a local artist and author.

P3/4C, P4A and P4B We all enjoyed visiting Ancrum Road Primary School and experiencing being a child in a Victorian classroom. There were many interesting Victorian artefacts for us to explore and discuss in Verdant Works, Dundee. After beginning our Mandarin lessons with Mrs Liu we are looking forward to comparing life of those people in China during our China topic. We will be hosting a Burns Day on Thursday 9 February. An invitation will be sent out shortly.

P5A and P5B In January P5 will be learning about Scottish culture. We will be listening to Scots dialect and performing Scottish dances. We are hosting a Burns Supper on Thursday 9 February—more information to follow. Our new topic in February will be 'China'. Any books, materials, artefacts or pictures that will help us to learn about Chinese culture and lifestyles will be greatly welcomed. Mrs Liu, our Mandarin Teacher, will be visiting the classes weekly to help us learn more about China too.

P6A and P6B This term P6A/6B will be exploring 'The Home Front' during WW2. If your family have any artefacts relating to WW2 please bring them in for class discussion. P6s will also be doing a film study based on WW2 and will have experience of filming and drama. Children have been given a Scottish poem to learn for homework and we will celebrate Burns by having an afternoon of Scottish dance and food tasting. Children will also take part in 'Heartstart' training this session.

P7A and P7B Primary 7 will be travelling through time this term! Our travels will take us on a tour of significant events in Scottish history and our imaginations will travel forward in time while writing our World Book Day novel. We are now learning Mandarin as well as French and, during our mile runs, we are to be touring Europe, learning about the language, culture and food of the countries we visit—first stop Paris!

The Den The Den are learning about Percy the park Keeper and how he helps his friends. We are looking at different ways of helping each other and working co-operatively with our activities.

BURNSIDE PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP



All welcome to join us on Wednesday/Thursday/Friday mornings from 9.00—11.30 am.

KAREN BALL (07510644222) FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—QUICK REMINDERS

16.01.17	P1 Registration Week
10.02.17	Mid Term Holiday
13.02.17	Mid Term Holiday
14.02.17	In Service Training Day for Staff
02.03.17	World Book Day / Book Fair
10.03.17	Work Wallets home
17.03.17	Work Wallets to be returned
22.03.17	Dalguise Trip Meeting 7.00 pm
29.03.17	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm
30.03.17	Easter Service—10.00 am
31.03.17	School closes at normal time for Easter Holiday
18.04.17	Start of Summer Term
25.04.17	P7 Activity Week
01.05.17	May Day Holiday
23.05.17	Parent Council Meeting 7.00 pm
29.05.17	In Service Training Day for Staff
30.06.17	School closes at normal time for Summer Holiday

