

Allan's Primary School



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2019

WELCOME!

Welcome to our March newsletter! It has been a busy few months where we have made lots of positive progress in learning and achievements in and out of school!

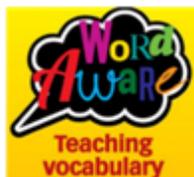
OUR PRIORITIES

Literacy—Book Breakfast

We hosted a very successful Book Breakfast on Tuesday 5th March where children and adults had the opportunity to read and celebrate books together. There was a real buzz of reading enjoyment throughout the school. The event also provided the chance to “give a book a new home” with a selection of donated books available for children and families to take home. We also had our recently purchased novels and specially chosen texts on display which the children were involved in selecting, we can't wait to start reading them! Many thanks to Ailsa Power from Stirling Central Library for providing a storytelling session in the Hub which children and adults thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who completed evaluations of the event which we will use in our improvement journey.



Word Aware—Mrs Howland and Claire Maclean (Speech and Language Therapist) shared our Word Aware journey last week at a local Pupil Equity Fund event where they outlined the positive impact this intervention has had on our literacy attainment throughout the school. Please take the time to look at our display in the front office which demonstrates the positive journey our children have made in their vocabulary since implementing this approach. All children continue to take part in vocabulary building learning activities throughout the week. Home support for vocabulary helps build on and consolidate this learning. Please try the “Word Game of the Month” detailed on the right hand side of the page.



Dates for Your Diary

14 March	P3 at Football Festival
15 March	Lacrosse Tournament
19 March	P7 at Sky Academy
21 March	P6/7 at Track & Field Event
22 March	Snapshot jotters to go home
25 March	P7 to SHS
26 March Easter Code	P6 to St Columba's Church for Easter Code
28 March	Easter Service at 9.30am
29 March	School closes at 3.20pm for Easter holidays
15 April	School re-opens for summer term
19 April	School closed for Easter Weekend
23 April	School re-opens
4 May	Community Garden Tidy Up
6 May	School closed for holiday
18 May	May Fayre 11—1.30pm
22 May	Sports Day
30 May	Sports Day (contingency date)
28 June	End of term at 1.30pm

What Can It Do?

This is a game for journeys: one player calls out an object that he/she can see and the next person has to think of five things that it can do or can be done with it. For instance, “tree” you can—climb, chop, grow, fall down, absorb carbon dioxide, etc.

Science

Science Week this year is busier than ever! We were lucky enough to obtain a grant from British Science Week to purchase materials for our science investigations. Several STEM ambassadors are working with classes on a variety of STEM activities. We are lucky enough to have secured funding from the National Space Academy for P6 and P7 to participate in a PPG science master class. This has been designed to use "space" as a context to tackle the curriculum, linking science and engineering with space science and technology to engage young people with the science! Forth Valley College will again be participating hosting a rocket laboratory!

Stirling University will be participating with our STEM career talks, with both professors and research associates talking about their work. A fantastic link for our pupils, and we hope to develop future collaborations with both FVC and Stirling University.

Miss White is working with us and creating exciting science in music workshops to deliver. Mrs Malcolm is working on a special project based on Victorian Orphans and the science of photography.

On Thursday evening, Stirling Astronomical Society is opening the observatory at Stirling Highland Hotel for parents and pupils (5 years and over) to come along and hopefully get a chance to look at the stars and explore our solar system. Booking forms are handed out to classes – book early as this was a sell-out last year!

Miss Shrimpton is working in the nursery on Monday 11 March supporting a Learning Together Time with pupils and families developing their curiosity for science. A talk with parents and carers will also give parents 'hands on' ideas for science activities at home.

Finally – look out for the family challenge! What will it be this year?

A huge thank you to Miss Shrimpton for organising such a fun-filled week of purposeful science activities and events!



Attendance & Punctuality

If your child is going to be absent, please contact the school as soon as possible. We would be extremely grateful if you could call before 9am as this allows us to inform your child's class teacher.

We have observed a number of children arriving after the second bell at 9am and entering the school by the main door. It is extremely important that your child is in line and ready to enter the school at 9am. If your child arrives late, it causes stress and anxiety. We monitor attendance and punctuality and if we are concerned, we will be contacting you. Please ensure that your child is in line and ready to enter the school with their class at 9am.

Family Support Drop-ins

Our Family Support Workers—Aileen and David are hosting Drop-in Sessions every month. They are able to help out and give advice on numerous issues :

Food Bank Referrals, Be-friending Services, Bookbug, Peep, Additional Support Services, Parenting Support and Housing

They will be in our hub on the following days:

- 23 April at 2.30pm
- 16 May at 9am
- 4 June at 2..30pm

Please drop-in and say hello and use their expertise if you need advice!

Parent Council News

Our next Allan's Parent Council Meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2019. We are looking for people to help out at our May Fayre on Saturday 18 May so if you can give up a few hours of your time, we would really appreciate it! Please let one of our committee members know if you are able to help!

Together, We Learn for Life!

Rotary Club Quiz

On Tuesday 5 March, a group of Primary 7 children represented our school at the Stirling Schools Rotary Quiz at Stirling High School. Our quiz team did extremely well and came third in the competition and were pipped at the post for second place! A huge well done to Anne, Kallan, Emily, Adam, Heather and Calan! We are very proud of you! Thank you to Mr Downs and Mrs Mitchell for giving up their lunchtimes to help the children prepare for the event.



Stirling Schools Glee Challenge



Our Glee Club competed in Stirling School Glee Competition at the Albert Halls on Tuesday 5 March! We are so proud of them as they gave a stunning performance of “The Greatest” by Sia and an Elvis medley. The organisers were so impressed with their performance that they visited the school on Friday 8 March to present the children with a trophy and certificates. The organisers said that our Glee Club truly reflected the spirit of the Glee Challenge and want our achievement to be recognised! A huge thank you to Jaimie Mills and Jonny Lee Memphis for their support and encouragement.

Question of the Month

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Question of the Month which was displayed in the front foyer last term. The question was



“Our curriculum has a strong focus on developing the skills our children need in the world of work”

We received a positive response from this question however we did not receive as many as we would have liked and we believe that this is due to the question being situated behind the front door. If you have any ideas how we can gauge parental opinion without placing too much pressure on parents, please let us know as we are always looking for new and exciting ways to gather opinion!

Our question for this month is

“Do you feel that there are enough parental engagement opportunities within the school?”

Please take the time to visit the board as it will only take you a few seconds! We also invite you to expand your answer by writing a comment on a post-it note provided. We thank you in advance for your support in this strategy. Self-evaluation is the key to continuous improvement.

Anti-Bullying Working group



Many thanks to Fiona Moffat, Children's Rights Officer from Stirling Council, who attended our first working group meeting on 31st January 2019 together with a group of parents and children. As a starting point we began devising questionnaires for both parents/carers and children which will help us in the formation of an updated anti-bullying policy in line with the national policy: **Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People**. Further details regarding our next meeting to follow.

Community Group

Many thanks to everyone who came along to our "Soup and Sandwich" event on the 22nd February 2019. Craig from Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau joined us to update us on the charity's activities in the local area. We discussed how best to poverty proof our school users through the formation of a strategy aimed at supporting families through information events, education etc. Craig advised that Allan's is already doing a great job in terms of the support we provide for our school community but we are keen to continue to build on this work even further.



Should you have any questions or suggestions for future events please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Howland or Mrs Toole.

Tutti Fruity Tuesday



We are very lucky to have two kind parents who give up their free time to prepare fruit every Tuesday morning for our weekly fruit snack. We have noticed that some children are not accessing this opportunity especially those in the upper years. Please encourage your child to try and healthy snack and support our healthy eating strategy.

A pot of fruit only costs 20p.

We have an increased number of children who suffer from a peanut/nut/seeds allergy, please ensure that your child's snack or packed lunch does not contain nuts.



APC Easter Hunt

Taking total inspiration from the Reindeer Hunt, that Stirling Council put on across Stirling Town Centre at Christmas Time, the Fundraising Committee/APC plan to do something very similar with Easter Eggs and Bunnies during the Easter holidays. Templates of A3 Eggs and Bunnies will be decorated by Allan's Primary pupils, laminated and then displayed in various shop/business windows across town. The Eggs/Bunnies will be on display from Friday 29th March until Tuesday 23rd April. Individuals can purchase an entry form for £1 (on which the location of all eggs/bunnies needs to be listed) and all correct, entry forms will be entered into the draw for a prize. Further information will follow over the next couple of weeks via Facebook and the Allan's App. Family and friends etc. are all very welcome to participate.



Chaplaincy Group

On Thursday 31st January our Chaplaincy group, lead by Rab Donald (Pastor, Stirling Baptist Church) met to discuss and plan our end of term and religious observance assemblies for the rest of the session. Due to retirements we have had a new member of our religious community join our chaplaincy team from Free church. We have updated our School Team noticeboard in the front office with photographs of our chaplaincy team. Many thanks for all the continued support they provide to our school community.