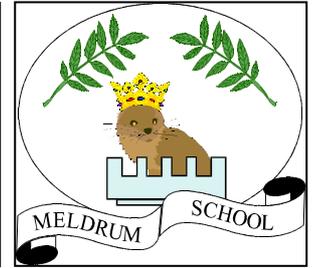


Meldrum School aspires to be a vibrant and inclusive learning community where learners can realise their full potential within a safe and nurturing environment, promoting equality and fairness, with a focus on continuous improvement and developing the capacity of all to embrace lifelong learning.



Meldrum School Newsletter 4th February 2016 No.8

Dear Parents

Diary Dates for the Month Ahead

I start with a reminder of closure days in February:

Friday 12 th February	School closed for the first occasional Holiday of the session
Monday 15 th February	School closed for Mid-Term Holiday
Tuesday 16 th February	Teacher In-service Day Three – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 17 th February	Teacher In-service Day Four – school closed to pupils

School Lunches

I write here with advance notice of changes to School Meals being introduced by Aberdeenshire Council in the months ahead.

The School Meal Service has just recently advised that Aberdeenshire Council is to introduce a secure and easy online way for parents/carers to pay for primary school meals. The rollout to all primary schools in Aberdeenshire is now taking place by Cluster grouping, with a target completion date of June 2016.

Parents and schools will be contacted approximately three weeks in advance of the system being introduced with further information.

The School Meal Service has advised that initially the new online system will:

- Provide parents and carers with a secure and simple way of payment for school meals, accessible at their convenience.
- Allow parents to track a purchase history and meal choices including children in receipt of free school meals.
- Reduce cash handling, processing and increase security in schools.
- Reduce cost and administration associated with use of meal tickets.
- Decrease food wastage - primary school age children will pre-order their school meals in the classroom at the start of the school day (this already takes place at Meldrum) helping to ensure each child receives the meal of their choice at lunchtime.

As part of the process:

- A leaflet will be provided for distribution to go home with pupils to all parents giving full information on the system (copy attached with this newsletter).
- Letters will go home to all parents giving clear instruction on how to set up an online account and make payment for their children.

- Meal tickets will no longer be required with the new system. (The School Meals Service has requested that both the sale of tickets and the issue of tickets to pupils in receipt of free school meals be minimised in the months ahead to ensure that no large balances of tickets remain once the system goes live).
- Coloured bands will be provided to schools for use to identify pupils' selected main meal option at lunchtime service.

If you have any queries regarding the introduction of this new system, please do not hesitate to contact the Catering Services manager, Alan Doig, at:

alan.doig@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday, 3rd March.

Your child's World Book Day £1.00 book token will be distributed shortly. The book token can be exchanged for any of the 10 specially selected World Book Day books (see <http://worldbookday.com/books/> for more details) or used at any participating book shop to receive £1.00 off any full price book or audio book. World Book Day book tokens are valid from Monday, 29th February through to Sunday, 27th March 2016.

As always, we have arranged for a Scholastics Book Fair at the beginning of March and World Book Day Tokens can be used towards the cost of any book from the Fair.

Termly Class Updates

Just a reminder that Termly Updates for each of our classes can be found on the school website (<http://meldrum-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>) – just click on 'Our Classes' in the blue bar at the top of the homepage and scroll down for your child's class. If any parent would prefer to receive a paper copy of the Termly Update, please let the class teacher know. We aim to have Termly Updates posted on the website by the beginning of week three each term.

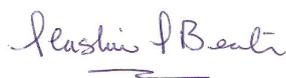
And finally...

Our new style Target Setting Booklets were sent home to all families yesterday. In addition to a new design you'll see that we've now introduced a comment section where class teachers will provide you with a brief comment on children's progress at the end of each term.

We will be sharing our plans for a new style reporting process, including this new termly teacher comment, in the weeks ahead.

We would be grateful if you would take some time to sit down with your child to discuss his/her learning targets for this term. We would appreciate if you could ensure that Target Setting Booklets are returned by Thursday, 11th February for continued use by the children in class.

Yours faithfully



Alastair A Beaton
Head Teacher