

Coupar Angus Primary School Newsletter 7 February 2018

January has been a busy month with children learning Scots poetry and learning about their class Science theme. Well done to all the children for persevering with learning their poems, we know this can be tricky, but it is part of the curriculum and it was lovely to see the effort that some of the children made with their Scots vocabulary and even some props! As usual you can get in touch using the email address couparangus@pkc.gov.uk and keep up to date with the Facebook page.
Mrs N Drew

Staffing and updates:

It looks as if we have around 24 children registered for P1 next session at this time, although it is still early and that number can change. I will be starting to look at classes for next session later this month and will keep you up-to-date with plans. We will arrange transition events for the new P1s in Term 4. We have been given two new members of staff to support the Nursery: Mrs Mackenzie, a pupil support assistant and Mrs Bruce, a new ECP. This will allow Mrs Johnstone to take a new role in the Nursery working more with families. More news to follow....

Miss Whyte from the Nursery is now on maternity leave and currently Mrs Rennie is taking on her role. A play assistant role has been advertised to cover Mrs Rennie during this time.

We do have two Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) off long term at the moment and so there are some PSAs in on supply if your children do mention any new names. Ms Nicoll has joined the team as a PSA and Mrs Miller is also working in school. We all wish Mrs Mukherji and Mrs Hastie a speedy recovery and hope they will be back soon.

HEAD TEACHER TREAT DAY is on *Tues 13 February*. Children will do activities and can dress down no charge.

The parent council met last week and have approved a spend of £2000 for playground equipment that the Pupil Council asked for. We will be ordering more bags with equipment and a buddy bench very soon. We would love to have a SOC representative for each class and so it would be lovely to have some new members, if you want to find out more please contact Shona Turnbull or Gill Rolfe via the SOC Facebook page, or contact school. SOC have also agreed to pay for football strips for the school football team and this is thanks to all fundraising they do.

The next event is the **BINGO Tea on Friday 23rd February, doors open 6.30 for 7pm start. This takes place at the TOWN HALL.** This is always a busy event. It is a great family night out with super prizes! Bring your own mug and we will have tea, coffee, juice and home baking. If you would like to hand in a raffle donation for this event, please pop any donations into the school office from Monday 19th February.

Lunchtime Clubs:

Currently we have quite a few lunchtime Clubs in school, some run by teachers and some by children with teacher supervision. Just in case your children haven't told you we have:

Choir/Singing Club P1-3 Tuesday lunchtimes with Miss Duthie – all welcome

Netball for P7 – Friday lunchtime

Football - Tuesday afterschool (children involved know about this, is moving from a Thursday to a Tuesday)

Thinking Room 2 Clubs led by the children:

Tuesday Callum leads a singing and dancing Club for anyone come along to TR.

Wednesday – Kyle hosts a computer Club & Hamish an Art Club.

Thursday – Jamie runs a games Club for anyone & Finlay - Wii Dance

Friday – Gypsy Rose runs an Art Club.

There is a sign up sheet for these clubs outside Thinking Room 2.

We will also be starting a Computer Club later this session. If you know of anyone with expertise in the community who might like to help lead some clubs, please let us know.

School Playground Vehicle Safety

Staff cars come into the playground before 8.45am and do not leave between 3.10 and 3.20pm. We are now going to close the gates at the car park and these will stay closed all day. Delivery drivers do sometimes come into school as well as workmen and visitors for meetings so we will put up signage about vehicles staying at the gate end of the car park, where no children should be unless with an adult. Children do cross the car park area in the day, to go to PE in the gym hall, always with adult supervision and we are all very vigilant about vehicles.

Immediately before and after school there should be no moving vehicles in the playground. We cannot guarantee that all visitors will respect our wishes, so please do supervise your children when crossing the middle car park area of the playground. School will try to monitor this over the coming weeks. Can we also ask that parents do not use the car park gate to enter the school with children on foot. Many thanks for your support with this. N Drew

P7 trip - Parent and child information meeting Thursday 8th March from 6-7pm

The P7 residential trip this year is to Ardeonaig on Monday 30th April to Friday 4th May. We are holding a meeting in school in March to go over the trip. Please come along to find out more about what to expect.

The final payment is due before the end of February for children going on this trip.

Teachers are currently looking into possible trips for the other classes next Term and we will let you know where these will be later this Term. The maximum payment we ask for is £5 towards school trips.

Nursery enrolment for next session:

Nursery enrolment is open until **14 February 2018**. If you do still wish to enrol your child, please come to the school office where Mrs MacGregor will be happy to help.

Rhyme Time in School

9am-10am

This is a reminder that a Rhyme Time session is available in school on a **Friday morning** from 9.00am until approximately 10:00am. This session is open to children from birth to 5 and their parents, grandparents or childminders. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book, just pop in on a Friday morning.

Crèche

Currently there is a crèche available to families on a Tuesday morning between 9.15- 11.15. This is on a first come, first served basis and is held in the gym building across the road in the drama room. If it is your first week if you come to the school office someone can show you where to go.

School Uniform

Please can we ask for your support in ensuring children wear school uniform. School jumpers or navy, black or blue plain jumpers are all allowed as school uniform, but please no patterned or coloured jumpers. Children can wear black or grey trousers or skirts and black shoes or boots in winter. Please ensure children have suitable outdoor clothing and a PE kit. The website for school uniform is www.border-embroideries.co.uk

Term 3 – Science focus

Open afternoon on Wednesday 28th March at 2pm to showcase all our work. Parents, family and friends will all be welcome to join us for this event. There will be refreshments and stalls.

Class information:

Thinking Room 2 have been learning about hygiene and when it is important to wash your hands:

‘We learned about how and when to wash our hands.’ Gypsy Rose

‘You should wash your hands regularly.’ Jamie

‘Keep your hands clean and use a nail brush.’

Callum

When to wash your hands -

‘Clean your hands before and after cooking.’

Hamish

‘Before and after touching a new baby.’ Jamie

'After touching your pet.' Gypsy Rose

'Before and after eating.' Jamie

Garden Room: In the mornings we have been doing lots of science experiments. This week we made bottle divers. When we squeezed the water bottle the diver sank to the bottom and when we let go the diver rose to the top - like magic!

There have also been lots of birthdays in the Garden Room so we have been doing lots of baking lately. It is my birthday this week!

Kieran P4

Thinking Room 1 learned the Robin Redbreast poem for Burns Day and learned about how the birds find it hard to find food in the winter, so we made some bird feeders to hang in the tree outside our window. They were great fun to make and we are looking out for the birds coming. We also made some lovely dog biscuits for our Therapet visitors. We are learning about the Chinese New Year which is going to be the year of the Dog. This fits in very well with our pets topic!

P5 news: We have been learning about the lunar month and the moon phases. When you cannot see the moon or can only see a dark ring it is called a new moon. - Liam

The moon takes approximately one month to orbit the Earth. - Annabelle

We can only see one side of the moon because it reflects the light of the sun. - Neave

We have been learning about space travel since it began in 1942. Did you know that in 1949 a monkey called Albert II was sent to space? - Caley

I knew that a dog had been to space. I looked for information and found out that it was the first animal to orbit the Earth. It happened in 1957 and the dog was called Laika and sadly Laika died whilst on her space mission. - Dylan

P5 have researched all the planets in The Solar System. There are 8 planets orbiting the sun. It takes the Earth one year to orbit the sun. - Harvey
Mars is known as the red planet. - Kyle

Jupiter has a dark spot on it which is actually a storm that has been raging for many years. - Kane

We created our own mnemonics to help us remember the order of the planets in the Solar System. - Wiktoria

My (Mars) Very (Venus) Enormous (Earth)

Mammoth (Mercury) Just (Jupiter) Stands

(Saturn) Upon (Uranus) Nettles (Neptune)

Primary 1/2 are really enjoying learning about the senses. We are working hard to write science reports using time connectives. We took part in a fantastic workshop called Ella's Wobble where we learned all about high and low sounds. We made our own instruments. It was really good fun.

In Primary 1 we have been learning where rain comes from. "It comes from clouds, the clouds get bigger and bigger and when they are really heavy it starts to rain". Paul

If it is cold the raindrops turn into snow - Dylan
Snowflakes are all different shapes and have six points - Betheny

P2 We have been learning about the five senses. We have been finding out about touch, smell and hearing so far. We have been doing experiments to test our senses. In our smelling experiment we smelled different things and chose our favourites.
Kyle

P2 have been learning about adjectives, nouns and verbs. We have been using them in our sentences to write a description of a picture. Abbie

P3 have been learning about different kinds of weather. We have been learning about how rainbows are made. We know that white light gets broken by the rain into the 7 different colours. - Abigail

We have learned that white light is made up of 7 different colours but our eyes don't always see them. - Sophia

We learned about how clouds are made. The water evaporates and then in the sky it condenses to make a cloud. - Jay

We have been learning about the difference between weather and climate. - Simon

We have been writing descriptions of characters. - Irene

We have been learning and practising our 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables. - Maria

Recently Primary 3 received a parcel from North Carolina. They sent us a lovely letter and some peace doves which are hanging in our classroom. We are very excited to reply to their message.

P4 We have been learning about the Human Body. So far we have learned the names of the organs and what they do in the body. This week we were excited to make blood! "Your blood has red and white blood cells." Debbie
"Your white blood cells fight infections." By Elliot

P7 have been learning about microorganisms and preparing for our assembly. We have learned about the types of microorganisms –Algae ,Protozoa ,Bacteria ,Fungi and Virus. We also made posters that show information about each microbe. P7 have also been making microorganism cushions. This week primary 7 went to an anti-smoking workshop where we were shown a drama scene of how smoking can affect your body. P7 learned about the danger of smoking and how it affect your health. In the afternoon we made our own drama scene for primary 6 to show them the danger of smoking. By Sarah

P6 It was stay safe on the Internet Day this week and we have been learning how to stay safe online. In Science we have been learning about buoyancy and how it makes things float. We took part in experiments and one was to fill a tub with water and find five objects that would float. We also learned about water colours and tried new art techniques. In PE we have been learning Scottish Dancing and everyone learned how to do a pas-de-basque (Paddy-de-Ba!) By Olivia and Nicola.

Day of Dance

P1/2 are waiting to hear if they are going to take part in the Creative Day of Dance in Perth on 7th March. Fingers crossed and we will send out letters with more news to P1/2 parents.

School photographs

Monday 26th February is Tempest school photographs. This year it is individual and sibling photographs. Please save the date and ensure children wear school uniform.

Parent pay – Please activate your account if you haven't already done so. See the school office if you need some help. Many thanks.

P5 Swimming

This year the P5 class will get their 10 week swimming block from Friday 20th April to Friday 20th June. A letter will be coming home soon with more information about this. Children go to Blairgowrie Recreation Centre and have a 45 minute swimming lesson, free of charge. We were unable to go last year due to no swimming instructor so P5 will have lessons this session. Children are entitled to one block of swimming lessons between P3 & P7 in PKC at the moment.

Rotary Quiz

This was held on Tue 6th February at Blairgowrie Campus. Well-done to the team of P7 pupils: Ellie, Sarah, William and Niamh. They did very well and enjoyed the experience.

Scots Assembly in school Friday 2nd February

Teachers selected three children from their classes for the final and Miss Sinclair and I had the challenging job of choosing the winners in each class. They performed their poems at assembly and had their photograph taken for the paper. Well done to all the children who learned poems, all the finalists and the winners:
P1 Betheny with Robin Reid Breast
P1/2 Caleb with The Crocodile
P2 Elsa with My Wee Doggie
P3 Simon n with The Heron
P4 Nicole with Street Talk
P5 Logan with A Dug, A Dug
P6 Rennie with Willie Wastle
P7 Ellie with Tam 'O' Shanter

The winners and finalists received certificates.

Pupil Council news

We are delighted to announce that SOC has agreed to the children's request for playground equipment to around £2000 and this will be ordered in the next couple of days. Pupil Council are helping Mrs Drew and Miss Sinclair with a school walk round over the next couple of weeks, looking at the classrooms, learning and displays, as well as speaking to children about their learning.

School Development work

School is closed for in service on Wednesday 14th February. On this day the staff will be looking at the Pupil Equity Funding and how we have so far spent this money and how we are showing the impact of this, we will also be looking at our School Improvement Plan as we are mid-way through the session and measuring our progress so far. In the afternoon we are all having training on resilience in children and barriers to learning. I will send out an update on this in a few weeks.

School is closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and we are back on Monday 19th February.

Save the date – Bingo Tea Friday 23rd February

This is always a well-attended and fun evening in the town hall. SOC and school run this together and SOC use the funds to support the school. Bring a mug and your pennies for Bingo Tickets and entry. We always have good prizes and cakes! All welcome. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Dates for Diary

Class assembly dates are on a Friday at 10.50am, parents and friends are welcome to attend when it is your child's class assembly:

P7 – 9th February 2018
P1- Friday 16th March 2018
P1/2- Friday 23rd March 2018
P3-Friday 4th May 2018
P2- Friday 11th May 2018

Wednesday 14th February 2018 – In-service day
Thursday 15th & Friday 16th 2018 – holiday

*Friday 23rd February 2018 – Bingo Tea in Town hall

*Book Fair in school Wednesday 14th March – Wednesday 21st March.

Thursday 15th March, 2018 - 5-7.30pm Parent Contact
Tuesday 20th March 3.30- 6pm Parent Contact

Thur 22nd March – Robo Science Workshop in school

***Wednesday 28th March 2018 – Science Open afternoon 2pm all welcome More information to follow**

Thursday 29th March 2018 – school closes at 3.15pm for Easter holiday

Monday 16th April 2018 – in-service day
Tuesday 17th April 2018 – school opens for children

Friday 20th April 2018 – P5 swimming block starts for 10 weeks every Friday.

Thursday 26th April 2018
P7 Transition morning to BHS

Monday 30th April 2018- Friday 4th May – P7 Residential Trip

Monday 7th May 2018 – May Day Holiday

Thursday 10th May 2018 – SOC meeting 5.30pm

***Friday 1st June 2018 – School Sports day Afternoon for parents**

*Monday 4th June – Charity Shop for one week

Wednesday 6th June 2018 – Reports issued to parents

*** Thursday 7th & Friday 8th June P7 Induction days at BHS**

*Monday 25th June – P7 Leaver's meal and Disco (whole school disco, times to follow)

Thursday 28th June – End of Term service

Thursday 28th June 2018 –school closes at 12.00 for summer holiday.

N. Drew.