



# CRAIGIE PRIMARY NEWS

## 30 September 2015



Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a very busy and fast paced start to the school year and already we are in our seventh week and the October break is nearing!

I have to say an exceptional "well done" to all Craigie pupils for the superb, hardworking and motivated start we have seen in all classes. Keep it up.

A special welcome to all our new faces at Craigie both pupils and staff. To our 24 new P1 pupils, who look so smart in their school uniform and our new Nursery pupils who have come into Nursery with confidence. Both classes have made a very strong and settled start.

### STAFF NEWS

Fond Farewell to Mrs Shirley McGregor- Art Specialist Teacher. Mrs McGregor was with us for four weeks but leaves to take up a new post in Dundee, we wish her all the very best.

Mrs McGregor's position will be covered by supply staff in the meantime and the vacancy is currently being advertised by PKC recruitment.

An update will follow when there is some news to share.

### ELECTED MEMBERS

The following children were chosen to represent our Pupil Council & Eco Committee

#### Pupil Council

P1 Ross Allan, Heather Lunn  
P2 Alex Ramsay, Yaren Stuart  
P3 Manon Schembri, Evan Mackie  
P4 Liam McMullan, Maisy Stewart  
P5 Rachel Cameron, Joseph Riley  
P6 Theo Moir, Millie Alexander  
P7 Arran Beedie, Beth Davidson

#### Eco Committee

Cale Brett-Pitt, Ross Marshall  
Christopher Gray, Flora Wylie  
Ava Erskine, MacKenzie Longden  
Brodie McPherson, Sophia Whittall  
Lewis Shanks, Katie Souter  
Sam Currie, Erin Wylie  
Morven Sutherland, Adam Brough

### PRIMARY SEVEN HOUSE CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS 2015-16

House	Captains	Vice Captains
Abbot	Alex Thomson & Georgie Morrison	Nathan Howgate & Theo Taylor
Glover	Callum Hay & Rebecca McKay-Smith	Bobby Rough & Freya Sutherland
Friar	Callum Innes & Rachel Crockatt	Heather Souter & Olivia Laing
Priory	Cameron Orrock & Lily Harper	Calum McGarvey & Claire Lonie

Congratulations to all nominated pupils!

### HEAD TEACHER AWARDS

N - Azra Raif, Sadie Bell, Daisy Haddow, Ruby Whyte, Conner MacDonald & Aiden Conner  
P1 - Leo Brown, Aiyla Hay, Ross Allan, Eleanor Whittall & Roshanreddy Basireddy  
P2 - James Whyte, Flora Wylie, Elliott Barnes O'Neil & Yaren Stuart  
P3 - Isla McGarvey, Mackenzie Longden, Keira Hamdani & Rojan Ross  
P4 - Leon Schofield, Brodie McPherson, Leon Martin, Lexie O'Connor & Sophia Whittall  
P5 - Sophie Martin, Neave Wilson, Holly O'Sullivan & Lewis Shanks  
P6 - Olivia O'Connor, Emily Goligher, James Dyke & Cameron McConnell  
P7 - Calum McGarvey, Adam Brough, Freya Sutherland, Rebecca McKay-Smith & Olivia Laing

### PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Leonie Ferguson's mum called into reception to let us know that Leonie competed in a Majorettes competition on the 23/8/15 down in Kinross. Out of 10 children she came: 6<sup>th</sup> in the fancy strut; 4<sup>th</sup> in the solo and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the trios. Congratulations Leonie!

If you would like us to mention any achievement in the newsletter then please send us an email or pop in to pass on the information. We are always happy to celebrate the successes of the children both within and outwith school time.

### LOST PROPERTY

Once again lost property is mounting up. Whenever an item is clearly marked with a pupil's name we are able to return items to owners. However a number of items, including expensive coats, are not named and are lying unclaimed. Lost property will be on display at Parent Contact times. At all other times Lost Property is held in the entrance foyer.

### Dates for you Diary:

**School Holiday Monday 12  
October - Friday 23 October  
2015**

- Tuesday 6 October: Harvest Assembly (in school) Food Donations to CATH
- Wednesday 7 October: Nursery Open Day One (2 x sessions 9.15-10.15am and then 2.45-3.45pm)
- Friday 9 October: Last day of term, full day.
- Monday 12 October - Friday 23 October: School Closed - Holidays
- Monday 26 October: New term Begins
- Friday 30 October: Parents' Association Halloween Cake Bake Sale
- Friday 6 November - Blythswood Care Shoebox return
- Wednesday 11 November: Parent Contact
- Wednesday 11 November: Nursery Parent Contact
- Thursday 12 November: Parent Contact
- Friday 13 November: Tempest photography, School photographs.
- Thursday 3 December: Christmas Discos
- Saturday 5 December: Craigie Parents' Association Christmas Fayre 10am-12pm

Full details of holidays for the next few years are available on [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)

**School Phone No:**

**01738 472300**

**Email:** [Craigie@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:Craigie@pkc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.craigie.pkc.sch.uk](http://www.craigie.pkc.sch.uk)

### HYGIENE HABITS

Please support a healthy environment at school and continue to reinforce "good hygiene habits" at home, as we do in nursery and school e.g. regular hand washing, use of tissues and "catching" coughs and sneezes. This will ensure that we all stay healthy, fit and well for the October holidays!

## NURSERY NEWS

We would like to welcome all our new children and families as well as those familiar faces from last year and we hope everyone has settled happily into nursery.

The children have been very busy selecting and using activities independently. We have been making new friends and learning new nursery routines. We have enjoyed experimenting with making pattern and we are sure your fridges and walls are decorated with the children's art work.

At Craigie we value your feedback, comments, ideas and work in partnership for the best outcome for your child. We would like to remind you that your child's folder is available for you to share together with them in nursery. A big thank you for filling in your information in your child's folder on its one night sleepover. Please remember that staff are always available should you wish to have an informal discussion regarding your child. You may also like to take time to read our "Talking and Thinking" book where the children offer their ideas for the activities that happen in Nursery. The children are encouraged to talk about their likes, dislikes, interests and what could be done to make Nursery even more fun!

Lastly, a little reminder to ask you to please put a spare set of clothes for your child in the bags provided on their pegs (blue for am children and red for pm children) Thank you.

### Diary Dates - Nursery Open Day Sessions

Wednesday 7 October 2015

Wednesday 16 December 2015

Wednesday 30 March 2016

Wednesday 15 June 2016

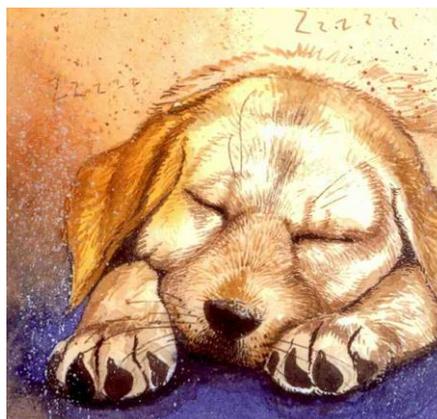
Morning Open Day Sessions run from 9.15am - 10.15am

Afternoon Open Day Sessions run from 2.45pm - 3.45pm

(December 16 slight change to morning session times this session will run from 10.45am - 11.45am)

**Nursery Parent Contact Wednesday 11 November**

## WITH THANKS



*Dear Parents,*

*Just a short note to thank you all most sincerely for the beautiful jewellery box and necklace and magnificent bouquet of flowers I received from you all on the last day of term. Special gifts to remind me of a very special school.*

*Importantly, also thanks for your support over my time with you as supportive and caring parents, it was an absolute pleasure working with you all.*

*From  
Christeen Williamson*

### SCHOOL MEALS MENU

Prior to the summer holidays a letter was issued detailing a fourth choice in school lunch options catered for by Tayside Contracts would be available from August. We are pleased to announce that this option (an unpacked packed lunch) will be offered to Craigie pupils from the week beginning 5 October 2015.

We would still urge you to encourage the children to continue to take up a hot meal option especially since we are moving into the colder seasons.

### PE KIT AND SCHOOL UNIFORM

Just a gentle reminder that Craigie P.S does have a specified school uniform and details of this can be found in our school handbook on the school website. I have noticed that there are children arriving who are not in uniform. Brrrrr! This week has seen a change in temperature with a definite Autumnal chill in the air in the mornings and nights, this won't stop our learning from moving outdoors on occasion so please make sure the children have a jacket with them to school and waterproof jackets for the occasional heavy downpour where possible.

Please remember that all pupils must have a tracksuit, joggers and sweatshirts, as well as outdoor gym shoes for outdoor P.E. lessons and for going up to the playing field at lunchtimes.

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are receiving certain benefits, your child may be entitled to free school meals. Find out if you are eligible and how to apply.

Since 5 January 2015 Free School Meals have been offered to **ALL** pupils in P1- P3 without the need for parents/carers to submit an application form. However, an application form must be completed if you also require assistance with school clothing/footwear for your child in P1-P3. Don't forget to submit an application form for Free School Meals for your child when he/she moves into P4 as they will no longer be automatically entitled for Free School Meals.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/4927/Free-School-Meals> for more info.

### ECO SCHOOL STATUS

Last week we received an email from Anne Black, Assessment Officer (East), Keep Scotland Beautiful - Eco-Schools Scotland to say that our Eco School status was to be continued and our recent application was successful. We are very proud of this award as we work hard to keep our green flag.



### PUPIL ABSENCE FROM LEARNING

Due to the high number of children absent from school over the past and coming weeks for family holidays and other family events, I have included this excerpt from the Perth and Kinross Family Holiday Information Leaflet 2010. It is my responsibility as Head Teacher to be proactive in maximising the attendance of all pupils at Craigie.

Every term the management team in a school meet to discuss the attendance statistics for their school and we have noticed a high number of unauthorised absences.

"Over the last few years, most of our schools have noticed an increase in the number of pupils absent from schools arising from family holidays. Perth & Kinross Council is aware that this happens for a number of reasons:

- *parents are unable to take time off during school holidays;*
- *childcare arrangements;*
- *cheaper holidays during term time.*

Our headteachers, however, have noticed that this change can have a number of adverse effects not only on the pupils who have been absent but sometimes on the class or whole school.

These can be:

- *an effect on individual pupil attainment and achievement, in pupils who are on holiday on a regular basis;*
- *disruption in class when pupils return;*
- *disruption to teachers' assessment and testing schedules;*
- *pupils reintegrating back into school;*
- *behavioural problems if pupils get behind in course work;*
- *the need for remedial work to be set;*
- *an effect on the general ethos of the school.*

As a result, the Education & Children's Services Committee agreed the following policy:

*Family holidays will be marked in school as an unauthorised absence. This will be done even if you have told the school you intend to take your child on holiday. No school work will be given, although some schools may consider giving you information about what will be covered during the absence."*

### VISITORS IN SCHOOL

Please can all visitors to school report to the reception hatch and sign in at the school office upon arrival (however brief that visit may be); this includes any visiting parents or volunteers who assist in the school on a regular basis. It is important for the safety of the children that we adhere to the systems that we have in place and monitor and accompany (where necessary) people entering the school building during the school day. In addition, certain areas within the school store confidential information and we would respectfully ask that visitors wait to be invited into the school office, HT and DHT offices so that this confidentiality is safeguarded at all times.

Please note that we are always striving to be extremely welcoming and know that we are very fortunate to have such a high number of supporters visiting the school. We hope that this positive working relationship continues to enhance the learning and teaching here at Craigie P.S. and that you understand the need for this section of the newsletter.

### Head Teacher Award Winners for September 2015



### FUNDRAISING DATE TYPO

A flyer has been sent home this week with details of our food collection for Church Action for The Homeless and it stated that the date which we would ask that donations are handed in to school by is 'Friday 5 October'. This should have read Monday 5 October.

Apologies

This donation will be collected by a staff member from CATH at our Harvest Assembly on the day. This assembly will not be a large service in the church but a small and simple gathering of staff, pupils and invited guests in the school hall.



Kind Regards

*Louise Thomson*

Louise Thomson  
Acting Head Teacher

### CROSSING PATROL UPDATE

As you are aware, we currently have a vacancy for a Crossing Patrol Officer for Craigie P.S on the corner of Wilson Street and Needless Road. Mr Christie's post has been advertised and we are now waiting to hear whether this has been filled. News will follow once we are alerted to any developments. The Parent Council have this on their radar too.



## Online School Payments Project – Information for Parents/Carers

Over the next few months, Perth and Kinross Council will be implementing an **online payments solution** for schools. This new system will allow parents/carers much more choice of how, when and where you can pay for school costs by using modern technology. It also allows for increased security as pupils would not have to carry large amounts of cash or cheques to school.

You will be able to pay for school meals, trips and other school services online or through a mobile app which you can run on a smartphone, tablet or other mobile device. You will access your own **secure account** which will give you information regarding your accounts, including amounts paid, when paid, amounts outstanding, etc.

### Contract Award

The Council has undertaken a process of selecting an online school payments supplier through a national framework provided through Scotland Excel, the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Scotland's local government sector.

The procurement process is now complete and **ParentPay** have been selected as the successful supplier for Perth and Kinross Council.

More information on ParentPay and the product they provide can be found at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)

### Online School Payments Test Phase

The Project Team is now working in conjunction with ParentPay to implement the solution, initially in four schools across the Perth and Kinross. The schools are:

- **Murthly Primary School**
- **Viewlands Primary School**
- **Pitlochry High School (All through school)**
- **St John's RC Academy (All through school)**

**If you're not part of the test phase don't worry**, online payments will be rolling out across all Perth and Kinross schools over the course of 2016.

### Next Steps

Once the test phase is completed, the Council will develop an implementation plan across all schools, whilst retaining current payment methods for those of you who do not have access to technology.

**More information will follow from your Headteacher on the progress of this Project so watch this space!**

