

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 3

28th October 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of the new term. I hope you all had an enjoyable October break. With the clocks having gone back at the weekend, I start with a couple of seasonal news items...

Winter Approaches

Please find enclosed with this newsletter our annual Emergency Closure Procedures information for parents and families. With the demise of Glow last year our principal communication of school closures due to adverse weather are now as follows:

- The Aberdeenshire School Closures web page
- The school's Telephone Information Line
- The school website

We shall also make use of the Text Messaging Service, for those who have provided their mobile telephone numbers, should a situation arise where we have to close the school early.

For pupils who live outwith Oldmeldrum, the Adverse Weather Emergency Accommodation Arrangements form will be issued by the end of the week. Can you please complete and return the form by Friday 6th November to allow the records to be updated.

Fingers crossed for a mild winter!

Health Matters

Flu Vaccinations

NHS staff led by our School Nurse, Debbie Smith, will carry out Flu Vaccinations for all P1-7 children, whose parents returned permission letters, in the GP Room on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November.

Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Bug)

As part of this year's norovirus seasonal awareness campaign, the NHS has provided all schools and nurseries with a small supply of information leaflets. These are available in School Reception and in both the Rainbow Room and Otter Room. The leaflet provides general information on what the norovirus is, how to avoid catching the virus, what to do if you do catch norovirus, and how to care for someone with the virus. **The key message of this campaign is to advise the public to stay at home for 48 hours after their norovirus symptoms have stopped to avoid spreading it further.** Further general information on the norovirus can be found at: www.nhsinform.co.uk/norovirus

P5-7 First Aid Training

As part of our Citizenship programme, we give all senior pupils the opportunity to undertake a nationally recognised First Aid qualification. This is a three year programme that allows all children to progress from Levels 1-3 during their P5 to P7 years. Training is undertaken by Grampian Training Services and begins next Thursday, 5th November. The trainers return on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November to complete training with all six of our senior classes.

School Photographer

Universal Images will be in school next Friday, 6th November to take class photographs. In response to comments received through last month's MPip survey, I will be speaking with Gavin and Lisa Leggat about the possibility of offering P1 and P7 parents the option of both a class and year group photo in the future.

Children in Need

Children in Need day is Friday 13th November. To support this event, children may come to school dressed as they please. We suggest that children bring a donation of £1 for Children in Need. The school Support Staff will once again be providing the homebakes for the Tuck Shop for the week 9th to 13th November.

In-Service Closures

Just a reminder that the school will be closed to all pupils on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th November for staff in-service training.

Meldrum Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

We are once again joining with schools across the Meldrum Cluster to support Meldrum Rotary's annual Shoe Box appeal which seeks to support families in Eastern Europe who live in poverty. The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the people of Eastern Europe who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that somebody, somewhere cares. The Rotary has identified four types of shoe box and suggestions for their contents are as follows;

Baby Box

This is given to new mothers and can include baby wipes, cotton wool buds, baby shampoo, baby oil, talc powder, bonnet, booties and mitts, baby grow, knitted matinee coat, small soft toy or plastic rattle. Age up to 12months

Children's' Box

Toys such as 'Matchbox' type toy cars, small bouncy balls, jigsaws, fluffy toys, dolls, colouring books, felt tip pens, Lego, yoyo's, bubble blow, etc. Should indicate if for a boy or girl

Teenage Box

Please remember boxes for teenage boys and girls up to the age of 18. Such as: make-up, toiletries, sportswear, scarf, gloves, hat, writing materials, deodorants, comb, mirror, football memorabilia, etc

Household Box

Household Goods such as hand soap, toothpaste and brushes, envelopes, letter paper, biro pens, etc. Toys are especially appreciated, since these boxes can be used for birthday gifts. This box is also good for older folk, especially if a warm scarf or a pair of gloves is included.

We have taken 150 shoe boxes this year and hope to fill them all for distribution before Christmas. If you would like to support our appeal, please complete the slip below and return to school as soon as possible and we'll send you home a shoe box. Meldrum Rotary has asked that all filled boxes are returned to school by Friday 13th November. They would also ask that you sellotape a £1.00 coin to the top of the box to help cover the cost of the boxes.

Termly Updates

Our Class Termly Updates will be available on the school website early next week. Just go to 'Our Classes' on the blue toolbar at the top of the school home page and then click on your child's class for the Term Two Update. If you would prefer a paper copy, please just ask your child's class teacher.

Me Too!

Local charity 'Me Too!' has just published its second information magazine for parents of children with additional support needs. This is available online at www.metoomagazine.org. The charity provides information and contact details for a range of activities being held in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire through to the end of the year including autism friendly cinema screenings, soft play sessions and various sporting activities. We have received a very small number of paper copies of the magazine and these are available, on request, from the school office.

MPip Rag Bag Collection

MPip is arranging a large rag bag collection on Thursday 5th November. Please bear this in mind if you are having a clear out of clothing. Each family will receive a bag early this term, but any clean bag can be used.

Rag Bag has changed what they collect, so please visit their website for further info: www.rag-bag.co.uk/what-we-collect

Thanks for your support, MPip

Aberdeen Endowments Trust/Robert Gordon's College

We have received a small supply of application forms and information from Robert Gordon's College regarding free and subsidised places available through Aberdeen Endowments Trust and the College itself, for any P7 parents considering application to Robert Gordon's for their son/daughter's secondary school education. Please contact the School Office for further details.

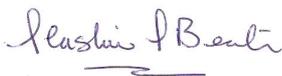
And Finally....

I would just like to thank you all for your support last term.

Our 'One Can, Once a Term' appeal for Harvest resulted in 15 carrier bags of food going to the Aberdeenshire North's Inverurie Foodbank.

And last term's Scholastic Book Fair raised a total of £1572 in book orders, giving us £942 in commission to provide new books for school and class libraries.

Yours faithfully



Alastair A Beaton
Head Teacher

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Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

I would like to support the appeal and request a Shoe Box. I will return the box by Friday 13th November.

Pupil name:

Class:

Parent Signature:

Meldrum Nursery and School

Emergency Procedures – Information for Parents: 2015.16

Emergency Contact

On occasion it is necessary to carry out the school's emergency closure procedures which involve attempting to contact a parent of a child due to illness and/or accident. Where we are unable to make direct contact with a parent the next step is to phone the Emergency Contact – a friend, relative or neighbour.

Please ensure that you keep the school office updated of any changes to your child's emergency contact details.

Snow addresses

This information is requested from all those living outside Oldmeldrum. Forms are sent home annually at the beginning of Term Two (after the October break) or earlier. It is essential that these are returned to the school office promptly in order that emergency contact details can be prepared well in advance of the winter months. *Parents who have difficulty in arranging a contact within the village must contact the School Office. If you live in the village and would be prepared to act as a Snow Address i.e. to provide emergency accommodation for one or more pupils in the event of severe weather, please contact the School Office.*

School Transport

Please note that on stormy mornings the school transport contractor is the best person to decide whether or not it is safe to pick up your child and take him/her to school. The decision is based on first hand knowledge of local conditions (remember the school buses/taxis cover side roads as well as main roads), weather reports e.g. storm warnings and perhaps advice from the Head Teacher.

Please contact the bus or taxi company directly to find out if transport is operating in stormy conditions.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services Policy states: 'If school transport is not running *please* don't take your child – or other children – to school yourself. You will be responsible for ensuring that the children you took to school are transported home again.'

Arrangements for Sending Transported Children Home Early

Should conditions begin to deteriorate during the day the Head Teacher, or in his absence, the Depute Head Teachers, may decide to send home early those children who are transported to school by school transport contractors. This decision will be based on local conditions, storm warnings, the advice from school transport contractors and parents contacting the school as conditions near their homes deteriorate.

The following steps will be taken:

1. The safety of your child is of paramount importance. He/she will only be sent home where it is considered safe to do so.
2. Information regarding early closure will first be published on the Aberdeenshire Council School Closures website and school transport contractors will be requested to come.
3. A text message alert will be sent to all 'transport' families who have provided us with mobile phone contact details, a message will be broadcast on the school's Telephone Information Line and a posting will be placed on the school's website. Wherever possible, local radio will also be contacted as a further means of advising parents of the school's decision to send transport pupils home early. Thereafter, we will endeavour to contact the parents of all school transport pupils by telephone, perhaps requesting that you phone another parent to assist us. As you will appreciate, this may take some considerable time.
4. Pupils whose parents have been notified by telephone will be sent off in the bus/taxi. School transport contractors are instructed not to allow children to walk home alone from drop-off points under any circumstances during extreme weather conditions, so please be prepared to meet the bus or taxi. If no adult appears, the driver will return the child to school *once all other pupils on the route have been taken home*.
5. Pupils retained at school, as no contact could be made with the parent, will remain at school. Meanwhile, we will continue to attempt to contact the parents.
6. At the end of the school day those pupils still at school will be sent to their Snow Addresses.

Early Closure of the Whole School

There may be occasion to close the whole school early in an emergency due to unforeseen circumstances e.g. failure of the school's heating plant in winter, or severe storm warnings.

Pupils living outside Oldmeldrum who travel to school by bus/taxi will be dealt with as detailed above.

Procedures for pupils living in Oldmeldrum will be as follows:

1. We will try to ensure that the school crossing patrols are available.
2. The following steps will then be taken:
 - Information will be broadcast on Aberdeenshire Council's School Closures website

- A text message alert will be issued to all families who have provided us with mobile phone contact details
 - A message will be broadcast on the school's Telephone Information Line
 - A posting will be made on the school's website
 - We shall endeavour to contact radio stations as a further means of advising parents of our decision to close the school early
 - We will then endeavour to contact all parents or emergency contacts to advise of early closure and to request that they come to school to collect their child/children.
3. Children will remain in school until collected by a parent, emergency contact or another adult authorised by the parent of the child concerned. *Upper stages pupils (Primary 5 -7) living in close proximity to the school may be allowed to walk home alone provided the parent has been contacted and given their permission.*
4. All staff will assist in ensuring that every care is taken to return your child safely home or to an emergency address.

Whole School Closure Before 9.00 a.m.

Due to very stormy conditions the Head Teacher may take the decision to close the whole school/nursery before the start of the school day. Once again, this decision will be based on local conditions, storm warnings and the advice from school transport contractors.

Where such a decision is made the following steps will be taken to inform parents:

1. A message will be posted on the **Aberdeenshire Council School Closure website.**
2. A message will be recorded on the school's **Telephone Information Line.**
3. A message will be posted on the school's website.
4. **Local radio stations** will be advised of the school closure.
5. Where possible, a closure message will be recorded on the school's **telephone answering machine.**

Details of the services are given below.

School Information Line

All Aberdeenshire schools have a telephone information service which can be used to inform parents of closure due to adverse weather. This allows parents to listen to a recorded message from the Head Teacher. The school will endeavour to keep the system updated during periods of severe weather affecting the opening of the school.

To use the service:

- Dial Aberdeenshire Council's access number: **0870 054 4999**
- Enter the 6 digit pin number for Meldrum School: **02 2220**
- You will then hear the school's name. Ensure that this is correct before continuing
- You will be given four options from the main menu:
Press 1 to hear a message about adverse weather (e.g. whether the school is to close or if transport arrangements have been affected)

Press 4 to enter the pin number for another Aberdeenshire school (Parents may have children attending different schools e.g. Meldrum Academy. This option allows you to move from one school's messaging service without having to redial)

** Please note that the School Information Line is an 0870 service and charges are slightly higher than normal. However, there is no queuing and an adverse weather call should only last about one minute.*

Aberdeenshire Council website

Notice of school closure will also be available on the Council website:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures/

Schools are listed alphabetically. Where a decision has been made to close the school you will find details of one of four closure states: i) closed to everyone, ii) partial closure see comments, iii) closed to pupils, iv) closed to school transport pupils only.

Parents visiting this page on the Council website will also have the opportunity to

1. Register for Aberdeenshire Council email alerts regarding school closures
2. Subscribe to the School Closures RSS Feed
3. Follow school closure updates via Twitter

Local Radio Stations

Local radio stations are automatically informed of school closure whenever an announcement is made on Aberdeenshire Council's website.

School Answering Machine

Where possible, a message regarding school closure will be placed on the school's telephone answering machine. Please note that this service will very much depend upon a member of office staff being able to safely access the school.