

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2016-17



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9th February 2017

As we begin February I am delighted to share my first school newsletter with you all.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge hello to everyone. I am very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the remainder of this session.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and pupils for making me feel so very welcome in my first week in school.

Finally I would like this opportunity to share my sincere gratitude to Miss Harper and Mrs Brown who have together led the school admirably through the challenges of the past months.

I very much intend to build on the dedication and hard work of Miss Harper, Mrs Brown, Miss Fraser and school staff and their continuing determination to promote and support our pupils to be the best they can be.

Staffing Update

Inevitably there are ongoing staff changes in school and it is with regret we say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Sally Eames, wishing her well, as she moves onto a new post.

We also say a warm welcome to a new member of our school administration staff, Jo Dawson. Mrs Dawson began as our new admin assistant this week. We very much hope she will enjoy her time with us at Meldrum.

Student Teachers visiting term 3 and 4

On Monday 20th February, we welcome Student Teachers Susan Alcaraz and Katherine

Kane to P2/3H and P3CR respectively. They will be working alongside their class teachers for two placements during the course of this academic year, beginning with a 5 week placement this term followed by a 4 week placement in the summer term. During their time in class, they will be working with individuals, small groups and the whole class in close partnership with their class teachers. During their placements the child's class teacher will remain the first point of contact should you have any reason to contact the school.

Health and Safety

With so many coming into our school each day it is important to remember when entering the school to keep in mind the health and safety issues especially first thing in the morning around our early years playground.

Would you please remember when coming into the infant playground to ensure that the gate is kept closed? With a busy road next to the school it is important that we ensure our youngest pupils are kept safely inside the playground.

Would you also please keep in mind that around 9.15, especially after the first bell, the pavements become very busy around the school and this makes it difficult when families with young children are trying to enter the school gate? Again, your help in keeping access as clear as possible would be much appreciated.

Attendance

Good attendance in school is expected both in terms of maximising our children's potential but also the fact that our children thrive best

when they have a well-established routine. Therefore it is not surprising that at Meldrum we expect as near to perfect attendance as possible to ensure that all of our children achieve their best.

As part of the Aberdeenshire Council guidelines, the school is duty bound to follow up daily absences to ensure we know each child is safe.

Sometimes there are exceptional circumstances where attendance will be affected. This may be for example for family reasons or long term illness. There may also be other circumstances that can also impact on attendance and as a school and in these cases we will work with parents and carers to support, where we can, the child's return to school to regular attendance.

Aberdeenshire schools are also expected to monitor pupil attendance carefully and are expected to follow up attendance that falls below a 90% threshold. Once a pupil has fallen below this level then processes will begin by the school to promote, support and ensure regular attendance above this threshold.

In the next newsletter will be attached a summary of Aberdeenshire Schools protocols in following up absence. Should you require further information regarding this please feel free to contact the school.

Lateness

The school is also expected to monitor lateness and so after a child has accumulated 3 lates then the Aberdeenshire protocol is initiated to encourage our children to arrive regularly in school on time.

INSET Days

The two INSET Days next week will provide time for staff development and training, as we continue to progress our plan for improvement.

The first INSET Day will be a whole cluster event with all schools congregating at Meldrum for a training event to support learning needs with

training and workshops focussing on ADHD, Autism and technology supporting additional support needs.

For our remaining INSET Day we will be focussing on promoting the School's "Culture and Ethos" and training updates regarding the supporting of our children's wellbeing.

Active Schools



MELDRUM NETWORK MID-TERM HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2017 OPEN TO PUPILS FROM P1-S2

Active Schools and CLD Meldrum present the Mid-term 2017 multi sport holiday programme which will be held on the following dates. All sessions are 9.30am to 12.30pm

Monday 13th February – Judo & Basketball

Tuesday 14th February – Hockey & Tennis

Wednesday 15th February – Cricket & Hip Hop

Sessions will be split by age and participants will experience 2 activities per day, each session will have a maximum of 20 pupils.

£5 per day or attend all week for £15. Please take payment on the day.

To book a place and to receive a consent form please email: abigail.sutherland@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Sainsbury Vouchers

We are collecting Sainsbury vouchers so please, if you have any, we would be happy to receive them in school

Dates for your diary

Fri 10 th Feb	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 13 th Feb	Mid-term Holiday
Tues 14 th Feb	INSET Day 4
Wed 15 th Feb	INSET Day 5
Wed 22 nd Feb	MPiP Meeting 7.00pm
Fri 24 th Mar	School Reports issued
Mon 27 th Mar	MPiP Meeting 7.00pm
Tue 28 th Mar	Open Evening & Parent Consultation
Fri 31 st Mar	End of term 3.30pm
Tue 18 th Apr	Summer Term begins

Ian Mitchell