

New Machar School News

September 2017



Dear Parents, Carers and friends of our school,

The first month has really flown in at school! We have had a busy start to the session and we extend the warmest of welcomes to all of our new pupils and families. I have enclosed a 2017/'18 School Calendar, I hope that you find this helpful. This could be the last paper copy of the school newsletter as we aim to reduce paper use and embrace technology!

Many thanks, Mr P.R.Rooke

School Improvement Agenda

As we begin the new session I wanted to share the priorities on our school improvement plan. These are –

- Learning and teaching in Numeracy
- Raising Expectations and Standards
- Assessment and Moderation
- Interdisciplinary Learning

I will provide greater detail on these during the course of the session. We will be looking for your support and involvement in these improvements.

PE Kit

A reminder that pupils should always bring a change of top, a change of shorts/trousers and trainers/plimsolls for PE lessons. Having such a great facility in the Multi-purpose, we will try to go outside as often as the weather allows, so jumpers and long trousers would be advisable for the coming weeks.

This session Miss Cockburn will again be running an incentive scheme to reward those who routinely bring the correct items. I very much look forward to seeing how everyone gets on!

Buses

Please ensure that your child knows their plan and it is also extremely useful if this information can be written in their Home/School book. Any changes to the routine plan should be shared within the Home/School book or by contacting the school office.

Importantly, behaviour on the buses is regularly fed back to me. Please ensure all children abide by the safety rules and follow the instructions of the driver.

Staff News

We have welcomed Mr Jonathan Gordon to the New Machar staff team. I am already hearing from P6 what a great teacher he is and how excited they are to be working with him this session.

Ms Emma Johnston (Early Years Practitioner) has moved on to a new post. We would like to thank her for her work over the years in our nursery and we wish her well in her new post. Ms Johnston was due to take up the role of Early Years Lead Practitioner here at New Machar but I am now delighted to say that Mrs Bruce has agreed to cover this position until it is advertised and subsequently filled.

We have recently filled a PSA vacancy and I am delighted to advise that Mrs Julie McPherson will be joining the team later this term. Our appreciation goes to Mrs Fiona-Anne Watt who continues to cover this post, supporting pupils in classrooms, lunch hall and playground.

School Website

Miss McPherson has been working on updating and upgrading our school website so we look forward to using this much more regularly to share information and showcase all the great things that go on here at New Machar School. So please get this link saved as a favourite!

www.newmachar.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

House Captains and Vice Captains

Following a rigorous application and interview process, I am pleased to advise that we have selected our House Captains and Vice Captains for this session.

	CAPTAIN	VICE-CAPTAIN
ALPHA	Eve Forbes	Jasmine Boast
BRAVO	Niall Cowie	Darcey Sandison
CHARLIE	Sophie Venerus	Emma Lawson
DELTA	Cara Strachan	Paul Marshall

Building Work

We have had some fairly extensive building work done over the holidays.

This includes a refurbishment of the GP Room and three upper stages classrooms. The ICT suite has been refurbished and is now home to one of our P7 classes.

We have installed a Sensory Room and Nurture Room and we look forward to planning the most effective use of these facilities.

Our nursery area has been upgraded to include a purpose built changing room.

Finally, our staffroom has benefitted from a much needed refresh.

I would wish to sincerely thank our colleagues within Aberdeenshire Council who have supported the work that has been done.

Pupil Property / Lost Property

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are labelled appropriately. Please also encourage your child to take care of all items. We regularly find jumpers and jackets "dumped" down in the playground or around the school and I can completely appreciate the frustration that lost property causes for you all. Staff will do our best to support pupils in taking good care of their things but we cannot be chasing missing jumpers and packed lunch boxes every day. I appreciate your support with this ongoing challenge.

Our School and Our Neighbours

We are blessed with a wonderful school community and I am regularly reminding pupils to be aware of neighbours and ensure that we are respecting their properties.

I have been really impressed by the upkeep of the Axis Centre garden areas. I feel that this makes a great contribution to the aesthetics of our school, particularly at the front entrance. **Please can I ask that we stop short cutting through the garden area and climbing the fence!** This is completely unacceptable. Not only does it look bad but it is also spoiling the exceptional effort that goes in to making the garden are look nice.



Well done to all who applied! I have never had such difficult selections to make. You all did yourselves proud and I am delighted we have so many leaders within our P7 group.

Scooters and Bikes

It is really pleasing to see the number of pupils we have choosing to scoot or cycle to school. I would wish to remind all to be safe particularly around the busy roads.

I would also like to remind all that scooters and bikes should not be used within the grounds of the school. This is to ensure the safety of all school users. I request that pupils dismount prior to entering the school gates and push scooters/bikes to the racks.

Attendance, Timekeeping & Appointments

Please ensure the office is kept up to date with all attendance/appointments.

I would also ask that you remind all pupils who are late or leaving earlier to report to the main office to sign in/out. This helps to ensure pupil safety and effective school security.

Have Your Say!

September 2017

Your ideas, views and opinions are very important to our school. If you would like to comment on any of the items within this newsletter or anything else, please do so below and return this page to the school office. Alternatively, you can email us at **newmachar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk** with *Have Your Say* as the subject heading.

Many thanks!

Your Child's Name and Class (optional) _____

Your name and relationship to child (optional) _____

Comments -