

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 No. 2

1st October 2015

Dear Parents

Staffing Update

We welcome Nursery Nurse, Miss Lauren Matchett, to the Nursery staff here at Meldrum. Lauren replaces Mrs Hepburn's who left us last December. She takes up post with us immediately after the October holidays on Monday 26th October.

Interviews for our one remaining Nursery Nurse vacancy will take place next Tuesday, 6th October.

This term we say goodbye to School Administrator, Mrs Diane Reid after 14 years working in the School Office. Diane's vacancy is currently being advertised, but at the moment we have only one Administrator, Mrs MacDonald, working in the Office. Your understanding and patience for any delays in answering the telephone etc is greatly appreciated just now!

One Can, Once a Term

The Aberdeenshire North Foodbank aims to provide food for families who are going hungry in our local area. With a distribution centre established in Inverurie, the Foodbank continues to seek the support of schools in the Meldrum and Inverurie area, asking pupils to provide 'one can, once a term' to feed families who would otherwise go hungry. This term's Foodbank Appeal takes place next week and we would ask that each pupil brings one item of food (a can or a dried foodstuff such as pasta) to school between now and next Thursday 8th, October to support the work of the Aberdeenshire North Foodbank.

Scholastic Book Fair

Just a reminder that we'll be holding a Book Fair next week. The Book Fair will be open during next week's Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October. The Fair will also be open to parents/families between 3.45pm and 4.15pm on Thursday 8th October for any last minute purchases.

Flu Vaccination

All families will have received a letter from NHS Grampian regarding this year's Flu Vaccination Programme for all children from P1 – P7. Thank you all for responding so promptly to this. NHS Grampian has confirmed that Flu Vaccinations will be carried out at school on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November.

School Meals Menus – Autumn/Winter

The School Meals menu for this Autumn/Winter will be sent home to all families before the end of term. Over the October holidays we'll arrange for a link to the new menus to be added to the School Website.

Road Safety Magic Show

Every year, as part of the Local Authority's School Travel Planning initiatives, a 2 week programme is organised for Aberdeenshire schools called the 'Road Safety Magic Shows'. These shows will be performed by a company called 'Allan's Magic,' and the show itself has been scripted and developed with the help from the Road Safety Officer who used to work for Grampian Police. It has been designed to educate younger pupils about the main road safety messages in a fun and interactive way.

On Monday 26th October all P1-3 children will attend the 'Road Safety Magic Show' which is to be held in the gym hall. There will be a morning and afternoon performance in order to accommodate all of our infant classes. P1-3 pupils from Daviot School will be attending the afternoon performance with us.

Meldrum Library Holiday Programme

Monday 19th October

Rhymetime Sessions – come along and enjoy songs, rhymes and stories.

09.45 – 10.15 am: babies up to 10 months

10.30 – 11.00 am: Toddlers and pre-schoolers

Tuesday 20th October

Storytelling and activities – a ‘Tom Gates’ themed story time and activity session for primary children will be held from 10.30 – 11.30 am

Thursday 22nd October

Feed the Birds – make a feeder to keep the wild birds in your garden fed over the winter. Aimed at primary age children, but all welcome.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Activities are free of charge, however booking is recommended – please phone or email the library.

Tel. 01651 871307

meldrum.library@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

School Improvement Plan and Priorities for the Year Ahead

As reported last week at the MPip AGM, we are in the process of finalising our Standards and Quality Report for last session (2014.15). A paper copy of the new style Authority format will be issued to all families early next term with the October/November Newsletter.

Building on our work and progress from 2014.15, stakeholder feedback, and Scottish

Government/Aberdeenshire priorities, our school Improvement Plan priorities for the year ahead are as follows:

‘1+2 Languages Programme’ – the introduction of a Foreign Language Teaching Programme to all classes, from P1 to P7 by August 2019, with a second language being taught to upper stages pupils:

- audit current capacity across the school
- planning timescales for implementation
- upskilling of staff and resourcing

Restorative Practice – based on the Government’s ‘Better Relationships, Better Learning, Better Behaviour’ guidance, Restorative Practice looks to build better relationships within our learning community that promotes a whole school ethos based on shared values which have a positive impact on learning and behaviour:

- restorative approaches in the wider context
- developing a restorative school ethos
- using restorative approaches when relationships break down
- policy update

Curriculum – our focus this year is:

- Implementation of our Science Programme of Study developed last session
- Development of a Curriculum Rationale for the school in consultation with parents, pupils and staff and the phased implementation of the new Authority Curriculum Frameworks
- Supporting the introduction of the Maths Curriculum Framework (Cluster support and training programme led by Hazel Fraser, Principal Teacher)
- Introduction of revised Pupil Reporting to Parents process and the introduction of an improved Pupil Target Setting process

Nursery – Our work in the year ahead will be focused around the new Nursery Team Model for delivery of Early Years Childcare:

- curriculum delivery
- planning
- profiling
- assessment and reporting

Parent Council AGM

Following last week's AGM, the following Office Bearers and Reps were elected for the school year ahead:

Chair	Leah McKinnon
Secretary	Ruth Scott
Vice Secretary	Kathryn Michie
Treasurer	Helena McKerron
Vice Treasurer	Lesley Buchan

Year Group Reps: Donna Sim, Julie Farquhar, Andrea Forbes, Jane Nicholl, Melania Walker
Joanne Evans, Kathryn Rintoul

MPip are currently looking for a Vice Chair, Fundraising Coordinator and Group Reps. This committee supports the school and raises funds for many purposes including school trips, annual theatre production and the Education City computer package, as well as putting on events such as the Halloween Disco and School Summer Picnic. If you would like to become involved with MPip, please contact mpipmeldrum@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Early Stages Playground

At August's MPip meeting we once again discussed issues raised by staff and parents regarding congestion in the Early Stages Playground at the beginning and end of the school day. Issues included parents not staying clear of the children's class lines at the start of the school day, parents crossing between the lines of children as they are going into the building etc. It was felt by many that the noise and volume of parents now in the playground can make it a very unsettling place for some children.

We discussed making some changes to improve the situation last September – these included marking off a 'parent waiting area' on the tarmac, but for various reasons, including an extended period of bad weather, we didn't take this forward. However, with the same issues once again being flagged up by staff and parents at our August meeting, MPip confirmed that they would like to see us take things forward this session.

The following action will therefore be taken ahead of our return to school after the October break, and the agreed 'Playground Protocol' will be introduced from Monday, 26th October, and included in our updated School Prospectus, to be published online via both the School and Aberdeenshire website in January 2016:

Action:

The school janitor will mark out the Early Years Playground with a painted line between now and 23rd October.

We would ask that, at afternoon pick up, all parents stand behind this line to wait for the children to be dismissed by their class teachers. This will ensure that class teachers have a clear area in which to lead the children out to be collected at the end of the school day.

Playground Protocol:

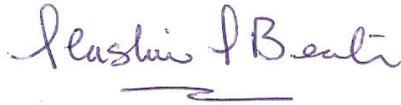
1. At the **first morning bell** (9.13 am) parents should say their goodbyes and are expected to leave the Early Stages Playground. Mrs Fell will remain on 'playground duty' to oversee the children, who will line up in their class lines as they normally do at morning break and lunch time.
2. At the **second morning bell** the class teachers will come out at 9.15 am and use our well established 'hands up' system to ensure that all children are ready to enter the school. (When the class teacher comes out to take in the lines he/she raises her hand. This is the cue for the children to put their hands up, face the front of the line and stop talking, ready to come into the building).
3. At the end of the school day parents are expected to wait behind the painted line to allow plenty space for the teachers to lead their classes out to be dismissed and collected.
4. Any child whose parent is not there to collect will, in the first instance, return to class with their teacher until the parent/carer arrives. Thereafter they will be taken through to the office so parents can be contacted.

And finally...

We look forward to seeing you all over the course of next week for our first Parent-Teacher interviews of the session.

The school closes for the October holidays on Friday, 9th October and we reopen for the start of the Winter Term on Monday, 26th October.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Alastair Beaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alastair Beaton
Head Teacher