

St Cyrus Primary School Newsletter

August 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to St Cyrus School. I do hope you all had a super holiday. For those who join us for the first time – Welcome, we hope you enjoy your time with us. We very much look forward to working in partnership with you.

I'm pleased to report that everyone has settled in well to school. Our current roll is 175, this includes 25 children in the nursery.

Staffing

Mrs Jamieson and Mrs Balmer have now returned to St Cyrus following their maternity leaves. Mrs Jamieson has taken on a job-share position with Mrs Brand. They will be teaching P3 this year. Mrs Balmer will be supporting classes this term and next, before she begins a further maternity leave. I'm sure you will be as delighted as we are to have these experienced teachers back in the school.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr Andrew Duncan to our team. He will be teaching P5 this year.

Mrs Marie Faherty also joins us. Marie, who has volunteered very ably within the school and nursery for a number of years, has embarked on studies to become an Early Years Practitioner (EYP). This means that Marie will now be in the nursery on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. We wish her well in her studies.

It is with great disappointment that I also have to inform you that Mrs Lisa Reddie is resigning, as of Friday, 25 August, as one of our EYPs in the nursery due to family issues. I am sure you will join me in thanking Lisa for all her efforts for our nursery and school and to wish her well for the future.

School Improvement Plan

Our evaluations from last year's work along with this session's School Improvement Plans are available through our school website. Main features of this session's plans include – Literacy, Outdoor Education, parental/carer/community engagement, 1 Plus 2 (French) and developing a growth mind set. Should you wish a paper copy of these documents, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Personal Learning Plans

These will be issued next Friday, 1 September. For those new to the school, please find an outline of what PLPs entail –

PLPs are stored in an individual green folder.

At the beginning of each term your child's class teacher will enclose a class newsletter, informing you of what is planned in class that term.

On a Friday, your child will complete a learning log which is a sheet included within the folder, which lets the children reflect on the learning and teaching they have experienced that week and allows them to plan, through discussion with their teacher, the next steps in their learning. Each child will bring home their folder on a Friday when we hope you will discuss the sheet and add any of your own comments/ideas to it.

Within the folder, you will also notice a section for the inclusion of examples of work. One piece of literacy, one piece of numeracy, one piece of health and wellbeing and one other piece of work will be included each term.

The final section of each folder contains sheets which can be completed both at home and at school. These are opportunities to share any achievements e.g “I played well as a member of a team at basketball on Wednesday”, “I learned a new piece on my piano, it’s called” etc.

Uniform/Kits

It was lovely to see the children return to school looking so smart. It really does help to instil a sense of pride in the school when all the children are wearing the same, correct uniform. **Please do ensure that all your children’s belongings are clearly marked with their name.**

It should be noted that ties (for P5-7 children only) are available for those who wish to wear them from the school office for £3.00 (from Mrs Rore: 10.40-12.30)

School Lunch

New pupils to the school and those parents/carers of children in Primary4 will shortly receive a letter detailing how to sign up for online payments.

Communication

An annual update will be issued shortly regarding the information the school holds on your child. Please ensure that mobile numbers are up to date and, if you can, provide us with an e-mail address which can be used by the school to communicate with you via Groupcall. Groupcall information will also be issued to you shortly.

Aberdeenshire Council is able to inform parents about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red register button in the top right-hand corner.

Volunteers within the school

We value the support of all our parents/carers and the members of our community in enhancing the experiences for all our children. We are fortunate to have a number of parents/carers support us with trips, but we would warmly welcome anyone who may be able to support within the classrooms/school grounds. This could be for reading, to support with number games, art etc. We would appreciate it if you could complete the attached form, if you were at all able to help, indicating the days and times you would be available. Please be aware that if you do not have a PVG, this will need to be done before work within the school starts.

Playground Equipment

Following our successful bid for funding through the *Your Choice, Your Voice* initiative, our new climbing/agility equipment for the playground is due for erection tomorrow (Thursday, 24 August).

Tempest, Photographer

Tempest will be visiting school next **Tuesday, 29 August**. This year photographs are individual/family group photographs. If you should have a younger sibling who is not yet at nursery/school, but who you would like included in the photograph, can you please complete the attached form and return it to school by Friday, 25 August. We will do our best to accommodate you.

'The Big Conversation'

You may recall, a letter was distributed at the end of last session from Maria Walker, Director of Education & Children's Services regarding this event.

The "Big Conversation" is an Aberdeenshire ECS wide engagement exercise that asks all Head Teachers and service managers to undertake a series of conversations with their parents and carers to identify how well we are engaging with them thus providing a benchmark. This will then inform the development of an Aberdeenshire Parent's Charter to make clear what parents can expect from us as a service and what we can expect of them.

In addition, a refreshed Parental Engagement Strategy will be written with this engagement exercise providing quantitative data from all areas of Aberdeenshire.

I would like to invite any parents/carers who would like to be part of this to join Mrs McWhinnie (Deputy Head teacher) and myself on Friday, 22 September from 10.45–11.30 am at the school for a discussion.

Coming soon!

Community Café – We are hoping to begin a monthly café which all members of our community would be most welcome to attend. This will be run by a variety of classes each month in the gym hall. We hope to begin this in September, with proceeds from this coffee morning going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Further details will be issued shortly.

Primary 1 'Book Bug'- Parents/carers of children in Primary 1 are invited to join their child for storytelling and rhyme sessions, led by the librarian. These will begin shortly. Further information will be issued in due course.

Other dates for your diaries!

Wednesday, 4 October 2017 Reading Information Evening 6.30-8.00pm

Friday, 13 October 2017 End of term

Well that's all our news just now. As always should you have any questions or queries regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office, where an appointment can be made.

I very much look forward to working with you all over the coming session.

Best wishes

Isla M Mann (Mrs)
Head Teacher