



# Meldrum School Newsletter

Newsletter February 2020

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## Staffing

Mrs Nicola MacKay will be returning to us from her maternity leave next week and Mrs Katie Witt will be returning after Easter.

Sadly, Mrs Sharon Hall, PSA, will be leaving us after 7 years in the school to pursue other work supporting children throughout Scotland. We wish her well in her new venture.

Mr Mitchell will also be leaving at the end of term, as already indicated by letter this week. He will leave at the end of term to take up another post in another cluster. Interim arrangements will be shared shortly with you until a new Headteacher is appointed.

## Seesaw Update

Seesaw is now up and running and children are very enthusiastic to share with you their learning. Children will be sharing a piece of learning every week with you.

Unfortunately, as mentioned in the last newsletter, if the forms sent home have not been completed, your child will be unable to share their learning online.

## Absences

If children are absent from school it is important that you let us know as soon as possible and include the reason that they are absent. We have set protocols around attendance and we require to follow up absence to ensure children are safe. If we are unable to contact anyone, we may have to in certain circumstances contact other agencies. As you will appreciate it is very important that you do

contact us as soon as possible and ensure we have your most up to date contact telephone numbers. We would appreciate your support in this health and safety matter.

## School Improvement Update

We continue to develop our improvement plan and we are making steady progress with it. The priorities this session you will recall are:

- Updating programmes in reading and numeracy
- Visible Learning: Pupils involvement in their learning – learning feedback
- Pupil evaluation of their own learning and broader to whole school evaluation
- Moderation of a Level in writing (Cluster Priority)

## Progress to Date

- Our Reading progression and programme has been updated and we are now following this updated plan.
- We are now focussing on Numeracy resources to support active learning using our authority numeracy and maths progression framework.
- Children are now able to evaluate and share their learning with home using the Seesaw application
- A cluster wide draft assessment tool has been devised for each level of writing from early level to third level containing assessment benchmarking to ensure a consistent approach across all of the schools in the Meldrum Cluster. All schools are using these and these will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.



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- Additionally the school has fully reviewed the storage and the suitability of our resources in school to support effective learning. The school has updated this and identified gaps and additional resources are being purchased.

## Twitter/Celebrating Success

Thank you for those sharing your children's out of school successes with us to share on Twitter. Please keep them coming in as we love to see these as well as share them. Please also follow us on Twitter @MeldrumSchool

## Bounce Back

Our next theme for Bounce Back this term will be Unit 7 "Humour". Once again, a support leaflet will be issued with this newsletter to advise ways you can support and advise your child. We hope you find it useful.

## Social Media

We have had a number of concerns shared by parents regarding the use of social media and particularly around TikTok. Social media platforms have many positive aspects but to gain the most from such platforms children require to be at an appropriate stage of emotional development to use these and understand the associated responsibility of using such media. That is why ideally social media is recommended for young people of 16 and over, though many, including TikTok, have a minimum age of 13 years.

It is important, as a parent, that you are fully aware of what your children are accessing online. We recommend that primary school age

children are not using social media platforms which have an age limit of 13 or above. If you make the decision to allow your child to access TikTok or other social media, then please understand there is very little the school can do to deal with any resulting issues.

## A Message from Meldrum Academy

Meldrum Academy Community Garden has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. We are hoping to raise enough money to build a wheelchair accessible path up to the garden. Every time members shop at the Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected own-branded products and services goes to help fund community projects where they live.'

In order to help us raise money to support Meldrum Academy's Community , all you have to do is:-

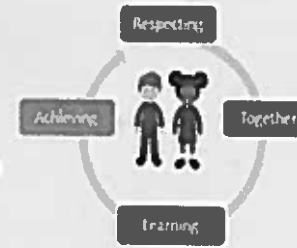
1. (For new members) Apply for a membership card and create an account online -<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/32269>
  2. (For existing members) You just need to use the direct link below to choose us as your cause -  
<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/32269>
  3. Scan your membership card each time you shop at any Co-op!
- Many thanks in anticipation to everyone who supports us!



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## NURSERY NEWS NURSERY NEWS NURSERY NEWS NURSERY

Thank you to the parents who came along to our 'Schematic Play' workshop, we hope you found it useful. We will be offering a variety of workshops during our upcoming, monthly 'open sessions' and would be delighted if you would join us. These are informal workshops giving parents/carers an insight into the activities we do, why we do them and how you can support your child at home.

Dates for your diary.

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day

Children are invited to wear their pyjamas to nursery as we enjoy some favourite bedtime stories.

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

As part of our 'transitions' process, we have invited 'Hoodles Nursery' pre-school children to join us in the playing field for an outdoor session. This is an opportunity for the children to get to know each other before our pre school children start primary 1 in August.

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Children attending nursery on Monday and Tuesday will be going on a visit to the local library. If your child attends both days, they will only visit the library on one occasion. All helpers welcome!

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Stay & Play

All parents/carers of children attending on Friday are welcome to join us for our Easter Stay & Play. There will be lots of activities organised for you and your child to enjoy together.

## World Book Day

The school will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We will be focussing on the importance of promoting story and information books and the pleasure they give us and as such will be asking children to bring their favourite book to share and talk about. In this way we focus on the spirit of books and the magic that books and reading bring into our everyday life.

## Calendar

The school calendar is located on the school website [here](#). This includes all of the planned events to allow you the maximum of notice of the many things happening over the session.

### Other dates:

Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Sharing Learning Afternoon 2.30-3.15pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	End of term 3.30pm
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Occasional Day Holiday
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Summer Term begins

### Parent Information: Humour

Enjoying a laugh with others is a unique human bond that helps us connect with others. Finding something funny about a difficult situation can also help us to feel more hopeful. Humour helps us to gain a sense of perspective on our problems, because it can throw a little light on an otherwise dark situation. It reminds us that life goes on. It allows us to release the tension created by strong and uncomfortable feelings such as sadness, disappointment, anxiety and anger. Having a laugh also helps us to stay healthy and well because of the changes that laughter creates in our bodies. The use of laughter in children's hospital wards is an example of how humour can help us cope and deal with hard times.

#### Key messages to communicate to your child about humour

**Humour helps us to stay healthy.**

Laughter helps our body to fight disease and illness. Humour is like exercise for our mind and our feelings.

**Humour can help you to feel better.**

Having a laugh and finding the funny side of a situation can help you feel a little bit better when you are feeling unhappy, sad or worried, or when things are difficult.

**You can use laughter and humour to help someone else feel a little bit better.**

You can cheer someone up when they have a problem, or they are feeling sad or worried, by being funny in a nice gentle way. Stop doing it if they don't like it.

**Humour should not be used to pretend that you don't feel sad or worried.**

Even though laughter can help you feel better when you have a problem, you still need to try to solve the problem, or deal with the unhappy feeling. Laughter doesn't make problems go away. It just helps you to cope with them a little better.

**Humour shouldn't be used to hurt someone's feelings.**

It's unkind to laugh at someone else's problems or bad luck, or make fun of the way another person looks, thinks, speaks or acts.

#### What can you do to help your child learn about humour?

- ☉ Share funny songs or movies and TV shows with your child. This is a great way to connect and enjoy each other's company.
- ☉ Read funny stories or poems to your child and enjoy the humour together.
- ☉ Share riddles and jokes that don't rely on put-downs or insulting humour.
- ☉ Help your child learn how to tell a riddle or joke well.
- ☉ Encourage your child to make a funny card, drawing or banner to cheer up a family member or a friend who is sick or having a difficult time.
- ☉ Create opportunities for your child to have fun and some laughs with their friends (e.g. when your child has friends around to play you could show a funny movie, encourage a joke-telling session, play silly or fun games, provide funny dress-ups or encourage them to put on a funny skit).
- ☉ Point out to your child when they are using humour in an inappropriate way (e.g. to put down someone such as their younger brother or sister, or to trivialise something important, or to deny a problem or a feeling they are having). Discuss this with them.