



## New Machar School Newsletter

### January/February 2018



#### 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,

We hope you all had a lovely break and we send best wishes to all of you for 2018. I can't quite believe we are half way through Term 3 already. We have had a busy, yet exciting start to the year with a variety of projects already well underway.

We will continue to communicate any events and celebrations at New Machar School through Groupcall, Twitter and Facebook. It is great to hear such positive remarks about our communication methods and we hope to build on this as the year progresses.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We are heading in a positive direction and I will ensure the school continues to thrive, providing to ensure positive learning experiences for all our pupils.

**Mr B Carle, Acting Head Teacher**

#### Staff News

This term we had to say goodbye and good luck to Mr Cole-Hamilton who has moved on to Kellands Primary School. I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed 2 part-time permanent teachers to fill Mr Cole-Hamilton's vacancy. Mrs Cally Buchan, who has previously worked at New Machar School, will join us on a Monday and Tuesday from the 26<sup>th</sup> February. She will teach Art on Mondays and will be in P6 on a Tuesday. Miss Claire Forbes will be joining us Tuesday-Friday from 6<sup>th</sup> March and will be teaching Art to all our classes. We are delighted to be welcoming both Mrs Buchan and Miss Forbes to New Machar School.

#### Adverse Weather Arrangements

Due to the recent snow and ice it is important that you keep up to date with the procedures of 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 Line. We will also update parents on both our Facebook and Twitter social media pages as soon as we possibly can. Please note that if school transport is not operating in the morning, this status will remain the same for the entire day. It is then parental choice if you would like to drop/pick up your child if transport is not running. Please only do this if it is safe to do so.

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**

Thank you to all our parents/carers who have downloaded the Xpressions app. As you will already be aware, we send messages via the app to provide a variety of information. If you have not already downloaded the app, I would strongly advise you to do so as this will keep you updated with important messages. If you would like to change your contact details, please inform the school office.

In order to download the app, if you search for **Xpressions** in your app store and download this to your device. Once you have the app you can also 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.



### **Social Media**

Following recent comments, please be advised that the school management team only monitors the official New Machar School Facebook page. We are not affiliated with any other Facebook pages. Official school messages will appear on both our Facebook/Twitter page as well as through Xpressions if necessary. Our Facebook page is "**New Machar School**"/**@MacharNew** - we are verified and have a tick after our name.

Please note, staff members should not be contacted through their personal social media accounts. Any queries regarding school, should be made via the school office or via the school email if your enquiry is out of school hours.

### **In-Service Days**

All of our staff enjoyed a training session from Susie Marshall from Oxford University Press on Numicon. We have invested some of our Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) money into Numicon to engage and support our learners in numeracy. We are looking forward to using and implementing some of the strategies into our numeracy lessons throughout the school. Teaching staff also worked together in cooperative learning groups to explore Interdisciplinary Learning. This will ensure continuity and appropriate progression throughout the school.

### **Library**

I am delighted to inform you all that we have recently purchased the Junior Librarian System thanks to our Parent Council. Our parent library working group have already been into school to catalogue some of our books and are well underway with this task. We hope to have our library painted in a few

weeks, with support from our local Rotary Club, as well as have all furniture and shelving ordered. We will share progress of our library at key points during the transformation.

### **World Book Day**

We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day this year on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Miss McPherson has been busy organising this year's event, where we are inviting all pupils and staff to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. To coincide with our new library, we will also welcome any donations of storybooks, short novels or current non-fiction texts. All we ask is that the book is in good condition. We are also looking for "Mystery Readers" who might like to surprise their child's class at the end of the day by sharing their favourite story. If you would like to take part, or know someone who would like to, please contact Miss McPherson via the school office.

### **World of Work Week**

Our busy term continues as we look ahead to our upcoming "World of Work Week". Thank you to all the parents/carers who have offered to come into school to talk about their profession. We will be in touch soon to arrange further details. The week is filling up quickly and we are very much looking forward to sharing details of the week. To coincide with this, we will also be welcoming industry professionals from Conoco Phillips the week before, who will be working with all of our classes providing a variety of workshops and challenges.

### **P6 Ski Trip**

Our P6's recently enjoyed their time at Glenshee Ski Resort. All children represented the school very well and took part in all of the activities expected of them. Thank you to Miss Exley, Miss Lamberty, Mr Gordon and our parent helpers for ensuring the safety of our P6 pupils whilst they were away.

### **Big School's Bird Watch Competition**

Thank you to everyone who took time to enter our bird spotting competition. We were overwhelmed with the number of entries. The judges had a very tricky decision. Below are just some of the awesome entries we received.



## School Uniform

Please ensure your child is dressed to school appropriately, prepared for all weather conditions. As the wintry showers are still upon us, it is highly recommended that your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor clothing. Please ensure all items are named.

## Café Awesome

Well done to all the pupils who have attended Café Awesome this term. Pupils are chosen for a variety of reasons, not just merit, and can be awarded a Platinum Award by any member of staff. Please refer to our Behaviour Policy if you require further information regarding Café Awesome.

As always, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. We operate an open door policy and welcome feedback of all sorts. We will be issuing an online survey for parents/carers to complete regarding our Behaviour Policy in the near future and would be grateful if you could complete it.

## Dates for the diary:

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February: P6/P7 Parents SHARE evening 6pm

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February: P7 Rotary Quiz @ New Machar School 6.30pm

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March: World Book Day

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March: P5-P7 First Aid

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March: P5 class assembly

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March: ILD parent information sessions 3.30pm/6pm

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March: World of Work Week commences

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March: ILD opens for all pupils

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Parents Evening 3.30pm-6pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Nursery induction evening for April 2018 new starts 5pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Parent Evening 5pm-7.30pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: P2/3 class assembly

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March: End of term

Kind regards,

*Brían Carle*

Mr B Carle

Acting Head Teacher



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