



Newtonhill Newsletter

10 June 2015

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 4 -2015

WOW! What an amazing term we have had. Newtonhill Primary is amazing. We have had so many successes and celebrations. Where to start!!!

Football

Our Primary 6/7 football team have had a magnificent season and on Tuesday 26th May won the The Aberdeen School Football Association Primary School league with a resounding victory. A huge well done to all players, coaches and parents involved in the weekly support.

Our Primary 4/5 team go from strength to strength and although they are not playing in a competitive league, they have had a very successful season. Our thanks and gratitude also go to the coaches and other parents

that support all players in their training at and matches throughout the year.



FON Wednesday 10 June 7.30pm

Goblin Challenge (Engineering Club) – Saturday 13 June

Portlethen Primary Schools Music Concert – Wednesday 17 June

Primary 7 Academy Visit -17-19 June

Primary 1 Induction Wednesday 17 June

Yellow Nursery Trip Friday 19 June

Blue Nursery Trip Wednesday 24 June

Kakatsitsi Drummers to visit 22 June

P4/5 Trip to Tolbooth Wednesday 24 June

Women in Engineering Day Tuesday 23 June

Primary 7 Abernethy Trip 30 June – 3 July

Last day of school – Friday 3 July



Burns Competition

After our success at the Robert Burns World Federation North of Scotland Primary Schools Festival we had five of our pupils forwarded to the national completion in Glasgow. On Saturday 30th May Kirsty Duncan, Rory McIver, Douglas Shiach, Rachael Northcroft and Anya Tullock not only represented Newtonhill but Grampian at the 'The Robert Burns World Federation National Primary Schools Festival'. They all gave outstanding performances in their categories. We were delighted to share the fantastic news that for the second year in a row a Newtonhill pupil was awarded Junior Burnsian. Rory not only won his category (singing) and age group but then went on to compete against the other winners from verse, bagpipes and instrumental and was announced overall winner – Junior Burnsian 2015. He will now be invited to perform at The Robert Burns World Federation Burns supper in Glasgow.



News from the Staffroom

We have several staff changes happening over the summer. We are very sorry to be saying farewell to two longstanding members of staff. Mrs Baxter and Miss Carrol will be taking early retirement at the end of this term. They will both be greatly missed by pupils and staff but we all wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.

Mrs Baxter has been a teacher at Newtonhill Primary since 1981 and has even had the pleasure of teaching the children of her former pupils. The Primary 1 sing song at the top of Cranhill on the annual walk will never be the same without her and staff will miss her and her 'Aladdin's Cave' of resources.

Miss Carrol joined Newtonhill in 1996 as Depute Head and has been responsible for many aspects of school life over the years. She has traditionally always taken the P7 pupils to Abernethy in the last week of the summer term and will end her teaching career in the same way.

Mr Lubavin will also be leaving at the end of term and returning to Canada. The staff and Primary 5 pupils in particular have had the pleasure of getting to know Mr Lubavin over the past year. We hope he stays in touch and we wish him great success in the future.

Ms Ord will be leaving her PSA role at Newtonhill and transferring to Banchory Devenick next session. Banchory Devenick are very lucky to have her join them and we will miss her at Newtonhill.

Joining us next session are Miss Gellatly and Mrs Niven. Miss Gellatly as a full time class teacher and Mrs Niven as a part-time class teacher. We welcome them both and look forward to them joining our school

We still have a few teaching vacancies and at the time of publication these are still not finalised. Depute Head interviews have been arranged and class teacher positions are expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks. As soon as all of these positions are filled and decided then I will be able to inform pupils and parents of staffing arrangements and classes for next session.

Netball

Well done to the P7 netball team who came 2nd in their league this year. They have also taken part in the annual outdoor tournament at Mill of Forest. We hope they will continue with their netball as they move into secondary school. A big thank you to Christina and Rachel for coaching the girls so well.

Friends of Newtonhill.

F.O.N. continue to support the school in so many ways. Their fund raising activities alone this year have raised around £7500. Thank you to all parents that attend meetings, help with fundraising and are always on hand to help classes and the school in general. Their support is greatly appreciated by pupils and staff and the school benefits greatly from all your time and effort.

Music Festival

Mrs Baker has been working very hard with the school ukulele group. The group entered the Aberdeen a North East Music Festival and won first place in the 'Group Music Making' category. Well done to all our ukulele players and a huge thank you to Mrs Baker for all her hard work.



Tennis Tournament

On Thursday 4th June a group of our Primary 3 pupils represented Newtonhill in the Stonehaven Tennis Club Primary Schools Tournament. Newtonhill won for the third year in a row. Well done to Cameron Hendry, Kashaf Ali, Emily Maitland and Arron Keenon.

Back in school

Our pupils have been very busy in school too. We have had a range of learning experiences and events.

Class assemblies continue to be a highlight with the effort and work that goes into them recognised by pupils, staff and parents.

Both Primary 1 classes have had student teachers this term and it is always a pleasure to offer placements at Newtonhill and support new teachers.

Primary 3 had a fantastic visit to the Skateraw Hall this term to visit the display of Village History.

P3 and P 3/4 have been involved in Totally Tatties and have enjoyed working with Farmer David who attended P3/4 Totally Tatties Assembly.

P5/6 were extremely charitable and enterprising this term. They raised Money for the victims of the Nepal Earthquake with their Bake Quake- Be Nice with a Slice. Their home bake sale raised £290.

The Primary Rotary Quiz Team came a very impressive 4th at the regional finals in Banchory on the 16th of May.

Abby Northcroft, Primary 7, achieved a silver award in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge 2014/2015. Congratulations and huge well done to Abby.

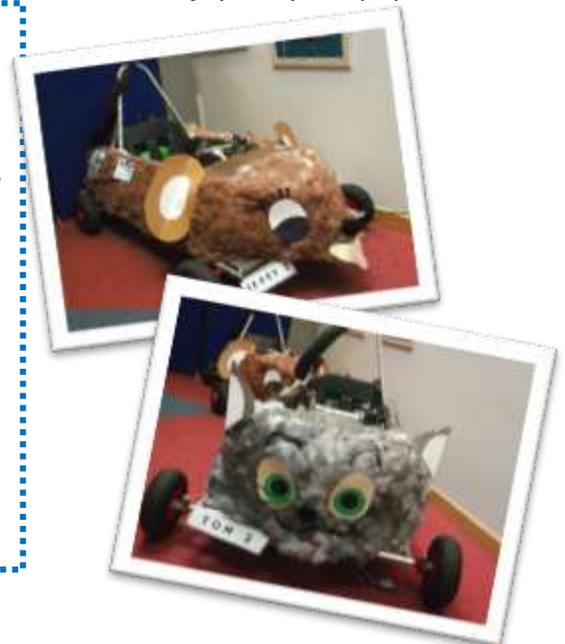
Several pupils across Primary 4-7 have been participating in Young Aberdeenshire Volunteering Awards. We have had pupils gaining Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for the hours they have put in volunteering their help.

AMEC Foster Wheeler are also supporting our curriculum with a careers carousel for Primary 7 and a Women into Engineering day for Primary 6. The business partnership we have with them continues to be very successful and we are very grateful for their support in school.

We have also had hockey and badminton taster session in school this term - both of which have been very successful and enjoyed by the pupils.

The Goblin Challenge

This week is the annual Goblin Challenge at Alford. Our engineering club have been working very hard with the engineer from AMEC Foster Wheeler and Mr Nicol. This year our car theme is Tom and Jerry. A huge thanks to Mrs Cable and Miss Reid who run engineering club every week and to the Graduate Engineers and Mr Nicol for giving their support, expertise and time. As well as sponsorship from AMEC Foster Wheeler we are delighted to have additional sponsorship from MAC – Maritime Assurance and Consulting. MAC have sponsored and supported the transportation of the cars to The Goblin Challenge on 13 June. Many thanks to all involved and Good Luck on Saturday.



Bobby Douglas.

We have had a few events in memory of Bobby this term. On Friday 15th May the school walked around Cranhill for its annual walk. Bobby's classmates did the walk wearing onesies. On Friday 22nd May Primary 6/7 and Primary 7 walked to the beach where they dropped pebbles with Bobby's name into the sea and collected pebbles to create a memorial back at school. Last week we had a fund raising 'wear a hat day'. Over £450 was raised towards a plaque on Bobby's 'pebble memorial and a trophy to be awarded annually to a pupil who has had a significant sporting achievement. The remainder of the money raised will be donated to a fund set up in Bobby's name by his parents.

Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects. – Dalai Lama



As I stated at the start of this newsletter – we have had an amazing term. We have had so many successes and achievements and this week we have been invited to attend the 'Inspiring Aberdeenshire Award Ceremony'. In January I nominated the P4-7 Burns Competition pupils from 2013/2014 for the Best of Kincardine and Mearns Award. We have now made it to the final three and will find out on Thursday if we have won.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continuing support. We are always grateful to the parents and members of the community that support and help us throughout the year.

The last few weeks of any school session are always extremely busy for pupils and staff and as we head towards the end of term can I also take this opportunity to thank all the pupils and staff for their hard work and making Newtonhill the successful school it is. I hope you all have a very good summer break. We wish our Primary 7 pupils all the best as they move on to their new schools.

School begins for pupils on Tuesday 18th August 2015. I look forward to seeing all the pupils back then and working with you all in the new session.

Lesley Tullock – Head Teacher