



# Menstrie Primary School

## Newsletter

April/May 2025



### **Dear Parents/Carers**

Welcome to our April/May newsletter of Session 2024-25.

If you require a paper copy, please let the school office know and we will make sure a copy comes home to you via the schoolbag.

Please ensure that our office have current, up to date details for you all. It is important that we have the most up to date details in case we need to get in touch with you in an emergency.

### **Staffing**

I am delighted to take up post as Interim Headteacher at Menstrie Primary. I look forward to getting to know the school community over the next few weeks.

### **School Show**

Rehearsals are going well for our upcoming school performance of 'Oliver with a Twist'. Ticket information will be communicated soon and we look forward to welcoming you to our show.

### **School Improvement Planning and Pupil Equity Fund Consultation**

You will have seen that I have sent out a family consultation seeking your feedback around the school improvement priorities for session 2025-26 along with the use of PEF money for next session. I would also like to gather your opinions of the success of this year's school improvement plan and PEF spend. The consultation will be open until 5<sup>th</sup> May. I am also in the process of consulting with our learners and staff. Once I have collated the responses, I will share them with you. The findings will then form part of the School Improvement and Pupil Equity Fund plan for session 2025-26.



### **Dogs**

Whilst it is lovely to see our families walking their dogs around our local community, I would like to remind you all that dogs and animals in general are not permitted in our school grounds. If you plan to bring your dog to school at either pick up or drop off, we politely ask that you remain outside our playground, behind the fencing. Some children and adults can be anxious over dogs, and animals in general, so please be mindful of this and ensure there is sufficient space to get to get through the gates. We appreciate your support with this.

### **School App**

Menstrie's main method of communication is the School App. If you have not already done so, please sign up to this and ensure you check it on a regular basis. Some information is also sent home in school bags, if appropriate along with the use of Groupcall email. Should you have any further suggestions as to how communication can be improved at Menstrie Primary, please let me know. I am happy to listen to suggestions.

## Sunny Weather



I am hopeful that the sunnier weather will stay with us! If the sunshine stays with us, we would be grateful if you could send your child to school wearing sun screen and a sun hat. It may also be helpful to give your child(ren) hayfever tablets before coming to school, as we are unable to administer these in school, unless prescribed by a GP and the appropriate paperwork is filled in. Thanks for your support with this.

## Cycling

A gentle reminder that nobody (adults or children) should be cycling, scooting or skating in our playground. This poses a health and safety risk and we would appreciate it if bikes, scooters and skateboards are walked in and out of our playground.

## Reminders - Head Lice

Head Lice are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact, therefore it is important that hair is checked regularly. Head lice cause itching and they can be treated using wet combing and medicated shampoos that are widely available from the chemist. Please be aware that many treatments require multiple applications.

## School Uniform

We have been so pleased to see the majority of our learners wearing our Menstrie school uniform. Please keep this up. Our uniform gives our learners a sense of identity and they look incredibly smart wearing it.

## Primary One Induction

We are in the process of organising a date for our Primary One induction for our families. More information around this will follow at a later date. Transition plans are also underway and will be shared when finalised.

## Jewellery

Please note that drop earrings/hoop earrings should not be worn in school at all as these pose a Health and Safety risk. Please note that the wearing of any jewellery is strongly discouraged in school and **should not** be worn during any aspect of P.E. If your child comes to school wearing stud earrings to P.E, these should be taped up or removed.

## Parent Council





2025 has been a busy year for the Parent Council so lots to share with you.

Firstly, our next meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm in the school staff room. This will be our last meeting for this academic year. The AGM will take place in September.

	<p>We are looking to recruit and welcome a new chair to the Parent Council at the start of this meeting.</p> <p>The Chair plays a crucial part in guiding the Parent Council to achieve its aims, supporting communication between parents and the school, and ensuring meetings run smoothly.</p>
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	<p>Could this be you? It is a fantastic opportunity for someone passionate about supporting the school community - please get in touch if you have any questions.</p>
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<p>The sun came out for this year's Duck Race as did you to support us - thank you!</p> <p>We raised just over £570 on the day. We will review the school wish list at the next meeting and let you know how it is spent.</p> <p>A huge thank you to the P7 family who organised and ran the stall, to our helpers on the day and for the generous donation from Piramal Healthcare UK Ltd. A special thank you to Jackson at Pagnew Prints for providing all the 3D printed prizes ♡</p>	
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	<p>Thank you to everyone who came along to the Movie Night and Volunteer event back in February. We were keen to showcase the work of the Parent Council and encourage new volunteers to help with fundraising and events.</p> <p>The outcome was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A volunteer to head up fundraising next year</li> <li>- Volunteer to run the disco plus 11 helpers for the event</li> <li>- Offer to fund one printed communication per term (single A4) for up to one year</li> <li>- One person who said they would happily run an event and three who said maybe</li> <li>- Overall, 22 volunteers offering help</li> <li>- Some class reps (we still need these for P6 &amp; P7)</li> </ul> <p>What next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>We still have no-one to set up and run the stall at Gala Day this year, if you are interested, please get in touch.</b></li> <li>- We need parents who would be willing to set up and run events - if you would be interested, please get in touch</li> <li>- Confirm a date for a fundraising meeting to plan 25/26 events</li> </ul>
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We have to mention the "help fund our shed" project to replace the shed damaged during storm Eowyn - we raised over £2800 in donations including an incredible anonymous donation of £1000 from a local resident. Thanks to one of our parents, we have also received £350 from Careys Foundation towards this project.

The concrete base has now been laid, and the new shed has been delivered. This will be built during May at which point we will take delivery of the gardening equipment.

A huge Thank You to everyone who donated to our fundraiser - we are so grateful for every single penny and pound that was donated.

#### What else have we been up to?

- Contribution to the school trips for each child in the school.
- Purchased a new sound system for the school which was used in the recent class assemblies and will of course be showcased at the school show. This was purchased thanks to the money from the Covid Memorial Project.
- Ordered multiple items for the Early Years Outdoor Learning & Play area including this Knights of The Round Table And Chairs, a Maths Counting Shed & contents, a Water Wallboard Set, a Buddy Bench and the Activate Breakfast Club Kit.
- Classroom IT
- Shed storage

#### What's to come before the end of term?

- Order the new House banners for the school hall
- Get the shed built and kick off the food growing and gardening project
- Contribution to the P7 leavers party
- Prepare the P1 Welcome Packs and attend their welcome event
- Finish the updates to the Open Area in the upper school
- Organise a bucket collection to fund updates for Open area in the P2-4 area

A personal thank you from me to everyone for your support over the last year. It has been a pleasure to work alongside so many dedicated parents, staff, and school leaders, all committed to enhancing our children's education and school experience. I look forward to handing over to a new chair later this month, please consider stepping up 😊.

In the meantime, any questions or feedback please contact me on [menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:menstrieparentcouncil@gmail.com)

Nikki - Chair of Parent Council

#### Parking



We have noticed some cars parking on our zig zag lines around Menstrie Primary School. Please be aware that, where possible, our children should be dropped off safely near to the school and be encouraged to walk the rest of the way. We appreciate your support with this.

## Attendance

A gentle reminder to all our families that if your child is absent from school, please call into the school absence line and leave a message with a reason for your child being absent.



## Dates for the Diary

Here are the dates for the remainder of the remainder of this school year. Please be aware that some events may not be in the calendar as not all events can be planned in advance.



- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - school closed - Public Holiday
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Bikeability 2 - P6
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May - VE Day
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May - P5 Swimming starts
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Parent Council Meeting - 6.30pm in the staffroom
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Oliver with a Twist - P5 -7 School show. 6.30pm in the hall
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - P2M Assembly 9.30am Families welcome
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Oliver with a Twist - P5 -7 School show. 1.30pm and 6.30pm in the hall
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Sports Day Option 1
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - P7 Transition to Alva Academy
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Pupil Progress Meetings - 5pm - 8pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Pupil Progress Meetings - 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Athletics Championship
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Sports Day Option 2
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Dress Down Day
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Lendrick Muir P7
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Community Council Gala Day
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - P7 Leavers' Party
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June - P7 Fun Day
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Dress Down Day
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - church service 9.30am. All families are welcome to attend
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - school closes at 1pm for the summer

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter, and for your continued support.

Kind Regards, Mrs Rice and the staff team.