



Newtonhill Newsletter

28 August
2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

Welcome back to Primary 2-7 children and their families and a huge welcome to our new families and children joining us whether they are in Primary 1, nursery or in other classes across the school. School is busy returning to routines and fantastic learning opportunities are already evident in all classes. We hope to be able to share our learning with families and involve you in different ways this year. Staff are looking at the calendar for the year ahead and discussing and finalising class and school events which we hope parents and families can become involved in.

As a school we will issue a small survey this week which we would really appreciate you completing. Next week Aberdeenshire Council have asked us to send you a survey

to find out your views and opinions.

As we move forward with dates and events in school we will ensure that you are kept up to date. This term I have asked all class teachers to issue a short class newsletter with information that is specific to your child's class. We hope that this is a valuable addition to communication with parents.



- ALEC Monday 28 August
- ALEC Tuesday 29 August
- ALEC Wednesday 30 August
- P1 Reading Evening 4 September
- F.O.N. AGM Tuesday 12 September
- Book Fair Wednesday 20 September
- Book Fair Thursday 21 September
- Book Fair Friday 22 September



Term Dates

- End of Term 1 Friday 13th October
- School returns Monday 30th October
- In-service day Monday 13th November and Tuesday 14th November.

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.schoolwewearmadeeasy.com Uniform can be ordered at any point throughout the year.

ALEC

The **ALEC (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres)** mobile classroom will be visiting school this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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 or Depute Head Teacher award and their achievements are recorded.

Our Roll of Honour is also on display. This recognises the achievements made by pupils out with school and we encourage pupils to share their successes.



Positive Behaviour

Our pupil council undertook a significant piece of work last year looking at pupil behaviour and how this is managed. As a school we use restorative approaches where we can and our Golden Rules are shared with the pupils and set the ground rules for behaviour expectations. We also have a warning card system if pupils forget to follow the golden rules. We are also introducing a school house system to encourage positive learning and behaviour throughout the school.

School Houses

This year is the first year we have had a school house system. The house system seeks to:

- Promote friendly competition and enthusiasm.
- Help Newtonhill pupils to feel 'part of something', and increase feelings of security, safety, pride and loyalty.
- Promote team working and the concept of working towards shared goals.
- Reward children for displaying any of our school's core values:

Responsible
Excellent
Safe
Persevering
Equal
Confident
Team Players
RESPECT!

- Offer children the extra, more individualised support which is provided by House captains and team alliances.

How the House System works:

Newtonhill has 4 House teams with 4 allocated house captains:

Cranhill Mrs Tullock

Cairnhill Miss Craig

Muchalls Mrs Cable

Skateraw Miss Bainbridge

- Siblings are placed in the same house.
- Each teacher and PSA is also assigned to a house.
- Each classroom has a method of recording house points, in their classroom.
- House points are awarded for displaying any of the school's core values and can be awarded to any pupil, by any member of staff.

As this is a new system to the school we will develop and adjust rewards and celebrations of success as is necessary but we do hope that this will be a positive and successful part of school life.

Lagganlia 2018

This session we are delighted to be returning to Lagganlia Centre for Outdoor Education in Kingussie. We have had to book the last week of term again due to restricted availability.

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.



Friends of Newtonhill (F.O.N.)

The first meeting for Friends of Newtonhill is the AGM at 7pm on Tuesday the 12th of September. F.O.N. is a joint body for Parent Council and Parent School Association.

Whilst there is a fundraising element to the group which is gratefully received and very much appreciated by staff and pupils, there is also the strategic support. The Parent Council aspect of the group allows parents to hear first-hand of school developments and initiatives and this group are consulted on any changes being made in the curriculum or other strategic developments.

All parents are welcome to attend. We would love to see new faces join the group of parents who support F.O.N.

Staffing

This term we have two new members of staff. Mrs McIntosh will be teaching Primary 3 on a Monday, Tuesday and alternative Wednesdays. Mr Cowan will be teaching Primary 5.

Ms Pirie has moved from her role as EYP in nursery to full time PSA.

This term Mrs Sutherland will be teaching Art, Mrs Nicol will be teaching Science and Miss Craig will be teaching Spanish. Not all classes receive teaching input from these teachers but these areas of curriculum are also taught by all class teachers.

School Car Park and Street Parking

Please can I remind all families about car parking at school and in the local area. We appreciate how difficult parking is in and around the school. However 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.

Several local residents have complained about parents parking across drives and blocking the road before school and at the end of the school day. Please can I ask all families to park with care and consideration to our neighbours. If walking to school is not an option there are several entrances into the school grounds and parking to the rear of the school and further round St. Michael's Road may alleviate some of the congestion.



Digital Literacy and Social Media.

As a school we pride ourselves in moving forward with all aspects of digital literacy. We celebrate our learning, successes and achievements through our Twitter feed. We will shortly send out an updated consent form for pupils' photos and their achievements to be shared on twitter or in other forms of digital or local media.

1+2 languages

As you will know, Aberdeenshire are moving ahead with the Scottish goal of providing language learning and teaching through the 1+2 model to all primary children by 2020. Our L2, Spanish, is currently being taught throughout the school using a "drip-feed" method whereby teachers do little bits and pieces in Spanish throughout the week with their class. You will appreciate that teachers are learning Spanish along with the children, and with this in mind, 4 members of staff attended an intensive course in Spain in the summer holidays on Teaching Spanish in Primary Schools, which was funded by the European Erasmus scheme after a very competitive application process. These staff will be sharing their learning across the school, and have already started putting it into practice in the classes. Look out for our "Spanish of the Week" which is displayed around school and also on our Twitter feed. We also had a member of staff representing Aberdeenshire Council at a course in Leadership in Languages at Strathclyde

University for the first week of the holidays so that we can keep our learning and teaching in the North East in line with what is being taught in the rest of Scotland. We would love our wider school community to get involved with language learning and teaching, so if you are fluent in another language and would like to share this with our children in some way, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Absences

Parents and carers can now notify the school of a pupil absence by sending a text message to 07860 029128. We ask that this happens prior to 9.30am where possible. Please do not send texts relating to any other matters.

Appointments

Although we encourage medical and dental appointments to be scheduled out with school hours, there may be occasions when this is not possible.

If you are collecting your child from school please always report to the school office and remain there. A member of staff will collect your child and bring them to you. This ensures that Aberdeenshire Child Protection guidelines are followed.

Should you wish to speak to a teacher prior to school starting then please also contact the school office.

Finally

We really do hope that all our pupils from nursery to Primary 7 have a very happy and successful year.

Parental feedback and involvement is always important to us and we look forward to working with all families.

We will inform you of school events, class events and visits as soon as we can.

If your contact details have changed at all over the summer please ensure we have the correct numbers for home, work and emergency contacts.

Most of our correspondence will be emailed so email addresses are also required to be updated.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Lesley Tullock – Head Teacher