

## NEWSLETTER February 2016

### Upcoming Events

#### Rotary Quiz

A group of P6-7 pupils will be representing the school in the Rotary Quiz, to be held in Ben Wyvis Primary on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm. Well down to the pupils who were selected to be in the team – Heather, Angus, Finlay, Eoghan and Amy. Please help them by asking them general knowledge questions when you see them!



#### Music Festival

This year, P1-3 and P-5 are entering the Music Festival, P1-3 in the Action Song category and P4-5 in Performed Song with Actions. Both events are at Eden Court on the morning of Wednesday 9th March.

#### School hours

School starts at 9am and finishes at 3pm. Nursery starts at 8.40 and finishes at 11.50am. Please make sure that your children are on time in the morning and collected promptly the close.

Pupils should not be left in the playground before 8.30 at the earliest. There is no supervision in the playground before 9am.

#### Parking

A few parents are still parking in the car park in front of the school when taking children into nursery. To keep all children safe, this car park is for staff use and for bus use only. Parking is available at the hall.

#### Lost Property

We encourage children to take care of their own belongings. You can make this easier for them by ensuring that their name is written on their things and that they are not bringing things to school that they do not need, such as toys.

#### Communication Books

A reminder that all pupils should bring their communication book to school every day.

#### Medicines and Inhalers

The school has a coherent policy regarding the administration of medicines during the school day. Please make sure that you have completed the appropriate forms if you require your child to either take medicine or to take their own medicine at school. This includes the use of inhalers.

The Policy is available on the school website along with forms to download.

### Learning for Life

Pupils from P1-P7 learn skills in taking responsibility for and ownership of their own learning. From the nursery, they begin to set learning targets and celebrate progress towards these. All pupils from P1 to P7 should be packing their own homework, taking notes back and fore to school and coming to school ready to learn with a pencil and a rubber of their own to use during the day. We want to minimise the loss to learning time that ensues when pupils cannot find a pencil and then cannot start work, or cannot hand in their homework because “my mum did not put it in my bag”.



Children are supported in looking after their own belongings – it helps them greatly if their things are labelled clearly with their name.



An increasing number of children are forgetting their PE kit. All pupils are expected to bring a change of clothes for PE. Pupils can leave their kit in a bag on a peg.

There are an increasing number of interruptions to the children’s learning and to the work of the school as things that they have failed to bring to school are dropped off. Pupils should come to school ready for the day ahead with all the things they will need. This includes their lunch.

If a child forgets their lunch, they will be offered to choose a school lunch for which they will be charged. Children in P1-3 receive free lunches.



Please also be aware that, as a small school, we have a part time clerical assistant and it may be that at times, there is no-one available to answer the door or the phone except the class teacher or PSA, whose primary duty is teaching and supporting the children. At these times, the door and phone may not be answered.



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**School Improvement**

This year, we have been working on improvements in line with the SIP.

**Feedback**

We have been looking again at the feedback we give our children and its effectiveness in moving their learning forward. Much of the feedback that we give children is oral and immediate and part of the lesson. We have moved away from the old idea that feedback is a series of corrections and ticks on a child's work – research shows that this has no impact on improving learning at all. Staff have been developing skills in linking feedback to the learning intention and supporting children in knowing what to do with the feedback they are given. This kind of feedback allows children to understand which skill they have mastered, where they might have gone wrong and what they can do to improve.



**Questioning**

We have continued our improvement in supporting the development of pupils' thinking skills through exploring the role of questioning.

**Playground**

Over the February break, we hope that a path will be installed across the grass and through the arch. This path has been funded by the Ward Discretionary fund and the Parent Council. It will give children a bit more space to play in wet weather and also act as an access path towards the play equipment that the Parent Council were instrumental in getting.

**Resourcing**

**Emotional Literacy**

We have resourced our programme in Emotional Literacy, and will be using the Bounce Back resource and the Creating Confident Kids on a rolling programme.

**Learning with Dyslexia**

We have extended our selection of books for reading for enjoyment. If you are looking for books to engage a reluctant reader at home, I suggest looking on [www.barringtonstokes.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstokes.co.uk) which has a wide range of "dyslexia friendly" books – printed on coloured paper, and with a reading age of 6, 7 or 8 and an older interest age.

**Dates for the Diary**

**February**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening
- 10<sup>th</sup> P1-3 visit to farm
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> School closed to pupils
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Rotary Quiz

**March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> P1 and P7 Dental Inspections
- 4<sup>th</sup> Cross Country - Ainess
- 8<sup>th</sup> Music Festival
- 17<sup>th</sup> Parent Council Meeting -2pm in Hub
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bridge Tournament
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Scottish Parliament visit – P4-7
- 24<sup>th</sup> School closes for Easter break