

Meldrum School Newsletter

April 2020



Welcome Back

Welcome back to what is shaping up to be a very different type of term at Meldrum. I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community for their resilience in adapting to our new way of working. Our children, parents and staff have very quickly got used to our Remote Learning arrangements and are sharing some great learning via Google Classroom. Further information about Google Classroom is attached.

This term would normally see a lot of work around transitions with nursery children moving into P1, our P7s moving on to secondary school and all children transitioning to a new stage. Work is going on at a school and local authority level to ensure that these transitions are as smooth as possible for our children. Further information will follow in due course.

Staffing

Last week, we welcomed Katie Witt back from maternity leave. Mrs Witt will be teaching on a Monday and Tuesday in P2HP, allowing Lynsey Holland to undertake her management responsibilities in her new post as Acting Depute Head Teacher.

Regarding the vacant Head Teacher post, Paul Rooke, Quality Improvement Officer, has asked me to advise you that, due to the current situation, the Head Teacher recruitment is now on hold and that I will be continuing in post as Acting Head Teacher until the vacancy can be reopened and the recruitment process completed. This is likely to be into the next school session.

Fundraising

I am delighted to be able to share that our fundraising this year for Sport Relief raised an incredible £3351.25! For the whole week leading up to Sport Relief, children around the school were using benches to complete their class Sponsored Climb a Mountain challenge. Thank you for all your fund raising efforts.

Another thank you for your continuing support of our Book Fair. A total of £1775.61 was spent on books giving us £1065.37 commission to spend on new books in the coming months.

Active Schools

A message from Active Schools.

As part of Live Life Aberdeenshire's, Live Life@Home offering, Active Schools Aberdeenshire are releasing a weekly challenge on social media on a Monday morning for pupils to take part in and send in their best efforts during the week online.

The challenges will vary but include physical activities, quizzes and timed challenges. So far we've had obstacle courses and alphabet exercises with plenty more to come. Therefore if you are looking for something different, then check out our social media feeds on a weekly basis for some new and exciting challenges and ideas.

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Active Schools have also uploaded some fun activities and resource cards onto the Live Life Aberdeenshire, Live Life@Home webpage. These alongside many other fun activities and videos across the many services in Live Life Aberdeenshire can be found bit.ly/LLAhome

You can find our local Facebook page for your area here [Active Schools Aberdeenshire Central](#)

Educational Psychology Website

Please find below the link to the new Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology website, which provides advice and resources for supporting children and young people during the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes Covid-19 specific resources, as well as wellbeing resources, and dedicated resources for supporting children with additional support needs.

You can find the site at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/>

The Educational Psychology Service also continues to run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers and professionals who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.

Finally

These are very different times we are living in and every one of us are doing the best we can in the circumstances. Our message about Remote Learning remains the same - everyone's circumstances are different and you will have good days and bad days so just do what you can, when you can. This [Parent Club video](#) link shares a similar message.

Please also remember that, even though we are not physically at school, we are still here for you if you need us for any reason. Please contact us at meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carol Harper'.

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher

Google Classroom

As we all get used to using Google Classroom, a couple of points which may be useful

- Each Monday, Mrs Cooper will post PE activities for the week on each Google Classroom. Activities will be a range of indoor, outdoor and online activities. Please encourage your children to get involved in as many of the activities as they are able to and feel free to share photos of activities on their Google Classroom Stream for classmates and teachers to see.
- Some teachers have noticed that children are submitting work but that no evidence of any work can then be seen. It may be helpful to support your child when they are uploading files or photographs of their work to ensure it is submitted correctly.
- Feedback from the teachers will be prioritised for work submitted within the timeframe stated on your child's Google Classroom for assignments.
- If a class teacher is volunteering in the Meldrum Hub, there may be some delay in responses and feedback. Generally, teachers will post a message to let the children know this.

If require any support to access Google Classroom or encounter any problems along the way, please contact us at meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

If you would like to access any alternative of additional tasks for your child, these websites may be useful

Website Link	Details
BBC Dance Mat Typing https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr	Learn to type progressive programme for younger children
https://www.typingclub.com/	Learn to type progressive programme for older children
https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/	Literacy programme suitable for younger children
https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/	Free ebooks, activities and games for P1-P7
https://collins.co.uk/pages/big-cat-ebooks	Free ebooks for P1-P7
https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/	Free ebooks and other online resources for children and adults
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPlwvN0w4qFSP1FIIALB92w	Number blocks –YouTube videos suitable for Early Years to develop Numeracy.
www.topmarks.co.uk	Interactive Numeracy games.
https://www.mathplayground.com	Numeracy games, stories and videos.
https://gridclub.com	Lots of fun games for variety of age groups linked to Primary Curriculum.
https://uk.ixl.com	Numeracy and Literacy resources and games.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons	Literacy & Numeracy and wider curriculum lessons and activities for P2-P7 with new lessons each day that build on previous learning
https://www.thenational.academy/	More formal Literacy & Numeracy and wider curriculum lessons and activities for P1(Reception) -P7(Year 6) with new lessons each day that build on previous learning