Dear parents, carers, and families of Newburgh Mathers Primary School, I hope you are well and that you all had a lovely mid-term break. The school is a hive of activity, and everyone is busy, busy, busy again!

**Staff Update**

A very warm welcome to Mrs Clark, our new school admin support assistant – it is great to have Mrs Clark join the team!

**Parent Council**

**Meeting**

The last Parent Council Meeting was held on Tuesday the 31st of January 2023. Thank you to all parents/carers that attended the meeting - your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

**Valentines Disco**

The Valentines Disco is this evening! Thank you to everyone in advance for supporting the PC disco – I am aware of the huge amount of work required before, during and after an event of this nature, so thank you everyone! There is certainly a lot of excited chat amongst the children!

**Confucius Institute Visit**

Over the last couple of weeks, the classes at Newburgh Mathers School were visited by the Confucius Institute. The whole school were invited to join in the hall to observe the ‘Lion Dance’, which was without doubt, amazing!

The Confucius Institute completed a second visit, where the classes spent time moving around learning stations, exploring a range of experiences from the Chinese culture. The feedback from pupils and staff was very positive – we hope pupils shared their learning, thoughts, and feelings from the Confucius Institute visits with you at home too.

**Committee Working**

Pupils have been busy selecting which committee group they would like to be part of. Committee groups will meet once a week and have an active role and voice, in making school a better place for everyone to learn.

**Parents Evening**

The next parents evening will be on Tuesday the 14th of March from 3.30pm. The school office will send more information about booking appointments soon, but for now, please save the date.

End of year reports will follow in term 4.

**World Book Day**

Once again, Newburgh Mathers School will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday the 2nd of March. The main theme this year is on bedtime stories, therefore children and staff are invited to come to school dressed in suitable PJs. Clothing must be suitable for school – they must be warm and appropriate for wearing outside during breaks.

I appreciate that many families buy book character costumes for this event, so please know that children are more than welcome to come to school wearing these costumes too.

We will not be collecting money during this event – the event is purely to highlight and celebrate our love of books! Book token will be distributed on the day so please look out for them in schoolbags.

**Red Nose Day**

Red Nose Day is on Friday the 17th of March. Children and staff are welcome to come to school wearing

something red or Mr Men/ Little Miss costumes (this is the theme detailed on the Red Nose Day website).

Red Noses will also be on sale on Friday the 17th at £2.50 each. Initially, each child will only be permitted to purchase one red nose but should there be surplus at the end of the school day, they will be sold to classes too.

**P7 Residential Trip**

On the last week of term, our P7 pupils will be going on an adventurous residential trip! Residential trips are greatly beneficial, not only academically but socially too. They provide the opportunity for children to participate in a range of adventurous activities (e.g., canoeing, abseiling, climbing etc) and encourage problem solving and independence. I am sure that the P7 class will share their experiences with others upon their return to school.

**Transition Calendars**

S1 Ellon Academy

Parental communication regarding the P7 transition to secondary school will be coming shortly from Mrs Wilson (DHT) at Ellon Academy soon. Miss Rossiter and I have already started sharing transition information with colleagues at Ellon Academy to ensure that everyone involved in the transition process is as informed as possible. We will keep you updated as information comes into school.

P1 Newburgh Mathers School

The team here at Newburgh Mathers School have been working tirelessly behind the scenes in preparation for transitions across the school but particularly on the P1 transition from Early Years settings to school. I have met with staff at the Early Years settings and Mrs Sutherland (our current P1 class teacher) to plan a detailed transition calendar of event.

The transition calendar will be shared with the parents that have children joining Newburgh Mathers School in the very near future.

**Main Door Access to School**

To keep all children and staff safe, parents/carers will no longer be permitted to enter the school, without speaking with a member of staff first.

We appreciate that the main door is open first thing in the morning and again at lunchtime and home-time, but we kindly ask that you use the door intercom to speak with a member of staff before coming into the office area.

We also wish to share that all pupils have been reminded that they are not permitted to open the door for any adult - not even their own parents/carers! We do not wish to offend anyone but safety in and around the school is of utmost importance to us all.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It has also come to our attention that some children are not wearing a suitable school uniform. We just want to remind everyone of the importance of wearing the uniform - our desire is for every child to be equal and to feel part of the community. We understand that there are times, when unforeseeable circumstances prevent uniforms being ready for pupils to wear, but the school expectation is that all pupils wear a school uniform when possible.

We appreciate that many rule and regulations have changed recently, and we thank you for your understanding during this transition period between 'covid' regulations to the 'return to normal' phase for schools.

**Adverse Weather Information –**

In the event the school should have to close for adverse weather the emergency closure information line will be updated as soon as possible.

Information Line – **0370 054 4999**

PIN – **02 2350**

**Update Staff List (2022-2023)**

Head Teacher - Mrs Lawrinson

P1 - Mrs Sutherland

P2 - Miss MacLean

P3 - Mr Leaper/Mrs Brown

P4- Mrs Jones

P5 - Miss Dawson/Mrs Brown

P6 - Miss More

P7 - Miss Rossiter

Probationer Teacher Mentor – Mrs Taylor

McCrone Teachers - Ms Madigan

 Mrs Taylor

 Mrs Brown

ASN Teacher – Mrs Fish

PSA - Mrs Cadger

 Mrs Henderson

 Mrs Ingram

 Mrs Webster

Office - Mrs Morrison

Mrs Clark

Nursery - EYSP - Sarah Duthie

 EYLP - Jennifer Rose and Janet Vanegas

 EYP - Chloe Cameron

 Amanda Finnie

 Kelly Wright

**School Office Contact Details**

01358 281120

newburghmathers.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**Dates for your Diary – Term 3**

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| --- | --- |
| Date | What’s On |
| *February*  |
| Wednesday 1st  | Confucius Institute Visit – Class Workshops  |
| Tuesday 7th  | P6 & P7 – RAF ‘live’ lesson (in school) |
| Friday 10th  | Local Holiday (School Closed) |
| Monday 13th  | Mid-Term Holiday (School Closed) |
| Tuesday 14th  | In-Service Day for staff (SCHOOL CLOSED to all pupils) |
| Wednesday 15th  | In-Service Day for staff (SCHOOL CLOSED to all pupils) |
| Thursday 16th  | Pupils return to school  |
| Tuesday 28th  | Potential Teacher Strike Action Day – NOT CONFIRMED  |
| *March* |
| Wednesday 1st  | Potential Teacher Strike Action Day – NOT CONFIRMED  |
| Thursday 2nd  | World Book Day  |
| Tuesday 14th  | Tempest Photographer in school Parents Evening (school based)  |
| Thursday 16th  | P1 and P7 Dental Checks – in school  |
| Friday 17th  | Red Nose Day |
| Monday 27th To Friday 31st  | P7 Residential Trip to Nethybridge, Abernethy |
| Friday 31st  | P1 – Class Assembly  |
| Friday 31st  | Last day of term 3 – start of Easter Break  |
| *April*  |
| Monday 17th  | SCHOOL OPEN – start of term 4 |
| Tuesday 25th  | SPCA – P6, P7, P1, P2 class visits  |
| Wednesday 26th  | SPCA – P4, P5, P3 class visits  |
| *May*  |
| Monday 1st  | May Day Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED) |
| *June*  |
| Monday 5th  | Ellon Cluster Occasional Day – SCHOOL CLOSED |
| Tuesday 27th  | P7 pupils at Ellon Academy for Transition Days All pupils move up for transition afternoons in school  |
| Wednesday 28th  |
| Thursday 29th  |
| *July*  |
| Friday 7th  | Last Day of Term 4 - Start of the Summer Holidays  |
| *August*  |
| Monday 21st  | In-Service Day – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS  |
| Tuesday 22nd  | Start of Term 1 – Pupils return to school  |

*\*Please note –*

*Not all dates have been confirmed for term 4 but they will be shared with families as soon as possible (e.g., Sports Day, Prize-Giving, P7 Leavers Assembly etc.)*