



Meldrum School Newsletter

Newsletter January 2020

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Staffing

We welcome Mrs Susan Selby, who will be joining us for the remainder of this session in P4. Mrs Selby will work 4 days a week from Tuesday - Friday. Miss Samantha Leight will work on Mondays to cover the remaining day meantime.

Mrs Nicola McKay and Mrs Katie Witt will both return later this session from their respective Maternity Leave. We look forward to welcoming them back soon.

Miss Fraser's secondment will continue with the Early Years Team at least until the end of session but may go beyond the end of term and into next session.

Congratulations to Mrs Holland who will take on the role of Acting Principal Teacher until at least the end of session. She will continue Mrs Thomson's work in 'Pupil Voice'.

Seesaw Update

Seesaw is an online resource where we will be able to share aspects of your child's learning. This will replace the learning journey booklets that we use.

We had hoped to be up and running but we are still awaiting permissions from some families. If you haven't already filled in your form would you do this as a matter of urgency. Unfortunately if this form is not completed for your child(ren) by next Friday,

he/she will not be able to participate in the online sharing of learning.

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)

P7 News Success Seekers (submitted by P7 for the newsletter)

This session Primary 7 have become Success Seekers! We are looking to share and celebrate all the many out of school achievements that Meldrum School pupils enjoy. Achievements may include things such as participating in a competition or tournament, trying something new, moving up a level at a club or receiving a badge or award.

All P1 - 7 pupils are encouraged to ask their teacher for a success slip on which to write their achievement. They can then post it in our special Success Seekers post box. Each week, a P7 Success Seeker will empty the post box and add the achievements to our



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Success Tree. This is displayed in the main corridor where the whole school can see it.

Twitter/Celebrating Success

Meldrum School is on Twitter, and so as part of sharing our children's successes, especially those out with school, we would like to display these on Twitter social media for our local community. We will only share these provided we have the relevant photograph permissions. Please free to send an e-mail of your child's picture to the school.

Bounce Back

Our next theme for Bounce Back this term will be Unit 6 "Relationships". 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.

"Cash for Schools" cheque - Evening Express

Thank you to all who contributed to the "Evening Express Pounds for Primaries." Thanks to your contributions we received a cheque from the Evening Express for £114.00.

Resources - Donations

If you are currently thinking about donating unwanted goods of very good quality to charity or otherwise, we at the school would be grateful for any of the following donations.

Early Stages classes are looking for donations of various things

- Loose parts - wooden objects are great, wooden spoons, curtain rings, wood slices.
- Fabric that can be used for dress up.
- Donations of scrap paper, plain, coloured, used on one side is fine providing no confidential or inappropriate content on the other side.

Anything from the list below:

- Welly boots
- Dinosaur figures
- Animal figures
- Puppets
- Magnets
- Magnifying glasses
- Marble run
- K-nex (or any other construction materials)
- Toy cars and play car mats
- Lego
- Playdough and tools
- Old kitchen utensils

Foodbank

A huge thank you from everyone at Meldrum School to you all for your generosity over the Christmas period. Thanks to your support we were able to donate to Aberdeenshire North Foodbank 354.35kg of food and a cheque for £252.93. The Aberdeenshire North Foodbank wrote to the school to thank you and the school.



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They wrote, "We appreciate your support and can assure you that all donations make a huge difference to the Foodbank which helps local families and individuals in need."

PE Kit Reminder

Would you please remind your child to bring their PE kit into school? We are experiencing an increasing number of children who are not bringing this with them making it difficult to ensure all receive their entitlement in terms of physical activity over the week. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

NURSERY NEWS NURSERY NEWS NURSERY NEWS NURSERY

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our January starts. The children have settled in well and we are looking forward to a busy term ahead.

We are planning on hosting some parental sessions in our Nurture Hub this term and would love for you to join us.

Friday 31st January Open Session from drop off to 11.30am and from afternoon drop off to 3.30pm - come and join your child for a play in nursery and have a coffee and a chat in room 20.

Thursday 6th February- Coffee and chat session 9-9.30am/ 1-1.45pm

Wednesday 26th February - 'Finger Gym' 9.15am/1.15pm
Workshop to learn about activities to help develop fine motor skills.

Thursday 27th February Open Session- from drop off to 11.30am and from afternoon drop off to 3.30pm - come and join your child for a play in nursery and have a coffee and a chat in room 20.

Health and Safety - Nursery children

We have again had some near misses in the playground where Nursery children are being taken across the main playground while our other school children are playing. With children running about this adds an additional hazard for our very youngest children. May we suggest that parents from the Nursery use the walkway rather than risk potential injury to their child and others? Thank you for your support in this matter.

Vomiting Bug

An increasing amount of children have fallen foul of the latest sickness bug. We know this is the time of the year when the potential for a number of these bugs, and as mentioned previously, the winter vomiting bug (norovirus) can arise. The symptoms for these are diarrhoea and/or vomiting. This is highly contagious as it can be spread by direct contact (touching someone), indirect contact (touching a contaminated object) or spreading in the air.

One of the most effective ways to stop the spread is good hand hygiene - washing hands regularly with soap and water, especially after using the toilet or before eating or preparing food.



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Please remember, if your child displays any of the symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea, it is important that your child does not return to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have gone to minimise the spread. This is Aberdeenshire Council policy and follows advice from NHS Grampian.

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:

Fri 14 th February	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 17 th February	Mid-term Holiday
Tues 18 th February	INSET Day - closed to children
Wed 19 th February	INSET Day - closed to children
Fri 3 rd April	End of term
Mon 20 th April	Occasional Day Holiday
Tuesday 21 st April	Summer Term begins

Parent Information: Relationships

All children want close relationships with friends and classmates at school. These important relationships help them to cope better with life's occasional hard times. Children who have good social skills are more likely to achieve more at school and be more successful in their future careers, and are less likely to get into trouble, or be attracted to anti-social peer groups or become depressed. There is a 'luck' factor with regards to the people they will meet as potential friends, but it will be their social skills that make the difference in developing and maintaining friendships.

Key messages to communicate to your child about relationships

No one has close friends all the time and most people feel lonely sometimes.
Most people have times in their life when they feel lonely and their social life isn't as good as they would like it to be. It isn't the end of the world if sometimes you don't have a close friend.

Not everyone will like you but lots of people will.
Nobody is liked by everybody. Being socially 'rebuffed' is a common experience that most children have at times. There are lots of other people to get to know. If you try to get to know people, tell them a bit about yourself, and treat everyone you meet with respect and friendliness you will make some friends.

Friendships can change and not be as strong as they once were.
People change as they grow and friendships don't always last or stay strong. Sometimes people who were your friends move on to other friendships and don't spend as much time with you anymore. Sometimes you are the one who moves on and lets the friendship go. This is normal and it happens to everyone. It doesn't mean anything negative about you.

Social skills are ways of behaving that help people get along and make friends.
People are more likely to want to spend time with and be friends with you if you use the following social skills: play fairly, act like a good winner and loser, share and take turns, be kind and thoughtful and negotiate (i.e. compromise so that everyone gets at least some of what they want).

To HAVE a good friend, you have to BE a good friend.
You are more likely to find someone who wants to be your special friend if you act like a good friend towards them. A good friend is loyal, kind, thoughtful and fair. They stand up for their friend, spend time with them, tell them about their feelings, listen to their problems and keep their secrets. A good friend looks for the good things their friend does.

It's OK to have an argument as long as you don't hurt the other person.
Disagreement happens sometimes in friendships or between classmates. Speak up when you think that things are not fair or when you don't agree about something, but do so in a way that doesn't hurt the other person or their feelings, and remember to try and see things from their point of view as well. It is important to find a way to disagree that lets you both find a solution to the problem and still be friends. It is easier to do this if you try to manage your angry feelings.

What can you do to help your child develop good social skills and make friends?

- Make your child's friends and classmates welcome in your home and get to know them. Discuss beforehand what your child can do to make sure their visitor has a good time (e.g. do things that the visitor will enjoy too and not just what they enjoy).
- Model good social skills when you are with your own friends and talk to your child about what you do to be a good friend (e.g. be a good listener, have conversations about things you have in common, and support them when they are feeling sad or worried).
- Suggest to your child that all of the children they meet regularly at school, sporting activities and clubs are potential friends. Encourage them to develop a diverse social network so that they can interact with and learn about many people, not just people who are similar to them. Discourage the belief that only certain 'cool' or very popular classmates are worth being friends with.
- Empathy means understanding the feelings of someone else and letting them know you understand how they are feeling. Help your child to develop empathy by talking about how others might be feeling by stressing the importance of trying to understand rather than judge.
- Teach your child how to negotiate by negotiating with them whenever possible (i.e. look for a way in which they can obtain some of what they want but you also get a lot of what you want, because you are still the boss!). For example, they may not want to shower at the time that suits your timetable. You could offer them a 15-minute extension on the time if they agree to get up and do it without any further argument when that time arrives.
- Teach and model the social skill of 'respectful disagreeing', which involves finding points of agreement before stating disagreement (e.g. 'The scary movie you want to see did get a good review but I think most of us would rather see a funny movie.')
- If your children are arguing with each other, sit them down and get them to listen to each other's feelings and points of view and then insist on their negotiating a solution. Try not to act as referee, and stress that put-downs are unacceptable.