



New Machar School Newsletter

January 2019



Our School Values

Commitment and Cooperation

Respect and Responsibility

Achievement and Ambition

Friendship and Fairness

Teamwork and Trust

Our School Motto:

#aimtobeawesome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful break during the Christmas holidays. I can't quite believe we are nearing the end of our third week back at school following the holidays.

Term 3 is always a busy one and I am looking forward to the many projects and activities we have planned for the coming months.

We will continue to communicate any events and celebrations at New Machar School through Groupcall, Twitter and Facebook as well as our school website where you will find a copy of our yearly calendar. It is great to hear such positive remarks about our communication methods and we hope to build on this as the year progresses.

Brian Carle

Mr B Carle Head Teacher (Acting)

Head Teacher Post

As you will know, Mr Rooke will not be returning to his post as Head Teacher following his decision to be made a permanent Quality Improvement Officer within Aberdeenshire Council. I would like to thank Mr Rooke for his dedication and hard work he put into New Machar School during his time as Head Teacher. He will be missed by many, however has assured us all that he will be back for a final farewell.

The Head Teacher's post is currently being advertised with the closing date for applications being Wednesday 6th February. I will continue to remain in post as Acting Head Teacher until a successful candidate is appointed.

Staffing

I would like to welcome Beverly Wilson who has joined our nursery team as an Assistant Early Years Practitioner. This is a relatively new post to the authority as part of the 1140 hours expansion. Mrs Wilson's contact is for 23 months. I wish her all the best in her new role.

Mrs Buchan will be returning to post following a period of absence. We hope to welcome Mrs Buchan back on a part time basis (1 day a week) at the end of this month, where she will be working in P3H. Miss McPherson will continue to work in P1FB on a Monday.

School Uniform

I would like to remind all parents/carers that pupils should come to school in the correct uniform. Hoodies/Jumpers with large print/logos as well as jeans should not be worn to school as part of the everyday school uniform. We do have a limited stock of school uniform available at the school office should you wish to purchase.

It is important your child is appropriately dressed and prepared for the wintery days as we only stay indoors if we really have to. Out with playtime/lunchtime, some of our classes take their learning outdoors, so please ensure your child can stay warm on these occasions.

Tesco/My Clothing

As you may know, Tesco Embroidery Service has been the primary source to buy school uniform for a number of years now. This service will be closing on February 12th 2019 and is being replaced with a company called My Clothing. The service is exactly the same as Tesco and there should be little/no disruption when ordering school uniform. Information regarding online school uniform and My Clothing will be Groupcalled to all parents/carers in due course.

Lunchtime Clubs

Ms Doyle has been running the lunchtime club for P4-P7 pupils who find the playground environment challenging. The lunchtime club has proved to be a real hit with some of our senior pupils and is encouraging positive choices as well as new friendships.

P7 Dyce Academy Visits

Our P7 pupils who will be attending Dyce Academy after the summer begin the transition process in few weeks. They will attend a half day at Dyce Academy on Monday 4th February. Permission slips will be sent out in due course. If your child will not be attending Dyce Academy, they will remain in school with a designated member of staff.

Wet Weather Information for P4+ P4/5

As many of you will know our playground can be a very busy place in the mornings. We kindly ask all parents/carers to leave appropriate space outside our P4 and P4/5 classrooms to allow the children to line up accordingly. **In the event of bad weather, pupils in P4 and P4/5 should enter the main building via the P3/P5 door and line up in the hall where they can wait until the bell rings. Class teachers will pick them up from the hall and escort them over to their classes.**

Adverse Weather Arrangements

Although the snow and ice has only made a small appearance so far we are continuing to ensure all parents/carers are aware of the procedures to follow 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

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0370 054 4999

New Machar Pin number: 022330

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

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 6.30pm. We are always looking for new faces to join the team, so please come along if you are interested in getting involved.

P7 Edinburgh Trip

All activities are now provisionally booked for the P7 trip to Edinburgh in April. Payments should be made in time to ensure activities are paid for in advance. If you require a reminder of how much you have left to pay, please contact Mrs Forsyth via the school office. A meeting will be organised for the end of February to share all relevant information with parents/carers/pupils.

Car Parking

Despite numerous reminders, I am still disappointed to see parents/carers continuing to ignore safe practice when parking during drop off/pick up times. Cars parking on the pavements, in the bus spaces or on tight bends is simply not acceptable as safety is being compromised. Please consider where you park. SMT will be monitoring the situation in the hope that it improves.

P6 Sexual Health and Relationship Education

Our P6 pupils will soon begin the programme of work looking at sexual health and relationships. Before they start, a SHARE (Sexual Health and Relationships Evening) evening has been arranged for parents/carers to attend to ask staff questions regarding the resources used. This will take place on Tuesday 19th February from 6pm-6.45pm in the gym hall. A letter will be issued through Groupcall to all parents/carers in due course.

Smart Watches

A number of pupils have recently started wearing Smart Watches to school. As you will be aware a number of these watches have the ability to take photographs. We would kindly ask that if your child has a smart watch that you discourage them from taking photographs at school. If your child is seen to be taking photographs at school they will be asked not to wear their watch to school.

Cognitive Skills underpinning Play workshop

Parents had an interesting workshop with our Educational Psychologist looking at key skills that underpin play and ways in which they can promote these at home. There were some handouts given, if you would like one, please ask at the school office.

Code Club

We are starting a lunchtime coding club will begin on Wednesday Lunchtimes for P4-7. We are looking forward to getting started.

Outdoor Learning Workshop for Parents

Miss McPherson is going to be running a workshop for Nursery Parents on the benefits of outdoor play. This will take place on Thursday 14th of February at 9am and 2.30pm in our School Library.

P5-P7 First Aid Training

Thanks to our Parent Council, all P5-P7s will undertake First Aid training session next month, starting with our P5s on Monday 25th February.

Book Fair

We are delighted to be welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair back in March - more details to follow soon.

Kind regards,

Brian Carle

Mr B Carle
Head Teacher (Acting)



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