

Meldrum School

Newsletter

2016-17



Tel. 01651 871100

e-mail: Meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

29th June 2017

Wow! What a quick 5 months has passed for me as we move to the end of my first session at Meldrum School. And with the end of the session there are a lot of updates to share with you.

Staffing Changes

This session ends with members of staff moving on. We say goodbye to Miss Laura Henderson, Miss Lindsey Kelman and Miss Lyndsey Affleck. Miss Kelman will be moving to Market Place School in Inverurie, Miss Henderson is relocating back to her native Highland and Miss Affleck will relocate to Hillside School in Portlethen.

Mrs Heather Calder was due to return to us from her maternity leave in August, but she will now transfer to Udney Green. Mrs Becca Elder is leaving us temporarily as she will begin her maternity leave at the end of session. Mrs Louise McLeish will also be leaving us and moving onto a new phase of her life.

We would like to thank all staff who are moving on for their huge contribution to our Meldrum learning community and I am sure you will join with me in sending them our very best wishes as they move to the next phase of their lives.

New Staff joining us

Mrs Lorna Thomson will continue in school working full time until Miss Lois Thomson returns to us in October from maternity leave. Miss Thomson and Mrs Thomson will then share the P4/5 class for the remainder of the session.

Mrs Leigh Tough will move from PSA duties to take up full teaching duties as she will teach with Mrs Young in the P3 class.

We also welcome a new member of staff, Mrs Lynsey Holland, who will be joining us for 2 days a week to cover teacher non-class contact time. Mrs Holland was previously working in Aberdeen city and is very much looking forward to joining us next session. We very much hope that Mrs Holland will enjoy her time with us at Meldrum.

Next Session classes

As you will be aware, the school role has reduced slightly meaning that we have reduced from the current 15 classes to 14. This inevitably means that there will be a number of composite classes. These are not new to Meldrum. (For further information there is an attached information leaflet with frequently asked questions about composite classes.)

Class selection

The changes in classes has meant a lengthy period of trying to match carefully children into classes that will allow them to thrive in their learning next session.

This has not been taken lightly and a large number of hours has been spent by all teaching staff and management in school. You will appreciate with over 350 children to place into classes, this is no easy feat.

As explained in earlier communication a number of factors are taken into account, including individual children, their social grouping, learning ability, size of room, additional support needs of the children,

among others. We believe we have now the best fit that we can for next session.

Classes

The classes for next session will be:

Class	Rm	Teacher(s)
P1G	2	Miss Gordon
P1FM	3	Miss Fraser (Mon, Tues, Fri) Mrs McKee (Wed, Thur)
P2B	1	Miss Brady
P2H	6	Mrs Harvie
P2/3CR	4	Mrs Calder (Mon, Tue) Mrs Reid (Wed-Fri)
P3TY	5	Mrs Young (Mon-Wed) Mrs Tough (Thur-Fri)
P3/4MP	12	Mrs Mackay (Mon-Tue) Mrs Pirie (Wed-Fri)
P4M	11	Mrs McCartney
P4/5T	10	Mrs Thomson
P5C	9	Mrs Cooper
P6B	16	Miss Buist
P6D	17	Mrs Davidson
P6/7M	18	Mrs McEwan
P7C	19	Miss Crooks
ASL Teachers	8	Mrs Bremner Mrs Shurmer Mrs McCranor
NCCT		Miss S. Harper
NCCT		Mrs Holland
NCCT		PE – Ms Crawford

Please note that if there is a significant change in the number of pupils over the summer break this may require class changes.

Enhanced Provision Update

The Enhanced Provision model for our pupils will change and evolve next session. We will continue to use a blended model where our children will access mainstream classes for a proportion of the week which is greater or lesser depending on the needs of the child.

The difference will be that we will be using a new model developing our spaces in school to maximise the support we can offer to all of our pupils. Room 7 and 15 have been our main classrooms for supporting pupils.

The new model will relocate the main classroom as Room 8 giving the school the added resources of freed up rooms and areas to maximise more ways to support the varied need of all of our pupils throughout the school.

This is a very exciting time for the school and there will be regular updates on how this model is developing during next session.

School Meals Next Session

Next session school meals will rise 5p in price to £2.20. P1-3 pupils will still be entitled to free school meals. If you have children who will be moving into P4 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/>

Improvement Priorities next session

Thank you to all who contributed to the School Improvement parent Survey Monkey. 92 families responded and we appreciate the feedback given.

The priorities identified were:

- The school/nursery will continue to focus on raising attainment and achievement particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- The school and nursery will work to improve to ensure standards are consistent throughout the school in attainment and learning.
- The school/nursery will continue to focus on improving learning, teaching and the way we assess our children.
- The school/nursery will review its curriculum to ensure it meets the requirement of the school vision and aims, and provide a clear rationale linked to our aims to ensure we provide a curriculum that provides sufficient challenge and meets the needs of all of our pupils.
- The school/nursery will continue to improve its ability to ensure good wellbeing, equality and inclusion.

The feedback from parents mirrored the priorities identified by staff in terms of raising standards and improving the school

curriculum. There was also concerns about behaviour in school and the respondents wished the school to review the way we support pupils to improve school behaviour.

Pupil Feedback

Pupil evaluations of the year show that most children across the school are

- Happy at Meldrum School
- Feel the school supports them to be the best they can be

Most Early Stages children:

- Enjoy their learning experiences
- Know their teachers help them understand what they are learning and what they need to do to improve

Within Upper Stages, most children:

- Feel confident at Meldrum School
- Feels the school helps them learn new things
- Feel they are making good progress in their learning
- Feel their opinions are listened to

Opportunities for making friends and learning Mathematics stand out as clear favourites across the Early Stages classes.

Upper Stages pupils particularly value the good quality of relationships they have with their teachers and their playground experiences.

A small but significant minority were concerned about safety in the playground and pupil behaviour during playtimes.

Improvement Priorities for next session

Thanks to the input from all staff, parents and pupils we have identified the following priorities for next session

- **Reviewing Positive Behaviour Policy and approaches in school**

- **Raising attainment in literacy – introduction of emergent literacy developmental model**
- **Assessment and Moderation – ensuring standards are consistent throughout the school**
- **Improving the health and wellbeing of our pupils (Cluster Priority) using “Bounce Back” approaches**
- **Improving the school curriculum**
 - Ensuring curriculum aligns with the school vision and aims
 - Teacher planning of learning
 - Review Curriculum Programmes and Progression in all curriculum areas including Numeracy and Literacy to improve attainment and achievement

House Points and champions

We are now close to finding out who this session’s house champions are. This has been an exciting competition and will be announced at the Church Service on Friday.

Church Service

As tradition dictates we will once again celebrate our end of session service at church on Friday. Because of the space limitation we can only invite parents of P7 pupils to join us at 10am at the Church.

Message to our P7 Pupils and leavers

Thank you for being part of our lives and the time you have shared with us at Meldrum School. We hope you take happy memories of our school with you as you move onto the next phase of your learning. Think of us as we will keep fond memories of you all. We wish you all well and send you all our warmest wishes. Finally, keep working hard, being fair and most of all keep yourselves safe.

We’re on Twitter!



@MeldrumSchool

Dates for your diary

Fri 30th June 10am Celebration Service

Tue 22nd Aug New session starts 9.15 sharp

Tue 29th Aug MPIP 7pm – all welcome

And finally.....

Everyone at Meldrum would like to thank you for your support this session and we look forward to working with you in August. Have a lovely summer break everyone. Keep safe and we look forward to seeing you back at 9.15 sharp on Tuesday 22nd August.

Ian Mitchell