

Allan's Primary School



JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019! We hope that this newsletter gives you an update on our achievements, ongoing initiatives and our improvement planning strategy. The month of December brought us Christmas Nativity, Christmas Concert, parties, book launch, cinema trip and even a visit from Santa himself!

OUR PRIORITIES

Developing Our Young Workforce & Creativity

Our Makerspace Week in November was a huge success! The children and staff team really enjoyed the new experience. We were highly impressed with the results. Throughout this week, we observed a high engagement level and children were developing the essential 21st century skills in collaboration, creativity, communication, critical thinking and curiosity. Our children demonstrated a true commitment to solving the set challenges as they were real-life, purposeful problems. Our next Makerspace Week is scheduled for week beginning 25 February. Each class will receive a challenge which they must complete by Friday 29 February. A huge thank you to Mr Downs for organising such innovative challenges!



Literacy

We hosted a very successful Read Write Inc. phonics event in November for our P1 parents, providing an opportunity for them to hear and see in practice how we teach our new phonics programme. Feedback from the parents who attended was very positive. We are very encouraged by the children's enthusiasm for their phonics learning, they are steadily becoming familiar with new routines and language. To assist the implementation of this exciting phonics programme all infant staff together with our Support for Learning teacher, Mrs Foran, attended additional training during November inset days. A further RWI event for P2 parents will take place in the near future, further details to follow.



Staff in stages P3-P7 also took part in Reflective Reading during our recent inset days. Created specifically for Scotland, Reflective Reading is a methodology that we plan to use as one of the tools to raise reading attainment within the school through the use of engaging ideas and activities linked to a variety of text.



Dates for Your Diary

23 Jan	Triple P Parenting Discussion 9.30am
24 Jan	Burns Supper at 6pm
25 Jan	Celebration of Scots Language Assembly & Class Newsletters distributed
28 Jan	Class Newsletters distributed
31 Jan	Anti-bullying Group at 2pm
7 Feb	Burns Celebration at SHS, Dalguise Information Session 6.15pm & APC Meeting at 7pm 2pm Literacy Working group meeting
8 Feb	School closes for mid-term holiday at 3.20pm
18 Feb	School re-opens. Parents' Consultation fortnight begins
22 Feb	APC Family Disco 11am Community group meeting
25 Feb	Makerspace Week
7 March	APC Meeting at 7pm
11 March	Science Week
22 March	Snapshot jotters to go home
29 March	Easter Church Service—time to be confirmed. 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

Technologies

A few of our Digital Heroes presented at Metafest in Codebase where they shared our digital learning with the local community. The children were able to discuss our digital strategy and their learning effectively and visitors were highly impressed with their knowledge and understanding. A huge well done to Annie Mackie, Adam Sparks and Jolie Ledingham for giving up their Saturday afternoon for the school!



Parents' Consultations

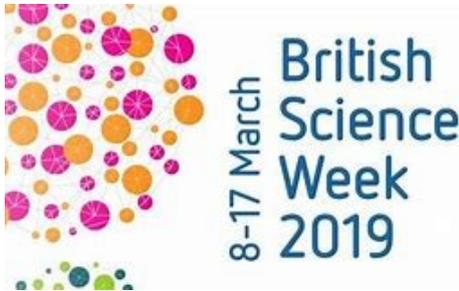
Our Parents' Consultations Fortnight begins week beginning 18 February. Please contact Mrs Arthur if you want to make an appointment to discuss your child's progress with his/her class teacher.

Staff Development Days

The school will be closed on 11 & 12 February for staff development training and then closed 13—15 February for mid-term holidays. Throughout staff development days, our team will be focusing on the impact of adverse childhood experiences on brain development, continuing to build our knowledge on children's creativity and self-evaluating our progress so far this academic session.

Science Week— 8–17 March

After the success of last year's Science Week, Miss Shrimpton has kindly offered to run this event again. She is already planning various fun, stimulating activities for the children and will be organising a few community events too. Miss Shrimpton secured a grant for £300 for Science Week and we can't wait to see what she has in store for us all! If you are interested in helping out during this fun-filled week, please contact Miss Shrimpton



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.

Stirling School Poetry Competition

We would like to congratulate two worthy winners of the Stirling Schools Poetry Competition. Joseph Boyack was the overall winner entertaining the audience with his poem on Colours and Feelings and Olivia Petrie gave a lovely recital of her poem. Several schools entered this competition and we are extremely proud of their contributions! Go Team Allan's!



Head Lice Alert!

We have received a few reports that some of our children have had unwanted visitors! At this time of year, head lice seem to thrive! Please check your child's hair regularly and if you do find some unwanted visitors, please make use of the guidance offered on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

Wet Combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first.

You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you: wash hair with ordinary shampoo apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do) comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends.

Parent Council News

Our next Allan's Parent Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7 February at 7pm. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out during the Nativity and Christmas Concert serving tea, coffee, mulled spice apple and mince pies! We would also like to say thank you to all the children and parents who gave up their time to sing in the Thistles at Christmas. The APC raised over £200 for one hour of singing which goes straight to supporting the children's learning! If you are interested in joining our APC, please come along on 7 February, tea, coffee and biscuits will be served and lots of welcoming faces!

Together, We Learn for Life!

We are establishing a number of strategy working groups in school to initiate positive change and we invite community members to be part of these exciting change groups. We are looking for any interested parents to be part of our Literacy Working Group and Anti-bullying Group.

Literacy Working Group— Thursday 7th February 2019 2pm

We have already consulted with children and staff regarding the purchase of new reading resources for P4-P7. We have allocated funds from our school budget to purchase new books to enhance and update our current novels. Several parents have already expressed an interest in being part of this group with a meeting due to take place on the above date, initially focusing on reading homework. We will communicate our discussion with our school community, however, in the meantime if you have any ideas/suggestions with regard to reading at Allan's please contact the school.

Anti-bullying Working Group

In line with current anti-bullying guidance we are in the process of updating our policy in line with the national policy: Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People.

At Allan's we promote a nurturing culture and ethos where bullying behaviours are not tolerated and where:

- Children's rights are at the forefront
- Diversity is fostered
- Respectful relationships, built on mutual trust and understanding, are developed



We plan to have our first working group meeting on **Thursday 31st January at 2pm** and have invited Fiona Moffatt, Children's Rights Officer from Stirling Council. Should you wish to be part of this group please contact either Mrs Howland or Mrs Toole

Triple P Discussion Group

Our next Parenting Discussion Group is scheduled for 23 January at 9.30am in our H&W Hub. Everyone is invited to attend this valuable discussion group. The topic of this session will be tantrums and "selective hearing". Please come along and join our discussion. Refreshments will be served and there will be lots of chat on how we all deal with the above parenting challenges!

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

"Snapshot Jotters provide a valuable insight into my child's learning journey across a typical week which helps support learning conversations at home?"

We received a mixed response from this question as some parents thought that the jotters gave a valuable insight into their child's learning however two people disagreed. If you have any suggestions on how we can enable our parents and families to comprehend the learning which takes place throughout a typical week at school, please let us know as we are always looking for new, innovative ways to communicate to our community.

We are constantly adjusting/modifying where appropriate to ensure positive outcomes for our children. Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) is at the heart of everything we do! We value your thoughts and opinions so if you have any ideas on how we can enhance our school, please don't hesitate to come and discuss it!

Our question for this month is

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

Our Question Board is still in the front foyer but it has moved to left hand side of the outside door, 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.

Dalguise Residential Trip 9—11 October 2019

Following the success of previous residential experiences, we have provisionally booked the above dates at PGL Dalguise for our current P6 children. An information event will take place on Thursday 7th February 2019 at 6.15pm to which all our P6 children and parents are invited. There will be a short presentation together with an opportunity to ask any questions. Following the information event, we will hopefully be able to confirm the booking and provide details of costings etc.



Community Group

Following on from our successful “Soup and Sandwich” events last session we would like to continue to serve our school community through hosting events which are relevant and informative for all our families. Following feedback, our next community group meeting will take place on Friday 22 February at 11am.



The focus will be reviewing the cost of a typical school day. Should you have any questions or suggestions for future events, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Howland or Mrs Toole.



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. We also ask that our children do not share their snacks or packed lunches as this will ensure that they are eating food which is suitable for their own dietary needs. We would also ask that you do not hand into school any celebratory birthday cake, sweets etc for distribution. We have a child in our P1 class, Lucia Ordonez-Sans, who has a severe allergic reaction to nuts/

peanuts/seeds and we, as a school community, need to ensure that we keep all our children safe.

APC Family Disco

The Allan’s Primary, Family Disco will take place on Friday 22nd February at the Albert Halls (6.30pm-9pm). Tickets cost £4 per adult, £2 per child (school age) and £1 per ticket for pre-schoolers. Tickets will be available to purchase from Monday 4th February at school drop off/pick up times. Refreshments will be available to purchase and the Albert Hall will be providing a pay bar. In addition there will be a DJ, dance offs, tombola, guess how many sweets in the jar and pound coin rolling. The family disco has always proved to be a huge amount of fun and a brilliant social evening so please save the date, spread the word and come and join us. All money raised goes to help fund school improvements!



A Huge Thank You!

We were very lucky to receive a kind donation of brand new sound system from Tartan Entertainment. This new sound system was well used at Christmas from nativity rehearsals, performances, concerts, parties and ceilidh dancing! A huge thank you to everyone at Tartan Entertainment!

Our wonderful APC also purchased a new speaker to use outside in the playground. We use this for our Daily Mile activities and playtimes/lunchtimes! The children and staff are really enjoying using it!