



Newtonhill Newsletter

26 August 2016

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Welcome Back

The school is now back into the daily routines of teaching and learning. We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and we extend a warm welcome to all new families at Newtonhill. Pupils have settled well into new classes and classroom areas. It is lovely to see and hear the excited buzz of activity and learning around the school.

Primary 1 pupils begin their full days as of Monday 29 August. They have had a super start and Miss Munro and Mrs McKenna are delighted at how quickly the boys and girls have settled into Newtonhill.



Uniform

It is lovely to see all pupils return to school in uniform. Staff have commented on how smart the children look. Please can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that school uniform includes dark shoes and not brightly coloured trainers. The website for school uniform is www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com Uniform can be ordered at any point throughout the year.

Children's Laureate

We are very fortunate to be receiving a visit from the Children's laureate – Chris Riddell. Pupils in Primary 4-7 will meet with Mr Riddell on Thursday 15th September.

- P1 Reading Evening 29 August
- ALEC Wednesday 7 September
- ALEC Thursday 8 September
- ALEC Friday 10 September
- ALEC Monday 12 September
- Roald Dahl Day 13 September
- Chris Riddell Visit 15 September
- F.O.N. AGM Thursday 15 September
- Book Fair Wednesday 21 September
- Book Fair Thursday 22 September
- Book Fair Friday 23 September
- School Disco Wednesday 28 September
- School Grounds day 30 September
- Parents Evening Wednesday 5 October & Thursday 6 October



Roald Dahl Day

The 13 September is Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. Schools across the country are celebrating this favourite author. At Newtonhill we are having our first non-uniform day this session and invite pupils to dress as a Roald Dahl character. Pupils are asked to bring £1 for the Roald Dahl Children's Charity.

Active Schools

We have a new Active Schools Coordinator – Graeme McCall. Graeme will be organizing Active School clubs and activities throughout the year and information regarding these clubs will be sent home in due course.

School Grounds

We are very fortunate to have fantastic school grounds at Newtonhill. However, the edge of the school grounds, which the pupils have affectionately named the forest, does not actually belong to the school. This was apparently fenced off when the school was first built. We would love this to be part of the school as it is used by all classes and provides valuable learning experiences for all pupils from nursery to P7. At the moment this does not seem to be an option but we do hope to continue using it.

On Friday the 30th of September we are planning a whole school outdoors day. We would like to involve all pupils in learning activities and experiences outside but also involve the pupils in

taking care, pride and responsibility for our grounds. More information will follow but we would like to invite parents to join us on this day. So please, if you can, pull on your wellies, bring a spade and help make our grounds great.

ALEC

The **ALEC (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres)** mobile classroom will be visiting Newtonhill on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 12th of September.

ALEC is part of **Coram Life Education**, a charity providing a unique health education programme which teaches children about the wonder of their bodies, how to take care of themselves and how drugs can affect them.

The different programmes are age appropriate, matching the physical/emotional development of the children. The specially equipped classroom provides an unforgettable experience for the children and will complement our school's health and wellbeing programme.



The 'Excellence' Factor

This session we will continue to celebrate pupils' achievements across the curriculum with our 'excellence factor' awards at assembly. Every week teachers will choose at least one pupil from their class who has worked particularly well in a curriculum area, displayed an excellent approach towards their work or demonstrated excellence in their behaviour, attitude or ethos.

They will be recognised at assembly, presented with a Head Teacher award and their achievements displayed at our school entrance.

Our Roll of Honour is also on display. This recognises the achievements made by pupils out with school and celebrates their success.

Behaviour and Golden Rules.

At the start of each term we remind the children of our 'Golden Rules' and the high expectations we have regarding behaviour. We do have high expectations of all our pupils regarding behaviour. This year staff will continue with the restorative practice approach to dealing with behaviour. I am delighted to say that the start of this session has been very good and all pupils are trying very hard in class and in the playground. On the very rare occasion where a pupil has to be sent to the head teacher it will be recorded and parents will be contacted after **two** such incidents.

Aberdeenshire Volunteering Awards

We have now participated in the Aberdeenshire Volunteering Awards for a number of years. Pupils can volunteer to help in and around school and the community in order to build up their hours and receive their awards. It is made clear to the pupils what constitutes as volunteering activities and jobs. It really is a valuable activity for the pupils in becoming responsible citizens.

Mrs Cable will present an assembly for the senior pupils to explain how they can achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Lagganlia 2017

This year we have chosen a different venue and a different week for our Primary 7 residential trip. We are delighted to be visiting Lagganlia Centre for Outdoor Education in Kingussie on the second last week of the summer term.

Our Primary 7 pupils have already had information given to them regarding the trip to Lagganlia. This residential week is a very popular trip and a traditional part of the Primary 7 year. An information evening for parents will be organised for later this session.

School Improvement Plans

This session's school improvement plans will be available shortly. Copies will be displayed at the school entrance,

on our website and will be shared at our Friends of Newtonhill meetings. Staff will continue to develop aspects of literacy and 1+2 (Spanish). Another major focus will be the development of numeracy, assessment and moderation, and reporting. We will also be developing growth mindset across the school.



Friends of Newtonhill (F.O.N.)

The first meeting for Friends of Newtonhill is Tuesday 30th August at 7pm in the staff room. F.O.N. is a joint body for Parent Council and Parent School Association. All parents are welcome to attend. We would love to see new faces join the group of parents who support F.O.N. The activities, events and fundraising the group do, as well as their support for school and curriculum developments is very much appreciated.

The A.G.M for F.O.N will take place on Thursday 15th September.

Staffing

This term we have two new members of staff. Our new Principal teacher is Miss Aimee Bainbridge. Miss Bainbridge will be teaching Primary 2 and her management day for Principal Teacher will be a Tuesday. Mrs

Sutherland will teach the class on a Tuesday.

Mrs Leigh McKay joins our nursery team as an Early Years practitioner.

We are delighted to have both ladies join us.

We do have a temporary vacancy for a PSA. This is being filled on supply basis at the moment and will be advertised and filled as soon as possible.

Car Park

We appreciate how difficult parking is in and around the school. However, please can I remind all parents that the bus lane is for the school buses and taxis. Please do not use this lane to park or drop off your children. The drop off lane is not a parking lane. It is for all parents to use and access as a drop off zone and this becomes very difficult and dangerous when some parents choose to park there.

It is important that all staff can park in the morning and some days we are busier than others with visiting staff. The car park is for staff and, in line with Aberdeenshire guidelines, we operate a reverse car parking policy.



Our school celebrates our learning, successes and achievements through our Twitter feed.

Please follow us on [@Newtonhill_Sch](https://twitter.com/Newtonhill_Sch)

If you do not wish your child's learning to be shared on Twitter please let us know.



Finally

As always we have a busy year ahead of us. We have exciting plans for improving our curriculum and developing our teaching and learning. This session we would really like to involve parents in the learning and we value your input, feedback and discussions.

We are aware that it is not always easy to be involved in school life but would like to know what events or opportunities you would like to see happen or be interested in.

If you could complete the form below we will endeavour to develop opportunities to meet parents' needs and wishes.

Aberdeenshire schools are working towards changing and improving how we report to parents and make this a more ongoing process as opposed to the yearly report that we presently issue in March. We do not have formal guidance on this at this moment in time but are keen to hear views from all parents

We have issued this letter as a paper copy and also emailed it to all families. If you have not received this letter by email please could you complete the information below and return it to school.

I hope all pupils and families have a very happy and successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of school.

Lesley Tullock

Head Teacher

Please tick all that you would be interested in and return to school.

Thank You.

- I would be interested in attending school open days.
- I would like to attend an open school session with a curricular focus eg. Reading or numeracy.
- I would prefer to attend a curriculum evening on all aspects of the curriculum.
- I would prefer to attend a curriculum evening on one aspect of the curriculum.
- I would prefer an informal open evening where my son/daughter could show me their school, class and work.
- other (Please state)

Email Update

Pupil Name _____ Class _____

Parent Email
