

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 No. 1 25th August 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new school year.

Roll and Staff Update

We begin this new session with a roll of 449 - 358 pupils in Nursery and 91 in our primary classes.

As mentioned in my June newsletter, we have a number of staff changes for this year ahead. In Nursery, Mrs McKee is now on maternity leave and Morag Reidford left us at summer to take up a new position at Fyvie Nursery. Nursery Nurses, Kirsty Wilson and Lisa Fairley join us on a full time basis for this school year head, covering Mrs McKee's maternity leave and providing additional pupil support for our Enhanced Nursery Provision. We still have two outstanding vacancies to fill in Nursery: Mrs Reidford's post is currently being advertised and interviews for the post made vacant by Mrs Hepburn last December go ahead on 31st August.

In Primary we welcome Mrs Rachael Reid to the permanent staff at Meldrum. Mrs Reid replaces Mrs Evans as job-share partner with Mrs Jenny Calder. We also welcome probationer teachers Miss Lynsey Kelman and Miss Clare Brady to Meldrum for the year ahead. I'm delighted that Mrs Laura Pirie has returned to Meldrum this session to teach one of our P3 classes.

We've had a further couple of staff changes over the summer. Mrs Susan Keith has left her job-share post to take up a new position in Ellon. This vacancy is now being advertised, but until a new appointment is made DHT, Carol Harper, will be job-sharing with Mrs Young in Primary 1. Mrs Young will be teaching Monday to Wednesday and Miss Harper will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. After a year of erratic supply teacher cover for our teacher non-class contact time, I'm pleased to welcome Mrs Lois Thomson to the permanent staff at Meldrum. This session Mrs Thomson will be teaching Drama to all classes over the course of the year. We also welcome Mrs Ellen Leslie, who replaces Mrs Lusher as our PE visiting specialist teacher this session. Finally, we again welcome back Mrs Lorna Thomson who will be teaching in P5 on a job-share basis along with Mrs Jane Brown whilst Mrs MacKay remains on maternity leave.

Diary Dates for the Year Ahead

Our school calendar detailing holiday dates, closures etc for the year ahead is included with this newsletter. As usual, I included term dates for the whole of next session, 2016-17, to help parents plan family holidays and reduce the number of request for unauthorised term-time absence from school.

Tuck Shop Price List

Our healthy tuck shop continues to be popular with the children. This year's price list is as follows:

Apple or orange cuplet*	20p
Carton of milk (plain or flavoured)*	25p

Bottled water (still)	25p
Aqua juice (orange, apple, forest fruit)*	25p
Fresh fruit – prepared or whole	25p
Homebake of the day	20p

Please note that not all items listed above are available every day.

*These drinks are available for the children to purchase at lunchtime in the Dining Room.

School Meals

Can I remind parents that the cost of a school lunch increased to £2.10 per day. A book of 10 tickets cost £21.00.

PE Kit

At this time of the school year it is always worth reminding parents that we continue to make increased use of the school grounds in order to ensure that all pupils receive the Government's expectation of two hours physical activity each week. In addition to the standard PE kit for lessons in the gym hall, parents should provide children with a dedicated outdoor PE kit. This should consist of separate outdoor trainers and clothing suitable for outdoor PE activities, such as jogging bottoms and sweatshirt.

Please also remember that in the interest of safety jewellery, including earrings, should not be worn during PE lessons. Children unable to take out earrings by themselves should bring plasters, micro pore tape etc with them on PE days so that earrings can be taped over. Children with long hair should ensure that it is tied back during PE lessons to avoid any collisions or accidents.

Late Arrival at School

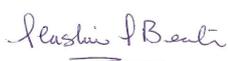
Pupils arriving late for school in the morning continues to be an issue. Last term, between 20th April and 3 July (53 school days) we had 113 instances of children arriving for school after the 9.15 am bell and class lines. In the session ahead I shall continue to alert parents by letter of significant and repeated instances of lateness.

School Car Park Safety

Our school car park remains a very busy place particularly at the beginning and end of the school day, and just ahead of the afternoon Nursery session. This session we have an increase in the number of taxis delivering and collecting children so please do not park in the dedicated disabled parking areas without good reason. I would also once again remind parents not to park in the dedicated bus parking bays, up on our grass verges or near the entrance to the school. Inconsiderate parking in these areas makes it very difficult at times for children to get on and off of school transport safely, damages school grounds and leads to congestion.

Whilst the Turning Circle near to the school kitchen is a recognised dropping off point for parents, please be aware that some of our school buses effectively require to do a three point turn in the Circle in order to exit school grounds. If approaching the Turning Circle please allow school buses and taxis to exit the area before drawing up to drop of pupils.

Yours sincerely



Alastair Beaton
Head Teacher