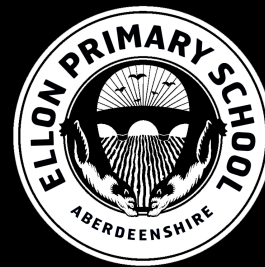


ELLON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Newsletter

December 13



## Christmas Extravaganza

There was a wonderful turn-out on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December for our annual fair which was organised by our very active Parent Council. We thank them for their organisation of this event. The children from P4 – P7, with their teachers, ran enterprise stalls selling lots of Christmas decorations, tasty treats and drinks and even some plants. All classes are pleased with sales on the day and look forward to deciding together how they will spend their profit on items for learning either in the classroom or the school. The Parent Council have raised in the region of £2000 which will be fed back into the school over the session.



## Hot Toast



Toast has been for sale on Fridays for a few weeks now from the main school door. A slice costs 20p and proceeds go to school funds. Mr Fyfe, our Friday DHT, is running this initiative.

## Car Park

Thank you to all parents who have made a detour to avoid entering the car park while the building work has been going on. We

appreciate that it is a longer walk but much safer by far. Please continue to make that detour after the building work is complete and encourage your children not to use the car park entrance.

## Window Replacement and Internal Work

The window replacement work is almost complete. Over the holidays we expect to see the blinds installed in the classrooms and the curtains put back up. Internally, further work continues as the staffroom gets turned into a reprographics room and first-aid area. The teachers will soon be able to use their new staffroom which has been relocated to the library. Our new middle and upper stages library will be developed over the year and will be located in one of our upstairs rooms.

## Djembe Drumming



The P4s to P6/7s have been enjoying some drumming classes and will continue to do so in January and February. The sessions have been organised by the Youth Music Initiative and delivered by the company Drumfun and Singing Trees. The children use traditional djembe drums and together are developing their understanding of beat and rhythm through fun activities. Steve, their instructor, is a lively character who helps the children make as much noise as they possibly can but in a very controlled way. If anyone asks Santa for a drum for Christmas, you'll know why!

## School Vision, Values and Aims

Thank you to the parents and community representatives who attended our meeting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. We had some

valuable discussion about Ellon Primary as a school that teaches the skills and attributes that are needed for pupils of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Kids' Council is now in the process of collecting ideas from all the children in the school. Once this has been done, we will create a vision statement based on those values and then run a competition for a motto that encompasses all the ideas we have collected. If you were not able to attend our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, but would like to contribute, please look out for an email in January.

### **Christmas Concerts and Parties**

The Christmas parties have already started with many classes having had great fun singing, dancing and playing games. On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, we had two showings of the Pantomime 'Cinderella' presented by M and M Theatrical. The children really enjoyed singing along and joining in. Huge thanks to the Parent Council for contributing £1 per head towards the cost of the panto.

The P1 – P3 concerts will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. For any child who normally gets the service bus home on Mondays, please make alternative arrangements for your children on that day as the concert may run over 3:15.

### **Filming of Concerts**

On this occasion, we will not be filming the P1 – 3 concerts. However, you are welcome to take photographs or film of your own. Please refer to the consent form accessible at this link for guidance:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/Ellon/files/2012/03/PhotoConsentFormMarch113.doc>

If you have not already done so, please sign and return the form to the school office. Also, remember that it is important not to distract the children nor impede the view of others while filming or taking photos.

### **Donations**

Thank you very much to the company Nexen Oil for their kind donation of £500 which they gave to the Parent Council in lieu of sending Christmas Cards. This contribution is very much appreciated.

### **Standardised Assessments**

P1s and P5s have undergone a standardised assessment with P3s and P7s following later in the year. These assessments help to support the teachers' judgements of pupil progress and help them to plan next steps with the children. Please use this link to access an explanatory leaflet about standardised assessments in use across Aberdeenshire.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/Ellon/files/2012/03/Standardised-Assessment-Leaflet-for-parents.pdf>

### **Survey – Innovation and Creativity**

Thank you to parents for their contribution to our survey conducted in October. The results have now been collated, along with those of staff and pupils. We will keep you up to date with any amendments or changes we make as a result.

### **Travelling Book Fair**

Thank you to all who bought at our recent book fair. We raised £520 which will be used to supplement our reading materials in the school.

### **Staffing**

This Christmas we say goodbye to Mrs Ramsey who leaves us to take up her post as Early Years Coordinating Teacher. We wish her all the best in this new job and look forward to seeing her in her different capacity as she visits the schools in the area. P1 parents will be kept up to date with staff changes.

### **Christmas Holidays**

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Until then, may we wish you a very restful and peaceful Christmas from all at Ellon Primary.

