



# New Machar School Newsletter

## November 2017



### Our School Values

- C**ommitment and Cooperation
- R**espect and Responsibility
- A**chievement and Ambition
- F**riendship and Fairness
- T**eamwork and Trust

### Our School Motto:

*#aimtobeawesome*

Dear Parent/Carer,

I can hardly believe that we are into November already, what a busy few weeks it's been so far. Indeed, most children across school have been working extremely hard and I have been very impressed by the work being completed and conversations taking place during my visits to classes. I hope that this newsletter brings you up to speed with all things happening at New Machar School as we head into one of the busiest terms of the year.

Mr B Carle (Acting Head Teacher)

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Lego Club resumes
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Lego Club
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Lego Club (last session)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Programme
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccination Programme
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Interim Progress Statement to Parents
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Nativity (AM-School, PM - Parents)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	P7 Pantomime @ Axis 1.30pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	P7 Pantomime @ Axis 9.30am
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day (no charge)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Performance B+O 9.30am/R+Y 1.45pm
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (P1G, P1W, P1/2, P2)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (P2/3, P3, P3/4)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party (P4, P4/5, P5)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Party (R+Y)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Sing-Song @ Axis 10.45-12.30 <b><u>TBC</u></b>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery Christmas Party (B+O)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Party (P5/6, P6, P7C, P7K) PM
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Last Day of Term

## **Staff News**

As you will all be aware Mr Rooke has taken on the role as Acting QIO within Aberdeenshire Council. In his absence, I will be stepping into the role as Acting Head Teacher. I am very much looking forward to this opportunity and hope to lead the school in a positive direction. Miss McPherson will now have a non-teaching role to support the management of the school.

We have recently advertised a full-time permanent teaching post for the role as full-time teacher of P1/2. I am delighted to announce we have identified a preferred candidate for this post. Once relevant HR procedures have been completed, I will be able to provide further information. We would also like to congratulate Mrs Aldus on her news she is expecting her second child. Moving forward, Mrs Aldus will continue to work with P1/2 on Mondays and P6 on Tuesdays.

We also welcome Mrs Kelly Rushton to New Machar School. Mrs Rushton was appointed as Early Years Lead Practitioner just before the October holidays and will take responsibility for the Blue and Red Nursery classes. She will join Mrs Bruce, who will return to her role as Early Years Practitioner. I would like to thank Mrs Bruce for taking responsibility for the Blue and Red Nursery during Term 1.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Julie McPherson and Mrs Fiona-Anne Watt to our PSA team. Mrs McPherson will be working in our P5/6 and P6 classes on a full time basis. Mrs Fiona-Anne Watt will join our PSA team 3 days a week Tues-Thurs for this term and will be working throughout the school. Welcome to the team!

## **Adverse Weather Arrangements**

As we approach the winter months, we need to think about procedures for possible School Closures during adverse weather. In the event of adverse weather, information regarding school closure/partial closure/changes to school transport arrangements can be found on the website below or by dialling the Aberdeenshire Information Line (number noted below).

**Please note:** You will need to enter the New Machar Pin Number to hear information on the Aberdeenshire Information Lin.

Aberdeenshire Council Website: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures)

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0370 054 4999

New Machar Pin number: 022030

***Please note we will also use the Xpressions app via Groupcall to update parents/carers of any school closures.***

## **Xpressions App**

In line with Aberdeenshire Council policy, we would like our primary form of communication with all parents to be via text and email, rather than issue letters. This will mean that there will be a clear audit trail of information issued and information returned by yourselves. Please ensure that you have provided the school with an email address which is checked on a regular basis.

There is now an app available which is free for you to download to your mobile phone, computer or tablet. If you search for **Xpressions** in your app store and download this to your device you can message the school directly. This is cost effective and we would encourage all parents/carers to download the app if possible.

Alternatively, you can now text the school on **07860 029125** where you can leave a text message to advise of your child's absence 24 hours a day.



### **Interactive Learning Diaries (ILDs)**

During the In-Service training days our teaching staff worked alongside the management team to review our approach using ILDs. This was an invaluable few days and I now feel we are in a better position to move forward with ILDs. Teaching staff will continue to work hard during Term 3 to upload class, group and individual observations within their class. We hope to share observations with parents towards the end of Term 3. In the meantime, if you haven't registered as a user for the Interactive Learning Diaries, please contact Miss McPherson via the school office for login details and how to access ILD on your phone/tablet.

### **School Website**

Our school website has had a bit of a makeover and is now full of information for all parents/carers to access. You will find newsletters, class learning leaflets, school information and some super videos of our pupils enjoying school life plus many more. A big thank you to Miss McPherson and the Tech Team for updating the website.

Please take a look and tell us what you think! <http://newmachar.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

### **School Uniform**

Thank you to all parents/carers who participated in our school uniform survey before the October holidays. Having listened to the feedback provided, we have decided to stay with Tesco as the main supplier for school uniform. Mrs Forsyth will also keep a small stock of school jumpers/cardigans (both in red) in school - however this will be limited. We will update parents/carers when there is available stock in school.

## Social Media

As you may be aware our school has a Twitter page where we regularly share information, successes and photographs of our pupils hard at work. Following feedback from parents I would like to trial a Facebook Page to support communication between home and school as feedback suggested more parents have access to Facebook than Twitter. The page will be to solely share information about school, events and successes. The page will not be used to discuss individual children, staff or incidents from the school. Both pages will run side by side and the same information will continue to appear on both. I will update parents via Groupcall when our Facebook page is published and how to access it.

A Social Media Contract will be sent out for all parents to read over and agree to the conditions of being part of the page should you wish to "like" it. As well as the contract, permission slips for children to appear on all our social media will be reviewed and handed out in due course.

In the meantime, it really is business as usual here at New Machar. Both Miss McPherson and I are looking forward to the busy times ahead. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Brian Carle*

Mr B Carle  
Acting Head Teacher