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INFORMATION LINE:- 0870 054 9999. PIN - 031270.

**Calls to this number will be charged a 2p per minute service charge plus your call providers access charge**

WEB www.schools-online.co.uk/hythehill primary

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy start to 2016 and term 3. Many of the classes have been busy exploring different Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical challenges linked to various Context of Learning experiences. Much of this learning will become part of the Hythehill and St Gerardine STEM week later in the term. We are still looking for parents from different employment backgrounds to participate in the STEM week sharing the skills they use in their chosen career. If you are able to support this school venture please contact the office.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS**

There has been an increase in the number of P1-3 pupils, when entrusted to walk home unaccompanied, not going straight home at the end of the school day (2.30pm). These situations cause parents/carers and staff unnecessary stress, worry and additional workload; therefore I am advising that suitable arrangements for P1-3 pupils are put in place by parents/carers so that P1-3 are collected by a responsible adult at the end of each school day. The school cannot be held responsible for incidents of unacceptable behaviour outwith the school day. Pupils are the responsibility of the parents/carers before 8.55am and after 2.30pm (P1-3) and 3.00 (P4-7). If your child is involved in an incident which could be interpreted as a form of bullying, parents of the victim are within their rights to report it to the Police.

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.044\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\GT75O0MX\new-years-resolutions[1].jpg]()**NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS!**

We have made a great start to the three targets for the New Year; although there are still a number of children without the correct PE kit in school.

1. **ARRIVING ON TIME**

I would like to remind you that the school day starts at **8.55am**. It is the responsibility of the parental/carer to ensure that their child/ren are at school on time.

1. **COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK**

I would like to encourage you to support your child in completing and returning their homework. It is noticeable that those children who regularly complete their homework and discuss their learning at home make more positive progress in their learning in school and demonstrate greater self-confidence in their own ability.

1. **WEARING PE KIT**

The teaching of PE is a legal requirement in Scotland. All children **MUST** wear PE kit in the Hall and outside. This term many classes will be doing gymnastics. Children **must have** dark shorts, a t-shirt the colour of their house (no logos) and indoor gym shoes. NO JOGGERS are to be worn inside. This is Moray Council Policy.

**STAFFING**

Mrs Jill Robinson has been successfully appointed as a permanent teaching post at Hythehill. We look forward to welcoming her to our staff and to Primary 5 in the near future.

**February 2016**

We also welcome Mrs Katrina Malcolm, from St Gerardine Nursery, to our nursery to work with Mrs McIntosh for the next six weeks. Mrs Mcleod will be undertaking an Acting Senior Nursery Nurse role at St Gerardine during this time.

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JGIU8DTD\children%20sunday%20school[1].jpg]()**CHAPLAINCY**

Earlier this term the staff and pupils said a fond farewell to Rev Graham Crawford, as he moves onto pastures new.

As some of you will be aware Rev. Crawford is not being replaced at St James’ Church, but rather Rev. Geoff McKee from St. Gerardine’s Church has been asked to oversee the organisation and running of both churches, as well as having the additional responsibility of chaplain to St Gerardine Primary School. Following discussions with Rev. McKee and also being offered support from Rev. Rae Mackenzie from Lossiemouth Baptist Church, the decision has been made by the school and Parent Council to ask Rev. Rae Mackenzie to become the chaplain of Hythehill. However, the school will continue to work closely with the churches of Lossiemouth, with both Rev. G. McKee and Rev. R. Mackenzie participating in the life and work of the school.

**MOD FUNDING**

We are delighted to announce that the school has been successful in securing further funding from the MOD to continue developing Nurture Groups and Nurture Classrooms at Hythehill.

**FUNDRAISING**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DWAAR4Q3\baile_disco[1].jpg]()The Hythehill Fundraising group is organising school discos to take place on the Monday 29th February.

**6.00pm - 7.00pm** - P1-3 (nursery children are invited but they MUST be accompanied by an adult)

**7.15pm – 8.15pm** – P4-7

Entry is £2 per child for each disco. There will be refreshments on sale. **All children must be collected by an adult at the end of each disco.**

**RECYCLABLE BAGS**

The children from Primary 1-7 have designed canvas bags. If you would like to purchase a bag/s please place an order at the Office. Thank you.

**RAG BAG**

Thank you to those who have made use of our new rag bag bin. Please continue to support the school through this simple idea.

**PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

There will be a Parent Council meeting on **Tuesday 15th March at 6.30pm.** All parents/carers are very welcome to attend. The meeting will last no longer than an hour.

If you wish something to be added to the agenda, this can be done through discussion with the Parent Council Chairperson or Vice Chairperson. Please write a note of any proposed agenda item and leave it at the office. You will be contacted to discuss your issue in advance of the meeting.

**DEVELOPMENTS FOR THIS TERM**

**VALUES AT HYTHEHILL**

![stop_sign_grunge__ulster_hand_variant_sjpg2331[1]]()![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.040\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\O9W7V4M5\core-values1[1].png]()As a staff we have completed our discussions regarding the core values of Hythehill. Ideas were generated from the children and staff with a final idea – **SHINE – Success, Honesty, Included, Nurtured and Excellence**. We would value any feedback as we define these values within the context of Hythehill. **SHINE with High Hopes, Health and Happiness at Hythehill.**

**UNIFORM**

Thank you to all who participated in the recent uniform consultation. Parents, Pupils, Teachers and Stakeholders all participated in the consultation. The result showed that 71% of replies received were in favour of a change in the colour of uniform. Samples of the new uniform – Ocean Blue – including an embroidered school logo will be on display later this term. Orders for the new uniform will be taken after Easter with a view to it being introduced in August. Of course, I realise that a number of you will have grey sweatshirts in good condition; therefore there will be a transition period allowing the grey uniform to be phased out as the new blue uniform is introduced.

In order to make the most of the remaining grey uniform we will be selling these sweatshirts at half price when purchasing a new blue sweatshirt/cardigan. The grey sweatshirts will then be used as part of the outdoor PE kit.

**GARDEN DEVELOPMENT**

**![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DWAAR4Q3\istockphoto_8468582-spring-flower-garden-with-insects[1].jpg]()**We are hoping to develop a ‘garden area’ to embrace the ongoing development of Outdoor Learning within the curriculum at Hythehill. If you are a keen gardener and have some spare time to help, please contact the school office. Thank you.

**1+2 LANGUAGES**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AHT4Y7XD\Flag_Map_of_French_Cote_d'Ivoire_(1871_-_1958)[1].png]()As part of Staff continued professional development, all teaching staff and some members of the support staff have begun French training to ensure that the implementation of the 1+2 languages initiative is underway at Hythehill. It is assumed that a pupil’s first language is English. This initiative involves introducing a second language from Primary 1. This chosen language is French, in line with what is offered at Lossiemouth High School. From Primary 5 a third language will be introduced. This language is less formal but gives the pupils an opportunity to explore language structures and cultures.

**M&M THEATRE PRODUCTION – Little Princess**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WYJ1ELF9\dessin-theatre[1].jpg]()On Monday 22nd February, M&M Theatre Productions will be visiting the school to perform ‘The Little Princess’ to P1-7. The theme of the production is ‘Bullying’. An issue all schools have to address on a regular basis. It is hoped that the production will reinforce and support the review of the school’s positive behaviour policy being undertaken by teaching staff. The cost of this performance will be met from the School Fund.

**PARENT ADVICE- INTERNET SAFETY**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AHT4Y7XD\internet-42584_640[1].png]()There is a new website which supports parents/carers in protecting their children from abuse online. The site provides advice for parents who are concerned about their children, as well as those just looking to learn more about what they can do to keep their children safe. We would encourage you to visit the website at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

**CHILDSMILE**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.051\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DWAAR4Q3\SMILE[1].png]()Childsmile has a new Facebook page to support you with your child’s oral health. This is called ‘Childsmile in Moray’.

**PARKING SAFETY**

Thank you for using the car parks outside the school grounds to safely drop your children off at school. Please do not kerb park along St Margaret’s Crescent or across the entrance to the school driveway. A number of residents have expressed concerns. It also reduces the children’s ability to see moving traffic and dramatically increases the risk of an accident happening. Thank you.

**ADVERSE WEATHER**

![C:\Users\gilbes10.ELGINC.040\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\D8YS0WNK\snow[1].png]()I would like to remind you that school closure information can be found on the Moray Council website [www.schoolclosures.moray.gov.uk/](http://www.schoolclosures.moray.gov.uk/), on Moray Firth Radio and on the school’s telephone information line. Should the school ever need to close during the school day, parents will be informed by text message where possible; therefore please ensure that the school has an up to date mobile and email contact for your child/ren. Thank you

When severe weather warnings are received we will endeavour to keep the telephone information line updated. Please note that this is an 0870 service and that there is a charge. Calls to this number will be charged at 2p per minute plus your call provider’s access charge.

1. Dial 0870 054 9999
2. Enter PIN number: 031270
3. You will get a message: **“You have selected Hythehill Primary School”**

You will be presented with a set of options:

Press 1 – to hear severe weather information

Press 2 – to leave a non-urgent message

Press 3 – to hear general school information

Press 4 – to enter a different school PIN number

Press # - to end the call.

**DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH**

12th Feb - School closed

15th Feb - School closed

16th Feb - P1 & P7 Dental checks

18th Feb - P1A Class Assembly

22nd Feb - M&M Theatre Productions

29th Feb - School Discos

3rd Mar - World Book Day

3rd Mar - P2B Class Assembly

7th Mar - STEM week

11th Mar - STEM challenge event

11th Mar - Pupil School Reports to go home

12th/13th - Moray Science Festival

17th Mar - P7 Class assembly

21st-24th - P7 Alltnacriche Residential

22nd/23rd - Parents’ Afternoons

24th Mar - Last Day of Term

11th Apr - Summer Term Commences