



First Class

29 October 2014

Issue No.6

It's Term 2 – Winter is Coming!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF 'FIRST CLASS' WE WILL BE EXPLAINING THE PROCEDURE WHEN IT COMES TO BAD/EXTEREME WEATHER CONDITIONS AND SNOW CLOSURES. THIS WILL ALSO BE MADE CLEAR ON THE WEBSITE.

Returning Calls to Parents

If you call the school, a message is placed on the board to record that a call has been made to a member of the SMT/staff. These are then picked up by the SMT and your call will be returned to you by the end of the day where possible. If for some reason you have not received a call you were expecting, then please follow it up with an email as we then have a 'paper trail.'

As always, if you have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact us. If it's concerning the wellbeing or academic progress of your child at school, please follow the information below in order that your query is answered promptly and by the correct person.

1. In the first instance, please contact your child's class teacher by phone, letter or email. Bear in mind that they will be in class and might contact you at the end of the day. Please remember that the Class Teacher may need to consult other

members of staff before getting back to you. We cannot promise that we will get back to you on the same day.

2. Usually, any minor queries can be dealt with in this way. If the Class Teacher needs additional support to deal with your query, they may discuss this with the Depute Head Teacher. The class teacher will get back to you or in some cases it may be the DHT.
3. If there is an ongoing problem, the Class Teacher and DHT will discuss this with the Head Teacher.
4. If your concern is an urgent Child Protection matter, please contact the DHT or HT immediately. In the event that the DHT is in class and the HT is out of school, please leave a message with the school administrator. The school office staff all have to adhere to strict confidentiality policies and will ask you what the matter is concerning. We cannot prioritise you call unless we know what it is about.

Upcoming Events

05.11.14 – Opening Evening in Nursery 4.30-6.30pm

06.11.14 P7 Technology Event @ Kemnay Academy

12.11.14 P3S Class Assembly

12.11.14 – Parent Council

13.11.14 – Parent Evening

14.11.14 3M and 7T Community Café

17.11.14-19.11.14 - In-Service Days

20.11.14 – Parent Evening

20.11.14-21.11.14 – Flu Vaccinations

Extra-Curricular Activities Term 2

Recorder Club

Miss Singer and Mrs Garden will be starting a recorder club soon. Letters will be going out soon for P3, 4 and 5. It will be a Wednesday 3.15-4pm starting 5.11.14

Dancing

Dance club is being held in the school hall on a Friday hopefully starting on 31.10.14. All children expressing an interest have been given forms and can bring them along with them on Friday.

Spanish

There will be a Spanish club starting up after the holidays on It will cost £10 a lesson. There are only 6 spaces available as the Spanish Tutor would like to work with the

children in small groups and get the children listening carefully and talking correctly. Ms Natura Farres Garcia will meet for a brief meeting with parents interested to discuss the Spanish club on Monday 3rd of November @ 3.15pm. You can also leave a message for her here at the school.

We continue to have a vacancy in the office.....

1. Make sure your children are on time in the morning
2. They should have everything they need for the day including packed lunch boxes, tickets and PE kits etc.
3. Ensure your child knows the after school arrangements.
4. When phoning please leave your name and number and someone will try to get back to you ASAP

Staffing

We have a number of students starting with us in the nursery. Mrs Downie has informed us that she will not be joining us in P7T. The post will now be advertised and covered by our regular supply staff.

Aberdeen Endowments Trust

There is an Open Morning taking place at Robert Gordon's College on Saturday the 8th of November from 9.30-12.30pm. Fully Funded and Partially Funded places are available. The entrance Exam is to be held

on Saturday the 17th January 2015. Applications forms for the exam are available from the college.

Flu Season

This is a gentle reminder that all flu vaccination consent forms should be returned to us by 12.11.14. We are unable to vaccinate any children returning forms after this date.

Congratulations!

A big well done to Taylor Munro in P7. She auditioned for a part in the Nutcracker for the Scottish Ballet. She was successful and will gain experience through this huge opportunity. We are really proud of you Taylor. Can we feel a trip to HMT coming on? Watch this space.....

Community Café

This term, our first community Café will be on the 14.11.14 and the classes will be raising funds for some storage for scooters at the front of the school. 'Scooting' to school is proving to be really popular going by the number of scooters lying around the school entrance. The storage is in the form of a small pod to ensure the scooters are stored safely.



School Meals

For some time now parents of academy pupils have been able to add monies onto pupils' cashless catering accounts online through the Council's website. As part of the Council's ICE (Improving the Customer Experience) Project, school catering have been working with the project team to improve the customer experience by introducing online payment for primary school meals along with an improved meal ordering system for pupils. Parents would then be able to pay for pupils' meals on line by debit or credit card in addition to payment by cash or cheque to the school. A standardised ordering system across all primary schools would also greatly help to ensure that every pupil received their chosen option of lunchtime meal and would help to reduce unnecessary wastage of food.

As part of this ongoing project we would like to get feedback from parents of

primary pupils with regard to the functionality they would like to see incorporated into an online payment system.

To gain this feedback from parents we would like them to complete a short survey which is available online at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aberdenshire_school_payments

First Class News Letters

These will be emailed out to families and will also be on the Website. In addition to this, the current First Class will be displayed on the noticeboard in main entrance.

If you are not receiving the email, please let the office know.

They do not need to be printed at home. Any reply slips that you need to return to school will be sent home on paper to ensure we always get these back to us.

Assemblies

Just to let you know that class assemblies will all be in the morning at 9.55am for a 10.00am start. Previously we have two assemblies but we are unable to timetable this now as we need the hall for other subjects. Just in case you were planning to take an afternoon off work in advance.