



# Newtonhill Newsletter

## 8 September 2015

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## Welcome Back

We are now at the beginning of our fourth week back. I hope everyone has had a lovely summer break even if our Scottish weather has not been at its best this past few months.

We have had a super start to Term 1. The new Primary one pupils have all settled really well and I am delighted to say they are all fabulous. Mrs McKenna and Miss Munro are very pleased with how quickly the children have settled into school and new routines.

I am also extremely pleased to see how well all our other pupils have settled into their new classes. Pupils are back into routine and have been working extremely well during the first few weeks. In our

first assembly of the year I did mention to the children how lovely it was to see everyone in school uniform. All staff have commented on how smart the children look. A reminder that school uniform includes dark shoes and not brightly coloured trainers.

### Clubs

We have various clubs for our pupils to participate in over the coming session. In school we have the Glee Club with Mrs Morrice, Ukulele with Mrs Baker and our Eco Club with Mrs McKenna and Miss Mackenzie.

Other clubs that take place in school include gymnastics and hockey which both take place

- ALEC Thursday 10 September
- ALEC Friday 11 September
- ALEC Monday 14 September
- F.O.N. AGM Tuesday 15 September
- ALEC Tuesday 15 September
- ALEC Thursday 17 September
- First Aid P7 Tuesday 22 September
- Book Fair Wednesday 23 September
- Book Fair Thursday 24 September
- First Aid P6 Thursday 24 September
- Book Fair Friday 25 September
- School Disco Monday 28 September
- First Aid P5 Tuesday 29 September
- Parents Evening Wednesday 7 October
- Parents Evening Thursday 8 October



on a Thursday after school. Our school netball team also meet and practice on a Thursday at the Bettridge Centre.

The school has several football teams and I can take this opportunity to thank all the parents involved in coaching and running the school teams.

If any parents or grandparents would like to volunteer to run another club we would be very interested to hear from you. It would be lovely to have a chess club or jogging club in the school.

Our Active Schools coordinator has also organised after school Yoga and Rugby sessions for our P5 pupils during school hours.

### School garden

Many thanks to the mums that helped tidy and harvest our school garden. It has made a huge difference and pupils are now selling our crop vegetables. If any parents could help with our school gardens on a regular basis we would love to hear from you.



### ALEC

The **ALEC** (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres) mobile classroom will be visiting Newtonhill on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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. In addition to this, a new programme called bCyberwise has been added this year. bCyberwise is a programme aimed at middle to upper primary pupils. It is designed to allow children to learn how to be respectful and safe online and to promote positive cyber citizenship.

The 9 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. Please find the ALEC timetable attached

All parents are invited to attend the drop in session on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September between 2.15pm and 3.15pm.



### Enhanced Provision Consultation

Thank you to the parents that attended the meeting regarding the Enhanced Provision Consultation. Anyone that still wishes to access the online survey can do so at the link below.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Enhanced\\_Provision\\_Portlethen\\_Stonehaven\\_Newtonhill](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Enhanced_Provision_Portlethen_Stonehaven_Newtonhill)



### 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 photo will be displayed on our TV screen at the school entrance.

## 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. All class teachers have a similar reward and sanction system in class. We do have high expectations of all our pupils regarding behaviour. This year staff will be developing a 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. This session we are also including Primary 3 pupils. It is voluntary and the 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.

## European day of Languages

This year the European Day of Languages is September 26<sup>th</sup>. Our Visiting Specialist French teacher, Miss Ruxton, will be working with senior pupils to deliver an assembly on September 24<sup>th</sup> with the whole school participating in modern languages activities.



## Abernethy 2016

Our Primary 7 pupils have already had information given to them regarding the residential trip to Abernethy. This 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

Our school improvement plans this session focus on improving and developing the curriculum for all learners. We will also be developing Restorative Practice and 1+2 Modern Languages across all year groups. These will be available for all parents to view.

## Bobby's memorial

As you can see from our cover photo our memorial to Bobby Douglas has been created in the school playground. Inspired by a

quote read at Bobby's funeral his classmates collected pebbles to make the memorial. The inscription on the plaque reads –



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

## Friends of Newtonhill (F.O.N.)

The A.G.M. for Friends of Newtonhill is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> of September. All parents are welcome to attend. We would love to see new faces join the group of parents that support F.O.N. The activities, events and fundraising the group do is very much appreciated by the school.

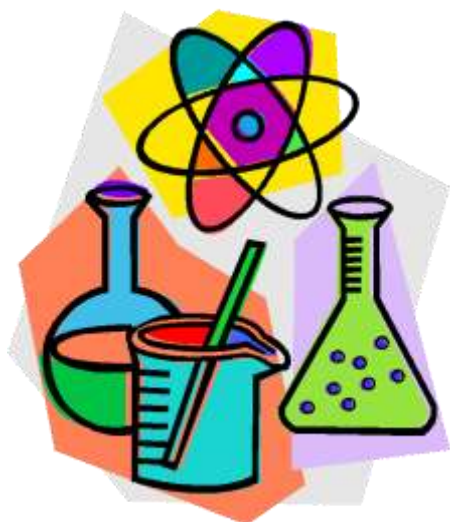


## Staffing

This term we have four new teaching members of staff. Our new Depute Head teacher is Miss Wendy Craig. Miss Craig is teaching Primary 6/7 on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Fridays.

Miss Gellatly is teaching Primary 5 and Mrs Niven and Mrs Matthew are teaching Primary 2. We welcome them to Newtonhill and hope they have settled well into their new roles.

This term we are fortunate to have Mr Waz teaching P.E., Mrs Baker teaching music, Miss Reid teaching science, Mrs Sutherland teaching art and Miss Ruxton teaching French.



Mrs Sutherland is also teaching Primary 2 MS on a Tuesday.

## Office Staff

Our school administrator, Mrs Lickrish, left at the end of last term. We wish her well in her new job and will miss her in school but thank her for all the work she did

over the years she was at Newtonhill.

We are currently without an office administrator. This has been advertised and we hope to appoint in the near future.

Our clerical staff will also be changing. Mrs Duncan is now working as a PSA in school and Mrs Donald will be leaving at the end of term to take up a full time position at Mackie Academy. We would like to thank them for all they have done. The clerical position will be advertised in due course.

Our school office is occasionally closed due to our current staffing situation. Thank you to all parents and carers for your patience and understanding in this interim period.

## Car Park

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 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.

We appreciate your cooperation and recognise how difficult parking is in the vicinity of the school but please park with consideration to those who live within the local area.

Pupils have also been reminded to use the paths into school and not to run down the embankment into the car park and the back of parked cars.



## Dogs

A reminder to all families that dogs are not allowed in the school playground when dropping off or collecting pupils.

## Finally ....

We have a busy and exciting term and year ahead of us. I look forward to working with pupils, parents and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or issues that you would like to discuss.

*Lesley Tullock*

Head Teacher