



Newburgh Mathers School Newsletter August 2016

Welcome back to all children and parents. We have had a great start to the school year. All the children have settled down really well into both the nursery and school and there is a great atmosphere of activity and learning about the place. We hope you have had some good family time together over the children's holidays and with any luck are able to enjoy some time in the good weather we are having just now.

Staffing



This session we welcome Jennifer Neil to our permanent staff as our new Early Years Lead Practitioner in the nursery. Jennifer will work with Susan and Kelsie to continue to improve the children's early years' experiences.

Nursery Outdoor Area

Some of you will already have seen the work that has been done in the nursery outdoor area during the holidays. We already see the children involved in very engaging play. There are a lot of loose, natural materials for them to play with in a very safe and attractive environment. Over time we plan to paint some of the areas to further enhance the area.



Please come to visit the nursery to get a real sense of what has changed.

Unfortunately, after school time during the week, the tarpaulins used to cover the sand were removed and the sand itself was scattered about the place. Please help us by being vigilant outside of school time and advise us if you see anything we should be aware of, thank you.

Cakes and Capers

Donna Craig and Kelly Wright have been working very hard on preparations for this event. Many people have indicated that they will go on Saturday 27th August from 2 – 6pm and now it is important that they have final numbers. Please speak to either lady in the playground or contact the school for tickets.

Afternoon Clubs

Thank you to the parents for the following information about clubs. The Singing Club will be run by Miss Taylor, our P4 teacher, on Thursdays in Term 2. Information regarding the Badminton Club will follow separately.



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Football

School training will start next Wednesday
24th August.

- P3 and p4/5 School field 6pm -7pm
- P6/7 School field 7pm-8pm

Cost will be £50 for the whole year payable in two lots of £25 in Aug and Jan. This is to cover fees, training equipment, trophies, football kits etc.

All children will get a registration form out next week and must be returned the following week so we can get the teams registered for the start of September.

Thanks, Alan Booth

Art Club

Art club is on a Wednesday after school from 3.15 - 4.15pm and is open to pupils in P3-P7. It starts next week on Wed 24th August and newcomers are welcome.

We do a variety of things at art club like drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D work, looking at other artists work for inspiration and holding exhibitions. It is fun, messy and valuable extra art experience for the children.

At the moment I take the club every week with some regular helpers but I would love to hear from any other parents who might be interested in running the club with me. If you are interested please email me on jane@bradford1.net or speak to me in the playground. If you are interested but your children are in P1 or P2 it may still be worth a chat with me about it.

Thank you, Jane Bradford

Netball

Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils - netball will be commencing on the 23rd August at 3:30pm. If any child from primary 5 is interested and any more additions from

primary 6 and 7, they are more than welcome to come and join the team. Looking forward to seeing the girls back from 6 and 7 and any new arrivals then.

Thank you, Sandra Kuszpit

Junior Jog Scotland

This will start again but on **Thursdays** for children in P3 – P7, the first date will be Thursday 25th August from 3.30 - 4.15 during this term, but is weather dependent (we'll not run the session if the weather isn't good).

We're also hoping to get out in the village to do some runs so we are looking for parent helpers who are willing to run with the group (if we don't have enough helpers at a session we would just stay in the field) - if anyone can help if they could let us know that would be much appreciated.

Thanks, Karen McAra

School Garden

Thanks to all parents for the work they did in the garden this summer – it's looking great. Donna Craig has now set up a facebook page for the garden: Newburgh Mathers School Garden, with the intention of getting the continued maintenance of the garden up and running. The garden will be judged as part of the Formartine in Bloom competition at the end of the month.

Cycle Training

We would like to restart this scheme in the school and are looking for volunteer parents who would be able to attend a 2.5 hour training course on the morning of 5th September, 9:30am at Meiklemill School, Ellon. You do not need to be able to cycle a bike for this training as ultimately the scheme will be run by a cycling member of staff. Following that, your commitment would be to support the school in implementing the training over a 6-8 week period, the course dates for the children are yet to be agreed. Please email the school if you are interested and would like further information.



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Online payments and alerts

Aberdeenshire Council has changed the way parents receive online alerts 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.

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. So, if you want 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.

School Uniform

A gentle reminder, the agreed school sweatshirt is navy blue or sky blue with the school logo. It is good to see the children in these sweatshirts and is part of the development of a sense of community.

We are running a trial in P1 and P1/2 to see if we can increase learning time by not asking the children to change their school shoes. Children **still** need indoor shoes for PE, drama and for the days when their shoes are wet or muddy.

We will let you know when we plan to roll this out to all other classes.

P1 Literacy and Numeracy Workshops

P1 parents are invited to these workshops happening on Tuesday 23rd August at 3:30pm and Tuesday 30th August at 7:00pm.

P2 – P7 Meet and Greet

As part of our Sharing Progress calendar, we would like to invite you to the school on Tuesday 6th September to meet with your

child's class teacher. This is an informal, drop-in event and will run from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. You will have a chance to look at your child's progress so far and the teacher will be on hand if you have any questions.

At 3:00pm, you are welcome to come to the school hall where I will give you a brief overview of school improvement planning for the year as well as answer any questions you might have about the general progress of the school.

Dates

Event	Date
Term 1	15/08/16 – 07/10/16
Literacy Workshop – P1	23/08/16 3:30pm
Numeracy Workshop – P1	30/08/17 7:00pm
Meet and Greet – P2 – P7	6/09/16 3:30 - 4:30pm
Parent Council AGM Cheese and Wine	27/09/16
Term 2	24/10/16 to 21/12/17 incl.
Disco	26/10/16 7 – 8:30pm
In Service	14 and 15/11/17
Written Report 1	22/11/17
Parents Evening	29/11/16 4 – 7pm
Christmas Assembly at the church	19/12/17
Term 3	5/01/17 to 31/03/17
Occasional Day	10/02/17
Mid term	13/02/17
In service	14 and 15/02/17
P6 trip	30/01/16 – 3/02/17
Term 4	18/04/17 - 30/06/17
May Day holiday	1/05/17
P7 Trip	22/05/17 – 26/05/17
Occasional Day	5/06/17