

Fettercairn Primary Newsletter



January 2023

Happy New Year!

As ever, last term was a flurry of activity! We had two days of In-service training for the teachers on 17th and 18th November. All the staff attended training about Big Writing. We intend to follow this up on the in-services in February.

Mr I Clarke
Head Teacher

Parent Interviews

In November the staff arranged Parent interviews to discuss your child's progress. If you have been unable to attend please contact the school to arrange an interview at a convenient time. If you wish to speak with any member of staff please just contact us.

Poppy Appeal

This year the school and community collected £160.34 in support of our service men and women. We would like to thank all those who contributed to this wonderful cause.

Pantomime

I would like to thank the Parent Council for organising and contributing to the payment of the Pantomime trip to Webster Theatre. The children thoroughly enjoyed it.

Christmas Tree

This year's school Christmas tree was again kindly donated by the Mr. S. Pettersen. We would like to thank him for this kind gesture.

Christmas Show

We had a very successful Christmas Show in the church on Thursday 15th December. The children worked very hard on their parts, songs and routines. I would like to thank them for all their hard work. I would also like to thank P6/7 and the staff for the time spent developing the show. I would also like to thank you the parents for all your support and kind comments, it is really appreciated. It never ceases to amaze me how well the children do in learning all the songs and performing in front of an audience. Well done to them and the staff for organising this.

Seesaw

As you will have seen from previous correspondence schools in Aberdeenshire are no longer able to use Seesaw, due to data protection issues. Presently we are looking at alternative methods of communicating with you and showing you the children's work. For now, we will be communicating directly through email, see emails below. Also, we are reverting back to Curriculum News twice a term that will come out through email. The first one is attached below./

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HT	ian.clarke@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	
PT	ian.cormack@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	
P1 Teachers	aristida.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk elsepth.duffin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Mon-Wednesday Thursday and Friday
P2/3 Teachers	danielle.strachan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk cheryl.davie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Tuesday-Friday Monday only
P4/5 Teacher	jodi.riley@aberdeenshire.gov.uk cheryl.davie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Monday, Wednesday-Friday Tuesday only
P6/7	erin.robby@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	

Extra-Curricular Activities

Last term we ran our Dodgeball Club, Morning Multi-sports for P1-4, Film club and an Art Club. Thank you to Mr Cormack, Miss Robbie, Miss Riley, Mrs Strachan, Mrs Gatherum and Mrs Armstrong for supporting these clubs. Alongside these after school clubs we had a Dance, Choir, Art, Coding and Nature/Harry Potter Clubs at lunchtime run by children. A big thank you to all those who run and support these clubs.

Here at Fettercairn we have very industrious and hard-working pupils who compete and take part in many different activities. In the whole of the cluster, we have the greatest percentage of pupils attending Active School run clubs, which is amazing and something that should be celebrated. If we look just across our school, we have 97.5% of pupils attending an extra-curricular club run by staff or children. This is also amazing! Well done everyone for attending and for those people who offer these extra opportunities for learning new and different skills.

All Round Success

At school we love hearing about what happens in the children's lives and celebrating their achievements. If your child has gone up a level in swimming, been the best player in a football match, taken part in a competition, received a badge at cubs/brownies, then we would like to know. Send in a picture or certificate and we will take a picture and put it up on our achievement wall with a small explanation for all pupils, staff and visitors to see.

World Book Day

P2/3 are organising activities for World Book Day this year, which is on Thursday 2nd March 2023. One of the activities we are organising is a 'bring and buy' stall so that we can raise money for each class to buy new story books. If you have any books or toys that are no longer used and you would like to donate them to be sold on our stall please can you send them in to school by Friday 24th February 2023.

More information about our World Book Day to follow nearer the time.

Fettercairn's Got Talent

This term usually sees our annual Talent Show. For those of you who are not aware of this we have four different entry types, Nursery, Individual P1-3, Individual P4-7 and Groups. A child can enter individually and/or part of a group.

This year we will be returning to in person performances and invite you the parents to come and watch the show on Thursday 30th March at 1.45pm. We will put more information out closer to the time.

Emergency Contacts

It is very important that you keep all your details up to date with the school, just in case we need to contact you about anything. Please if you have recently changed mobile etc. let us know so we can update our records. Also up-to-date emails are required./

Medical

Please can I remind you that school is not a good place for your child if they are unwell. If your child is ill, please keep them at home until the symptoms subside. If they have been physically sick/diarrhoea then they should not be back in school until 48hours after the last bout of illness.

Can I also request that you phone or email the school before 9.30am to inform us if your child is not going to attend school and please give us a reason why they are unable to attend.

SNOW PROCEDURE

In times of severe weather, it is sometimes necessary for the school to remain closed. This decision is made as soon as it is evident that pupils and staff may be putting themselves at risk by travelling to school. The decision is not taken lightly by any Head Teacher and in the event that the weather does turn inclement I will be liaising with the transport companies, members of staff and Mearns Academy before making my decision. Occasionally parents feel that the conditions in their area do not justify us closing but we hope that you can appreciate that we have to make an overall judgement that covers many miles and that at the time the decision was made, it was the right decision for all concerned.

listen to the radio stations
BBC Scotland, Northsound
Or

Go onto the internet on <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/school-closures>

We understand and share your frustration on these days but are at the mercy of the weather I'm afraid. The staff are prepared for these, having identified work that is to be carried out at home, should the school be closed.

Dates for your Diaries

Term 3	
11/01/23	Burns poems out
23/01/23	School Newsletter out
31/01/23	Burns Judging
09,10 & 13/02/23	School Closed
14&15/02/23	In-service
02/03/23	World Book Day
27/03/23	School and Curriculum newsletter out
30/03/23	School talent show

Curriculum News

P1/2

In Numeracy P2 are using all addition and subtraction to 20 facts to solve problems. Then we are going to work with numbers to 100. P1 are building on addition to 10 facts and will learn their first strategies for adding quickly. (i.e. if you add 1 to any number, you get the number after; adding zero doesn't change numbers; always start from the larger number, check for doubles).

We are also learning about time in Maths and have been thinking about the seasons. P1 have been practising their days of the week, and P2 months of the year. Families could really help with this by talking about what activities they will do on different days, which months birthdays are in etc. P.1 will be learning to tell the time on the hour, and P2 will cover half past the hour and durations of time.

In Literacy P1 have finally got to the end of their single letter sounds and will be revising all of them along with their letter formation. We will begin to learn sounds made of 2 letters, read cvc words and recognise some high frequency words. P2 are learning about verbs in Grammar and will be finding out about past, present and future. They also began working on improving their comprehension, answering different types of questions about their reading books.

In French we have been enjoying a number of games to help us learn colours and we will be continuing to use these. In our Art lessons we are looking at different works from Aberdeen Art Gallery, starting with 'Afterglow', a lovely winter painting by Joseph Farquharson, painted in the forest of Birse on the Finzean estate. If you are in Aberdeen, pop into the Art Gallery to see it.

We started a mini topic about Scotland where we were learning about the world around us, Robert Burns, Scottish food and listening to Scots language. This will lead us into our next topic where we will investigate where our food comes from, including talking about seasons, local food, sources and healthy diet. If any parents would like to come and to the class on any of the topics, they would be most welcome!

P2/3 Term 3

In numeracy this term we will be focusing on subtraction. The children will be carrying out either 2-digit, 3-digit or 4-digit subtraction sums, using the correct mathematical vocabulary. We will be learning different strategies to support us i.e., using concrete materials, counting back on a number line/number square whilst also building our mental agility skills through active learning activities. To support the children with their learning you can write out sums for them to answer, ask them sums to work out in their head or they can play interactive games on a device such as - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/subtraction-grids>. In mathematics this term we will be learning money. Our addition and subtraction skills will help us with our learning in money.

In literacy, we will be developing our writing skills through developing our ability to use a variety of openers, connectives and extending our vocabulary that we can use in our writing. We will also be improving our punctuation skills, understanding where and when you can use a comma, exclamation mark and question mark. Our topic this term is Julia Donaldson stories therefore we will use these to explore 'Wow' words which we can use in our own writing./

In Health and Wellbeing, we will be discussing our growing bodies and what the correct names for parts of our bodies are. We will also be discussing that my body belongs to me and learning the importance of personal space. In P.E. we will be participating in Scottish Country Dancing and then we will be learning gymnastics and how we can link actions and skills to create movement patterns and sequences.

Primary 4-5 Curriculum News

In numeracy this term, Primary 4-5 have been practicing their multiplication and are next moving on to division with Miss Riley. This has and will involve lots of practice of times tables and the children are working really hard on this. The children will be learning about money with Miss Davie. This involves identifying coins and notes, using combinations of coins and notes to give change and demonstrating awareness of the use of digital technologies to pay for goods. The children will then be moving on to fractions, decimals and percentages.

In literacy, Primary 4-5 will be doing reflective reading with Miss Davie using Robert Burns' poem – To A Louse. They will continue to answer questions and carry out higher order thinking tasks on their reading books with Miss Riley weekly. The class are learning their Burns Poems and we will continue to watch Newsround most days and discuss relevant stories. The children are working on responding respectfully to their peers in these situations. For writing this term, Primary 4-5 will be researching and using their notes to create non-fiction texts. Later in the term, we will be moving on to writing newspaper reports and identifying the features of these.

In health and wellbeing, the class are working on 'me and my relationships'. This identifies the children's important people in their lives and how to make and keep connections with these people. We are then moving on to 'valuing difference' which celebrates that everyone is different and brings in elements of gender, race etc. Then we will cover 'keeping safe' which has elements of drugs, alcohol, internet safety and road safety.

Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt, and the children are very excited to get stuck into this. We would like to learn about gods and goddesses, important figures, jobs, hierarchy, mummification and tombs, architecture and I'm sure more learning will crop up as we go! We are also going to learn a class assembly / show based on Ancient Egypt later in the term which we will invite you in to see – more information to follow!

P6/7 Term 3

Over the next few weeks, P6/7 will be focusing on Scots Language as the children learn their poems. We will be practising our performance skills with Ms Casasola.

In writing this term, we will be learning about the structure of a story and will be exploring the link between setting, plot and atmosphere by writing our own imaginative stories. To finish off our Scottish Parliament topic, we will be creating our own manifestos and will be learning about persuasive language.

We will be starting a new class novel linked to our next topic, World War 2. We will continue to develop our comprehension skills, as well as our expression and pace when reading aloud. /

-P3-

In Maths, we are starting with Time this term. We will be revising reading analogue and digital clocks and AM/PM conversion. The children will go on to learn how to research and read timetables. We will learn how to calculate time intervals using the counting on method (see below).

We will then go on to learn about Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. We will be doing lots of practical and outdoor activities to consolidate the children's learning.

In Health and Wellbeing, P6/7 are starting the term by focusing on Food and Health. We will be learning about diets in different cultures, and food intolerances/allergies, as well as how to prepare food safely.

In a few weeks, we will move on to our new topic: World War 2. If parents/carers have any suggestions on what you would like us to learn about, please do get in touch – we would love to have your input into our planning!

Short Time Intervals

Counting on :- The easiest way of finding how long something lasts is by "counting on".

Example :- A TV programme starts at 7.45 pm and ends at 10.25 pm. How long did it last?

Answer :-

Method 1:

$$7.45 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{2 \text{ hours}} 9.45 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{15 \text{ mins}} 10.00 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{25 \text{ mins}} 10.25 \text{ pm}$$

Method 2:

$$7.45 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{15 \text{ mins}} 8.00 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{2 \text{ hrs}} 10.00 \text{ pm} \xrightarrow{25 \text{ mins}} 10.25 \text{ pm}$$

Be able to calculate basic time intervals