

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2017-18

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@MeldrumSchool



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Wednesday 15th November 2017

Welcome back to this busy and exciting term. There will be lots going on and so please check the parent calendar for full details of upcoming events such as the Christmas Performance and the Craft afternoon and other general information.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Joanne Cameron, Pupil Support Assistant as our newest member of staff. She will be generally working within the middle stages of the school. We hope Joanne enjoys her time with us at Meldrum.

We also welcome Mrs Louise Aitken as our new part time cluster Intervention and Prevention Teacher. After all the usual checks, Ms Aitken will be based in Meldrum School, but will work in all of the schools in the Meldrum Cluster on Thursdays and Fridays. She will work with her fellow Intervention and Prevention Teacher, Mrs Jane McGaw.

We also say farewell to Carolyn Leggat in the Nursery who will be leaving us at the end of the month. We will miss her and we wish her well in her new post.

Health & Safety - Playground

We would very much appreciate your support in an important health and safety issue. As you will imagine, our playgrounds are busy in the mornings, especially the Early Stages Playground with a number of young children around. Therefore we would ask in the interests of safety that no adults or children of any age should be on any bikes or scooters in any of the school playgrounds before school or during the school day.

Early Years Playground – mornings

We would appreciate it, if adults do not attempt to enter the school building in the morning as this is a security issue. If you require to pass on

information please contact the school office. Non-staff members are only permitted to enter the school via the designated entry at the main office. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Book Fair

Thank you again to all those who supported our Book Fair which raised £1481.56. The commission from sales will be used to buy books for the school and class libraries.

NURSERY NEWS

Just a wee reminder that during this current cold weather that all children come to the Nursery with clothing suitable for the weather including hats, gloves and scarves. Thank you.

We are currently establishing a community link with the **Community Garden** which involves visits arranged for gardeners to come to the school to work with the children throughout the school year.

We will be taking our children to Hoodles for a trip on 1st December to choose our Christmas Tree.

Stay and Play for parents will take place on 12th December.

This year's Nursery Christmas Party for Nursery will be on Friday 22nd December

Children in Need

As mentioned in email of 13/11/17 we will be supporting Children in Need again this year. Children are invited to come to school dressed following the Children in Need "Spotacular" theme. We suggest children bring a donation of £1 for Children in Need

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will this year be on Wednesday 12th December.

Colder Weather

As the weather becomes increasingly colder, unfortunately more and more children are coming to school not suitably dressed for the increasingly wintry conditions. Would you please check and encourage your child(ren) to come to school wearing appropriate coats and outerwear suitable for this colder weather. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Parental Responsibility – to and from school

Please note that Parents are responsible for their children before and after school. There is no playground supervision before the bell rings in the morning.

Parking – disabled bays

Disabled parking bays are exclusively to be used only by those vehicles who possess a valid disabled badge to display. Sadly, a few visitors to school are filling these parking spaces when they are not entitled to especially in the morning when we require these to be free for our children with additional needs to access school. Again we would ask you to support the school in this matter.

School Improvement Priorities Progress

1. Positive Relationships (Discipline)

You will shortly be receiving a questionnaire so we can seek your views on our progress. We have now reviewed our policy and Restorative Practice will continue to be the foundation of our approaches. We have now updated how we will encourage accountability and we will share progress at the upcoming Parent Council meeting.

2. Assessment and Moderation

We have audited our assessment and moderation practice against the new Moderation Cycle. We now will work on our plan to strengthen this aspect of our school provision ensuring we are consistent in our standards in meeting the levels

3. Review Curriculum Programmes

Staff are continuing to look at the planning of learning to minimise paperwork to allow teachers to focus on our children's learning. With your help we will be developing our school vision, values and

aims and compile the Meldrum School Curriculum Rationale. Staff and pupils have begun this process.

4. Improving Health and Wellbeing

Part of our INSET Day workshops was around the Bounce Back Resource about to be introduced in all Meldrum cluster schools. As this develops we will be sharing the resource and how it will support and improve children's resilience and general wellbeing.

5. Nursery Improvement Focus

Nursery continues to focus on assessment and tracking of skills including pre-writing skills. This is developing well.

6. Raising attainment in Literacy

The school is fortunate to be part of the Northern Alliance collective working to improve literacy achievement. The process of assessing our P1 group has been completed and we are now working to improve our children's attainment and achievement. Our next phase will be assessing P2 and P3 pupils and addressing any needs to ensure as many of our pupils are on track to achieve appropriate levels.

Dates for the diary

Fri 17/11	SPOTACULAR - Children in Need Day
Mon 20/11	MPIP Meeting 7.00pm all welcome
Thu 7/12	MPIP Meeting 7.00pm all welcome
Thu 14/12	P3/5/7 Christmas performance 2.30pm and 6.30pm
Fri 15/12	P3/5/7 Christmas Performance 2.30pm
Mon 18/12	P1 Christmas Singalong 1.45pm; P2/P4/P6 Christmas Craft Afternoon. 2.30-3.15pm
Thu 21/12	Christmas Service at Church 10am

Further calendar details can be found on the Meldrum School website below.

<http://meldrum-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/School-Calendar-2017-18.pdf>