

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2016-17



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30th March 2017

Welcome to our March Newsletter.

Staffing Update

Ms Sam Crawford will be joining us after the holidays. She will be covering the non-class contact time for teachers in the school and will be teaching PE.

Aberdeenshire 's policy to move teachers out of Nursery will affect our Nursery as Miss Fraser and Mrs McKee will eventually move from the Nursery into school staffing. We are currently recruiting an Early Years Lead Practitioner to be in place by the end of next term. This may require some changes within school staffing. If this is the case then parents/carers affected will be informed.

Attendance

As I explained in the last newsletter, I will attach the updated Aberdeenshire attendance protocols. Schools and Nurseries are expected to follow up children who are absent to ensure they are safe. Please see attached for our attendance flow chart and information.

Red Nose Day

Last Friday the school held a very successful Red Nose Day where pupils dressed up in red. Thanks to all of the donations we managed to raise a total of £483. Well done to everyone.

Rights Respecting Schools

The school continues to progress with Children's Rights and especially working towards our Rights Respecting Schools commitment status. There is an additional

Children's Rights Newsletter to give you more information about how we are developing Children's Rights at Meldrum School.

School Book Fair

Thank you to everyone for supporting the recent Book Fair. Thanks to your purchases the sales for the week was £1548 resulting in commission of £928 to allow the school to purchase books for our school and library.

School Open Evening

Tuesday evening was the school's very successful open evening and of course the great annual Otter Hunt.

It was a very busy evening with lots of family attending and it was a pleasure to meet so many of you over the evening and the huge number of talented Otter Spotters we have in school.



Reminder

This is just a reminder that no dogs of any kind are permitted in school grounds. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Dates for your diary

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Fri 31 st Mar | End of Term 3.30pm |
| Tue 18 th Apr | Summer Term begins |
| Wed 26 th Apr | Ardeonaig Parent Meeting 2 |
| Mon 1 st May | Mayday Holiday |
| Tue 9 th May | MPIP Meeting 7pm |
| Wed 10 th May | P1 Induction Meeting 6.30pm |
| Mon 5 th June | Occasional Day Holiday |
| 6 th – 8 th June | P7 Academy Visits |
| Fri 9 th June | Sports Day |

Ian Mitchell



Meldrum School

Rights Respecting School Award

Roaring Rights Group



INTRODUCTION

UNICEF UK is pioneering an initiative in UK schools called the Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA). The award scheme started in 2004 and is running in more than 1000 primary and secondary schools in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

UNICEF UK's RRSA initiative helps schools to use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a 'values framework'. This helps to promote a positive healthy ethos within schools and ensures that all concerned are working towards the same achievable goal.

WHAT IS UNICEF?

UNICEF is a global charity which protects and supports children. They do this by:

- ✓ upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ✓ continuing to be a driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realised.
- ✓ advocating for lasting change for children.
- ✓ believing that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress.
- ✓ working to ensure equality for those who are discriminated against.

WHAT ARE RIGHTS?

All children and young people up to the age of 18 years have all the rights under the convention so they can develop and reach their full potential. There are 54 articles (rights) on the UNCRC, of which 42 apply to children directly. Here are some examples...

Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights on the convention.

Article 24

All children have the right to healthy food and water and to see a doctor if we are ill.

Article 28

We have the right to learn and go to school.

Article 31

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT MELDRUM SCHOOL TO BE MORE RIGHTS RESPECTING?

Our school started on its journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School in January this year. The initiative is part of our School Improvement Plan. Since the beginning of the session we have audited school practice and held a focus group interview with pupils from all stages to establish a starting point. We elected people from each class to be a Rights Respecting Ambassador. The Ambassadors have met to discuss the aims of the award, their role, articles to be studied at this term and ideas to look at during our next meeting. As part of our commitment to becoming a Rights Respecting School, each class has designed a class charter. A charter displays the rights from the UNCRC, which the pupils believe to be most relevant to their setting. The children all understand their role in following the charters. Teachers refer to them regularly when discussing behaviours appropriate for a rights respecting classroom.

The charters all tie in with our Restorative Approach to behaviour management

Our Roaring Rights Group members are: -

| Class | name | name |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------|
| P7McE | Sara | Zac (Chair) |
| P7B | Ella | Georgie (Secretary) |
| P6K | Harry McC | Libby W |
| P6C | Charlotte | Cassie (Vice Chair) |
| P5C | Anna | |
| P5MK | Amelia (Secretary) | |
| P4H | Niamh | |
| P4D | Heather | |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| P3A | Nicola | |
| P3CR | Amelia | |
| P2/3H | P3 - Eden | P2 - Ollie |
| P2B | Hallie | |
| P1/2G | Lilly | |
| P1YE | Nicholas | |
| P1McC | Ella | |
| Mrs S Harvie | Mrs S Fell | Rev A Jaffrey |



A message from our Chairperson

"Being part of the Roaring Rights RRSA group makes me happy and feel like I am doing something for the school. I am Chairperson so it is a big responsibility. As Chairperson I have to understand both sides in discussions. It is fun to share ideas with others especially when it is going to change the way we think and use our rights. That is our aim. To make people think about their rights. We had a look at our rights and choose the one we thought was best to start with. That was article 31 - We have the right to play. "

Zak Harrison (Chairperson)

All classes this term are taking part in activities and lessons relating to this article. Our Roaring Rights Ambassadors from P6 and P7 are also creating a whole school Assembly.

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 School we expect as near to perfect attendance as possible to ensure that all of our children achieve their best. We are also 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 we will work with parents and carers to support, where we can, the child's return to regular attendance at school.

Schools are expected to monitor pupil attendance carefully and are duty bound 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.

I will attach a summary of what all Aberdeenshire Schools will be required to do to follow up attendance. Should you require further information regarding this please feel free to contact me at school.

Lateness

Repeated lateness also falls into the attendance guidelines and procedures. After a child has accumulated more than 3 lates then again all Aberdeenshire Schools will be required to follow a set protocol to ensure our children regularly arrive in school on time.

Attendance Summary Flowcharts

(1) Ongoing Day-to-day Attendance Process if absence has not been explained.

1. School has not been informed of absence

- a. Schools will call parents/carers to enquire
- b. No response within 45 minutes – call emergency contacts

2. If no contact has been made within an hour

- a. School continues to call all contacts including emergency contacts
- b. Risk assessment is then made to assess how potentially vulnerable the child(ren) are

3. If still no contact from family - Risk Assessment is made

- a. School continues to call all contacts
- b. Child Protection protocols are followed including contacting Social Work or Police

It is therefore very important that the school has your up to date contact details and that the school is informed as soon as possible if your child will not be attending school.

(2) Aberdeenshire Schools Protocol for Persistent Absence

(a) Informal stage

- 90% attendance trigger hit
- Contact is made with family to establish reason for decline in attendance and offered support
- Attendance continues to be monitored fortnightly

(b) Initiation Stage

- Supports have not helped to improved attendance then a formal wellbeing assessment is made (Single Agency Assessment)
- Formal Supports are identified and reviews arranged as required

(c) Formal stages

- Meeting convened with child and family to discuss assessment and supports
- Supports discussed and agreed and reviewed in 2 weeks if possible
- If no significant improvement in attendance then a multi-agency meeting is arranged where other appropriate services are invited e.g. health, social work, other outside support agencies
- Multi-agency meeting actions are agreed with family and reviewed in approximately 6 weeks
- Multi-agency meetings continue until progress is made. If insufficient progress is made then it may be necessary to write to the Children's reporter
- The multi-agency meeting continue unless there is no improvement in attendance requiring the last resort of legal action

(d) Legal stage

- This option is used if all avenues have been exhausted and is only used as a last resort
- Referral is made to Local Area Truancy Committee
- Family and child are requested to attend and explain failure to attend school to the truancy Committee
- Truancy Committee – will give time for improvement or refer to Children's Reporter or recommend court proceedings