



Meldrum School Newsletter

26th November 2024



As we head towards Christmas, it's getting busy at Meldrum School!



Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Crowther who had a baby girl during the October holidays.

School Vision and Values

Following feedback from children, parents/carers and staff, we are pleased to share our new Vision and Values.

Our new Vision Statement is

At Meldrum School, we are an inclusive learning community where everyone is motivated to be the best that they can be.

Our Meldrum School Values

Achieving

Included

in

My Community

Thank you to all our parents/carers for your feedback during recent parent consultations. Your contributions helped us tweak and finalise these.

Quality Improvement Visit

This week we welcome local authority central officers and some Aberdeenshire Head Teachers to Meldrum for a Quality Improvement Visit. All schools are visited regularly to evaluate, highlight good practice and discuss school improvement priorities.

As part of the visit, I would like to arrange for a parent focus group to speak with the Quality Improvement Team. If you would be interested in taking part and would be available to come in to school at either 10.50am or 2.30pm on Thursday 28th November, please email the office meldrum.school@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to let us know.

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Rights Respecting School Award

We recently achieved our Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) Bronze Awards. Thank you to Mrs Crowther and our RRSA Group who have worked very hard to achieve this. We have already begun working towards our Silver Award!



Christmas Update

The dates for our Christmas Events are below and information has been sent to P1, P4 and P7 parents regarding tickets for the shows. MPiP have very kindly offered to do tea/coffee and mince pies for parents prior to each show performance. As usual we will have a collection for a local charity (chosen by the children) at each performance. MPiP will also be collecting donations to help their fundraising work to support the school.

Christmas Craft Afternoon entry will be via the school office.

MPiP Christmas Fayre which was sadly cancelled last weekend will now go ahead after school on Wednesday 18th December. Further information to follow.

For class Christmas parties, children can come to school in their party clothes if they would like to. Please remember that children will still need appropriate footwear and clothing for playtime and lunchtime!

Monday 2 nd December	MPiP Coffee Catch Up for P4-7 parents	2.15pm, School Library
Monday 9 th December	P4 Christmas Performance	1.45pm MPiP serving tea/coffee and mince pies from 1.15pm
Tuesday 10 th December	P4 Christmas Performance	1.45pm MPiP serving tea/coffee and mince pies from 1.15pm
Wednesday 11 th December	P7 Christmas Performance	1.30pm MPiP serving tea/coffee and mince pies from 1.00pm
Thursday 12 th December	P7 Christmas Performance	1.30pm MPiP serving tea/coffee and mince pies from 1.00pm
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	
	School Christmas Lunch	
Monday 16 th December	P2, P3, P5, P6 Christmas Craft Afternoon	2.00 – 2.45pm
Tuesday 17 th December	P1 Nativity Performance	1.45pm MPiP serving tea/coffee and mince pies from 1.00pm
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Church Services for pupils	
	MPiP Christmas Fayre	3.00 – 5.30pm, Gym Hall
Friday 20 th December	P1-7 Christmas Parties	

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School Improvement Priorities Update

Our school improvement this session focus around three areas:

- To improve learning and teaching and attainment in Literacy and English. This is a continuation of the work we started last session and has focussed on writing. We have adopted an approach called Talk for Writing and we benefited from training from Talk for Writing's Scottish Consultant during recent in-service days. We have also developed a Meldrum Writing and Grammar progression to guide us in our learning and teaching and ensure consistency across the school.
- To review and adopt whole school approaches to assessment – this development work will be carried out in Term 3.
- To review and develop whole school approaches to learning through play – this development work will begin in Term 4.

Christmas Gifts



Christmas is an expensive time and our staff have asked me to remind you not to feel under any obligation to buy Christmas gifts for them this year. They have suggested, if you are able to, that you may choose to make a donation to a local charity instead.



Homework

At our recent MPiP meeting we had a very interesting and open discussion about homework. As you can imagine, there are many different opinions about homework across our school community! We have also asked the children for feedback and plan to ask the wider parent/carer body for their views next term as we look to develop our approach to homework.



Health and Wellbeing Curriculum

One of the strands of our Health and Wellbeing curriculum is Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood which is taught in an age appropriate way throughout the school. All of the resources we use are from the [RSHP website](#), which is recommended by Education Scotland. Information for parents/carers can be accessed [here](#).

Positive Relationships and Behaviour Procedure

A wee reminder that our Positive Relationships and Behaviour Procedure is available [here](#). A big part of this is rewarding the many positive choice that our children make each day. Children enjoy collecting house points for their school house. Examples of positive behaviour in the dining hall

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can earn a VIP Pass meaning children choose a day to sit at a special table in the dining hall. Our PSAs are always on the look out for children in the playground following our school expectations – Ready, Respect and Safe – to earn a Hot Chocolate Hero pass and the opportunity to enjoy a hot chocolate in the Staff Room on Wednesday afternoons.

OTTER Clubs

Our OTTER Clubs are up and running again and look a little different this session. OTTER stands for Our Time Together Enhancing Relationships and is a chance for children to work with peers from another class focusing on activities that support their understanding and application of meta skills. This term we are being creative using a resource called makedo which you can find out more information about [here](#).



Car Park

I am becoming more and more concerned about safety in our school car park. Unfortunately, despite many reminders, parents/carers continue to park out with designated bays, including parking on grass verges, in accessible parking spaces and parking on the turning circle. I am deeply concerned that a member of our school community is going to be hurt if people continue to use our car park in this way. I discussed my concerns with parent council members at our recent MPiP meeting and they fully support the message I am sharing. We absolutely appreciate that there are limited spaces in the school car park but I must ask that if there are no spaces, you park out with the car park and walk the short distance to the playground to pick up your child.

I mentioned last school session that we may be left with no choice but to designate the car park for staff use only, as other schools have been forced to do. I need your support to make sure this doesn't happen.

Children In Need

Thank you for your support in raising money for Children In Need. We raised £380 which will go to helping children across the country.



Book Fair

Our recent book fair took in £2112, earning us £1267 in commission to spend on books for our school. Thank you for coming along!

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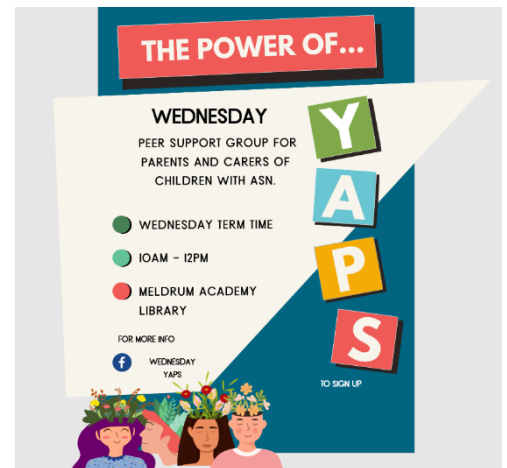
Community Updates

Thank You

A big thank you to Meldrum and Bourtie Parish Church for their very generous donation of £200 which we have used to support our nurture and breakfast

Wednesday Yaps

Wednesday Yaps is a peer support group for parents and carers of children with additional support needs. You can find more information on their [Facebook page](#).



Village Church, Oldmeldrum

The Village Church is looking to support families to enjoy Christmas.

More information about their Christmas Hamper Appeal, Toy Drop, Nativity Lantern Walk, Christmas Dinner on 22nd December available [here](#).

If you feel that you may struggle to meet the financial costs of Christmas, you can contact Village Church directly or we are happy to speak to them on your behalf. Please speak to us in the playground in the morning or email/call/pop in to the school office.

Carol Harper

Head Teacher

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