



# Abernethy Primary School

## Newsletter

### Sept/Oct 2013



Almost a term finished already. Finally, we feel settled into our new building with no more boxes left to unpack. The space and new learning environment has made a huge difference. Teachers and pupils have been creative with the extra space. We have Fairyland in the infant end and a museum at the upper end. We are also very lucky to have an extra space within the nursery setting to set up additional active learning tasks for all to use. The children are thoroughly enjoying the MUGA and a rota has been developed by House Captains and Pupil Council to ensure it is fairly used during break times.

Some new library furniture has arrived and we would like to thank the Parent Council for their kind donation towards this. We have a considerable way to go in developing the library and this month's 'Skipathon' should hopefully provide us with more funds to kit out the library with more shelving and soft furnishings as well as reduce the costs of school trips. Bus prices have increased considerably this session, however we endeavor to contribute to costs to keep the educational outings going as they are a valuable part of the learning experience.

During the **Skipathon on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October**, the pupils will be participating in a variety of skipping challenges for a period of time. Any donation to the school is most welcome.

Finally, have a good October break when it comes.

#### STAFFING

A very warm welcome is extended to Mr Greenall who was successful in obtaining Mrs Robertson's maternity cover (RCCT and mentor cover) and also Mrs Hodgkinson's management day in P4. We also wish Miss Kennedy success in her new post with Falkirk council starting after the October holidays. We thank Miss Kennedy for her commitment and hard work she has given to Abernethy PS over the past 14 months. Mrs MacDonald will be working 4 days a week in her P6 class with Mrs Hepburn doing the remaining day. Mr Chris Roy joins us as Pupil Support Teacher.

#### Parent Council

The AGM was held on 28<sup>th</sup> August. It was lovely to see many new faces joining the Parent Council. The next meeting will be on the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

The Parent Council will be fundraising again this year with many planned events coming up. We hope that you will support these as the money raised supports every child in the school.

Peel2Save cards have so far raised an impressive £520. There are a few cards still available. Please contact a member of the Parent Council if you would like to buy a card.

#### Extra school clubs

We will be offering Glee club (singing group) and chess after the holidays at lunchtimes. Pupils will be able to sign up to those. There will be a variety offered at lunchtimes throughout the year. Pupils can find information on their school noticeboards or hear about it at Assemblies.

#### After School clubs

The after school clubs have been a success this term and have been taken up by a considerable amount of pupils. We have received very positive feedback from pupils and parents. We hope to be starting an early morning club for younger pupils sometime after the October holidays. More details will follow. Our netball and football teams have organised several matches between other schools. We wish them well.

## Reminders

- Nursery Curriculum Evening, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6.30pm
- Please note that holidays taken within term time will be marked as unauthorised. There has been a steady increase in families taking children out of school during term time. Teachers plan 'challenge weeks' usually at the end of the teaching block, (last 2 weeks) whereby assessment tasks are set to demonstrate understanding and application of skills. Teachers obviously use on going assessment throughout the term, however, pupils generally finish off the term showcasing work, evaluating learning and setting next steps and targets with staff. This is a valuable part of the learning process.
- Results of the Perth & Kinross health and wellbeing survey, Evidence2Success are available on the council website. Individual school results can be seen.
- Pupil Council will be selling Children in Need wristbands at the beginning of November.
- Please return all forms for Skipathon to office.

## Outdoor Learning

The core values of Curriculum for Excellence echo the key concepts of outdoor learning: challenge, enjoyment, relevance, depth, development of the whole child and an adventurous approach to learning. Can they transfer knowledge and skills learnt in the classroom into real-life situations?

Outdoor learning covers anything from - using our school grounds, local area, excursions and visits to other places of interest.

As we are building our capacity in Abernethy to use our locality and the outdoors we are regularly taking pupils out. In order to do this we need them to have appropriate clothing for going out in all weathers. **If you have old wellies, walking boots or jackets particularly for P1-3 age group, please donate them to the school.**

## School Committees

We operate a variety of action groups within the school. These groups of mixed stage children meet to take forward actions which will enhance and improve 'Our School, Our World and Our Health.

Our Eco group are looking at developing the school environment, health groups are taking forward food and nutrition in the school. We have a Rights Respecting Schools group who are investigating the rights and responsibilities we all have and our Pupil Council and House Captain group which will look at the learning happening within the school as well as organising charity events.

We are always looking for parent volunteers to support work in these action groups. If you would like to be involved or can help the work in any way please contact the school.

## Dates for Diary

- 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, school ends for holidays, 3.30pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, Term 2 starts
- 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, P1-3 trip to Dundee
- 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, P3 outdoor learning starts weekly
- 6<sup>th</sup> November Parent Council, 7pm, all welcome
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, P6 parents, Dalguise meeting, 6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, Parent Contact
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, P4 & P5, St Andrew's Day of Dance
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, Parent Contact
- 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Nov - INSET day
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, Church Service
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, last day of term

Kind regards

*Paula Morrison*

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