

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2017-18

We're on Twitter!



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30th August 2017

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Meldrum School's new session. The summer break has passed in a flash and so it's time to get busy!

This Session classes

We are now working with 14 classes because of the slight reduction in our role. Nursery classes will now be led by our 2 Early Years Lead Practitioners, Nicola Park and Sarah Menzies. Miss Fraser, Our Principal Teacher will be working in P1 this session.

Room 8 will be our enhanced provision point of contact beginning our new way of working. This will take us a little time to settle into timetabling so please bear with us as we settle into the new session's routines.

School Improvement Priorities

The following areas have been prioritised for this session's improvement

- Reviewing Positive Behaviour Policy and approaches in school
- Assessment and Moderation – ensuring standards are consistent throughout the school Raising attainment in literacy – emergent literacy approaches
- Review Curriculum Programmes and Progression in all curriculum areas including Numeracy and Literacy to improve attainment and achieve
- Ensuring curriculum aligns with the school vision and aims
- Review Teacher planning of learning
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our pupils (Cluster Priority) using - "Bounce Back" approaches

School Meals

This session school meals have risen 5p in price to £2.20. If you have children who are P4 -7 and planning to use school dinners you will require to register on the online system (link to website): <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/meals/online-payments/>

Early Stages Playground Health & Safety

We would be grateful if you would support the school in what is a very congested area in the mornings. If you are bringing in children into the playground would you please allow the children to line up by leaving after the first bell has rung? Some children can become very distressed and intimidated simply by the volume of adults in the playground. This will then allow space for all to be lined up at their proper place for the second bell going. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

School welcome back Picnic

Our Parent Council have organised a welcome back picnic for all families to be held in the school field this Saturday from 12 noon – 3pm. This is also to welcome new parents and families who have recently come to Meldrum so they can meet other families at the school. All are welcome, as we hope for a lovely dry day to set it all off perfectly.

Dates for your diary

Sat 2 nd Sep	12-3pm Welcome back picnic – all welcome
Tue 12 th Sep	7pm Parent Council (MPiP) AGM – all welcome
Tue 26 th Sep	7pm MPiP Meeting – all welcome
Fri 13 th Oct	3.30pm End of Term
Mon 30 th Oct	9.15am New Term Begins

Ian Mitchell

Restorative Approaches at Meldrum School

What are Restorative Approaches?

Restorative Approaches support everyone within the school community to manage relationships in order to be happy and successful in their learning. At Meldrum School, children will be supported to develop the skills required to build relationships and manage conflict.

Restorative Approaches are being used by all staff across the whole school. Children are also encouraged to use these skills independently to resolve conflict.

Restorative Approaches are different from traditional Authoritarian Approaches to Behaviour Management and work to foster better self-regulation.

Authoritarian Approaches <i>The focus is on:</i>	Restorative Approaches <i>The focus is on:</i>
Rule-breaking	Harm done to individuals
Blame or guilt	Responsibility and problem-solving
Adversarial processes	Dialogue and negotiation
Punishment to deter	Repair, apology and reparation
Impersonal processes	Interpersonal processes
as a result;	as a result;
Accountability = being punished	Accountability = putting things right
The needs of those affected are often ignored	The needs of those affected are addressed
The unmet needs behind the behaviour are ignored	The unmet needs behind the behaviour are addressed

How do Restorative Approaches work?

- Everyone involved has their story heard
- Draws a distinction between the person and their behaviour

- All are supported to understand how their actions affect others and take responsibility for those actions
- Everyone is part of deciding what needs to happen to put things right

Five Key Restorative Questions

Everyone affected by a behaviour or conflict is involved in a discussion using the following questions

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking, how did it make you feel?
3. How have other people been affected?
4. Would you do anything differently next time?
5. What do you need to move forward

What are the benefits of Restorative Approaches?

- Fosters social relationships within a community.
- Everyone has responsibility for their own actions and are accountable for the impact they have on others.
- Develops respect and empathy for other people's feelings and opinions.
- Creates a fair process to deal with relationship issues, focussing on solution rather than blame
- Returning issues of conflict to the participants who are then involved in decisions about their own lives.
- Supporting all participants to reflect and make changes where appropriate.

Want to find out more?

- [Education Scotland Parentzone](#)
- *Restorative Justice Pocket Book* by Margaret Thorsborne David Vinegrad
- [You Tube clip showing Restorative Practice in action in a primary school](#)