



EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Dear Parent

End of Term Update

Term 2 is nearing an end and, as ever, it has proved a busy one. Starting a term with Hallowe'en and ending with Christmas can be disruptive to routine and work habits. However, enormous credit goes to the pupils and staff for maintaining a clear sense of focus and calm over the course of the last few weeks.

Fundraising

We have asked a lot this term in terms of fundraising. £305 was for Children in Need. A group of P5 girls also did exceptionally well with their self-led enterprise. They raised £164 for CLAN – a brilliant achievement, executed wonderfully.

We are still waiting a final total from the Festive Fayre but we do expect the total to be around £4,200 once costs are deducted. The Fayre itself was excellent with a wonderful atmosphere around the school. The school would like to thank you, as parents, and the wider community for their support in making the event a huge success.

Staffing

Mrs Naomi Holmes was recently appointed to the position of classroom assistant / lunch-time supervisor to replace Shannon Gray. We welcome Naomi.

There is also an update in respect of the support we are currently providing to St Thomas. The Head Teacher post has been advertised on both a temporary and permanent basis. The Acting post is progressing to the interview stage. Leeting has yet to be completed for the permanent post.

Learner and Achievement Profiles

Normally at this time of year, your child's Learning and Achievement Profile is sent home. At the start of this session, we invested considerable time in setting up electronic profiles and training our staff. Frustratingly, a Moray Council issue with ipad licencing has prevented us from using the profiles. The licencing issue has been resolved but we now have to work through a protracted process of installing new software on to nearly 60 ipads.

This Friday, you will get home a list of your child's termly targets. The targets will be highlighted in either pink (achieved) or green (work in progress).

We are confident that you will receive an online profile next term. We plan to hold a parent workshop to introduce the profiles.

We can only apologise for the inconvenience and re-assure you we have done all we can to get the issue resolved.

Numeracy Assessments

We have had a few enquiries from parents regarding the use of numeracy assessments. Before a teacher begins a block of teaching, they will undertake an assessment of the work to be completed in that block. The results then inform exactly what needs to be taught. This makes it more likely that pupils, who require help or need extended, will get work tailored to their level. The same assessment is then completed once the teaching is complete so we can track progress.

Some pupils are still nervous about the assessments because, in the pre-teaching assessment, scores can be quite low. We have worked hard to re-assure pupils and most are now confident and understand the process. However, if your child still appears worried, this information will hopefully help clarify matters.

Parent Council Feedback Form

We had around 40 responses to this form. The school and the Frog Squad will review the findings and get back to you all with suggested next steps.

Gate at P1 end of school: Mornings

We respectfully ask that, if you are waiting in that area around just before bell-time, please stand back from the gate to allow easy access for those coming in. We have several pupils with sensory issues who find moving through crowded spaces difficult.

Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
As per previous newsletter	Christmas events
Friday 13 th December	Assessed termly targets sent home
Sunday 15 th December at 6pm	Choir to perform at St Rufus church – all welcome

Friday 20 th December	School closes at 3pm
Monday 6 th January	School re-opens after Christmas break
Thursday 13 th February	School closed to pupils for INSET (please note that there are no INSET days in May)
Friday 14 th and Mon 17 th February	Mid-term holiday
Wednesday 5 th and Thursday 6 th March	Parents' appointments

On behalf of all the staff and pupils at Keith Primary, I'd like to wish you all a happy and restful festive break.

Yours sincerely



Head Teacher