



EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Susan Buchan

Head Teacher

Keith Primary School

School Road

KEITH

AB55 5GS

Telephone: 01542 882802

email: admin.keithp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Website: www.moray.gov.uk

10th September 2024

Dear Parent

Mid Term Update

We have had a busy start to term and the vast majority of learners can be proud of how quickly they have settled.

We have quite a number of events and activities happening this term including science and technology visits by SSEN, music therapy in The Beeches and a visit from the Keith Grammar librarian. Some classes also plan to venture out soon to learn about the history of Keith. Seasons for Growth and art therapy (funded by Cash for Kids) are also under way.

Additionally, for those interested in the development side of the school, our teaching staff have been busy undertaking developments around the following:

- More consistent, whole school approaches to assessment
- Forward planning
- Digital profiling
- Tracking of attainment in numeracy
- Staged intervention / supporting all our learners
- Writing attainment

We have also been successful in securing grants from Hill of Towie to purchase an outdoor classroom and from Tesco for storage for our outdoor learning resources.

Staffing

A number of our support staff have moved or will be moving on. We are sad to say goodbye to Sara George, Laura Cowie, Shannon Gray and Courtney Metcalfe.

Parent Council

The Frog Squad / Parent Council AGM will take place on the 28th October at 6.30pm. Over the last two years, many of our regular members have seen their sons and / or daughters move on to secondary school which means we are looking to involve new people.

ASPIRATIONAL RESPECTFUL RESILIENT INCLUSIVE NURTURING

The way the Frog Squad is set up means that you can contribute as much or as little time as you can manage. We only tend to meet formally 3-4 times a year. The contribution of the Frog Squad is invaluable to school and to enriching the experiences of our learners. As a leadership team, we often use the Frog Squad as a consultative board when we are thinking about school improvements.

Members will be on hand at both the Colour Run and the open evening so please take some time to talk to them to find out more.

Colour Run

We have had an excellent response to this event. As of last week, there were around 250 tickets sold. This gave the Frog Squad a very good idea of numbers so thanks to those who were able to buy in advance. Further tickets will be sold in the run up to the event. Please keep an eye on Xpressions and the Frog Squad page for details.

Communication: Xpressions Notifications

As of 1st September, Xpressions has been our main means of communicating with you. Some parents have commented that they haven't been receiving notifications which means they've not received important information like bump to head texts. You should be able to switch on notifications on your phone's settings. If you are having difficulty, please pop into the school office and we will help to get this sorted.

Attendance

The Scottish Government is concerned about levels of school attendance across Scotland. Last session, Keith's average attendance was 92.5%. This is around the Moray average. This figure means that the average learner in Keith lost 14.25 school days last year. This may not sound significant but, over a school lifetime, 31 weeks of learning would be lost if that pattern was continued.

Over the course of this year, we will periodically send you an e-mail update which details your child's attendance. If there is anything we can do support your child's attendance at school, please let us know.

Asda Cashpot



If you shop in Asda, please look for Keith Primary on Cashpot for Schools. This is potentially quite lucrative for the school. Once one customer, linked to KPS, has purchased, we get £50. We then get £1 for everyone who signs up plus 0.5% of spend.

ASPIRATIONAL RESPECTFUL RESILIENT INCLUSIVE NURTURING

This money will then go into the school fund which helps pay for trips (e.g. the panto trip and Outfit Moray for P7s), events such as Drum Fun (for P1-P3s) and Scottish Opera for P6s and whole school shows and productions.

Spelling

Spelling Progression

Last session, we introduced an approach to teaching spelling, which is widely used across schools, called Wraparound spelling. Following a review, we felt that we needed to change the set of words to teach spelling from P4-P7. This approach starts with a simple root word such as 'shame'. As learners progress through the scheme, they learn how to use spelling rules to create more complicated words based on the root word (e.g. shamed, shaming, unashamedly, shameful). It may therefore appear that your child is getting much easier words but, please be assured this is not the case. Wraparound spelling has helped other schools improve spelling and we're confident this will also be the same for Keith PS.

Spelling words

We have been notified that one of the words on our new list has an alternative and inappropriate meaning. We have since removed that word.

If you are looking for a safe space to research definitions as part of home learning, we would recommend this website.

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/browse/dictionary>

Open Evening & Scholastic Book Fair

We look forward to welcoming you to our open evening on 2nd October. This is not a formal parents' evening, more a chance for you to drop in, meet the teachers and see what your child has been learning in class. More information will follow.

In the run up to the open evening, we will host a Scholastic book fair. All pupils will get the opportunity to browse books prior the open evening. All books are on a 3 for 2 offer and money raised from sales will help us earn commission, enabling us to purchase new books our Library.

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
19 th September	Photographer (individuals and sibling groups)
Sat 21 st September	Colour Run 12 noon – 3pm
24 th – 26 th September	Childsmile
26 th September	Cauliflower Cards return date (More info to follow)
2 nd October	Parents' Open Evening 4pm – 6.30pm
3 rd October	Photographer (for those absent on the first sitting)

4 th October	School closes at 3pm for October break
21 st October	School re-opens
6 th November	Flu Immunisations
11 th & 12 th November	INSET: school closed to pupils
22 nd November	Flu Vaccine

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susa B', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Head Teacher