



First Class

28th November 2014

Issue No.8

Road Safety around Kinellar School

We are becoming increasingly worried about the safety of all of our children. We have to make this situation very clear to parents.

Do not park or stop to drop off on the double yellow lines or zig-zags near the crossing or the bus bay. The police will be notified of anyone doing this. Please park with consideration in streets surrounding the school as residents are becoming frustrated.

Strictly No Parking in the Staff School Car Park or Dropping off in the junction of the car park. By parking in front of the gates in the car park you are blocking one of our emergency service access points.

Christmas Lunch

The information about our Christmas Lunch has now been distributed.

If you have requested a lunch, please ensure your child has a lunch ticket with them on the day. If you would like to purchase an individual ticket, please go to the school office and they will be happy to help you out.

Elf Shelf

The Elf Shelf was a big hit last year. If your children would like to buy presents from the elf shelf, please send them with their money W/B 1/12. Each class will have a slot to visit the Elf Shelf and will have a second opportunity later that week.

Mathematics

One of our top areas for development this session is raising attainment in Maths. One main area is the way in which the children progress in maths and the pace of their learning. We have spent a chunk of our In-Service re-visiting how we teach maths and how it is assessed. We are providing each child with a Maths Tracker to ensure they know where they are in their learning. These will be shared with parents to ensure you are fully informed too.

Free School Meals for All P1 to P3

Pupils

From Monday 5 January 2015 all primary 1 to primary 3 pupils will be entitled to Free School Meals in all of Aberdeenshire's Primary Schools.

Lunch tickets will no longer be required for these pupils and parents and guardians of primary 1 to primary 3 pupils are advised to ensure that any tickets they have purchased should be used before the end of this current term as refunds cannot be made for any unused tickets.

For parents or guardians of pupils that have not previously taken lunch in school the current primary school menu cycle and information on primary school meals can be viewed on the school catering web pages at:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school_meals/primary.asp

Lunch tickets will still require to be purchased for pupils in primary 4 to primary 7 unless pupils are entitled to Free School Meals.



Upcoming Events

01.12.14 – Elf Shelf begins

10.12.14 – P4M Class Assembly

11.12.14 – Primary One Nativity followed by Christmas lunch for all pupils.

12.12.14 Community Café P2H and P6/5 followed by Term 2 Assembly

15.12.14 P5 Party am/ P6 Party pm

16.12.14 P3 Party am / P2 Party pm and P4 Trip

17.12.14 P4 Party am / P1 Party pm

18.12.14 Nursery Parties am and pm

19.12.14 P7 Parties and End of Term.

Composite classes go with their year group for their party.

We are continue to have Part-time admin. Please consider the following.....

Make sure your children are on time in the morning

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

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.

We are trying to keep out photocopying to a minimum. If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter but could have it emailed remember to let us know.

Road Safety

We are currently experiencing an alarming amount of 'near misses' on the road outside the school. A number of these have been caused by frustrated drivers overtaking illegally parked cars. If the weather is wet, please leave extra time for your journey. Please also inform friends or relatives picking up your children of the rules we have about the staff car park. The concern about the road is resulting in parents not being confident about their children walking to school and using the crossing. This is understandably resulting in more parents having to drive their children to school to ensure they are safe. Mrs Marshia Peel and Mrs Farquhar are setting a 'working group' to try and come up with some solutions and will work with parents on this.

Snow Packs

You will soon be receiving a snow pack for you to keep at home. In the unlikely event that the children are absent due to snow, you have some work for the children to do.

Please keep these packs at home and return any work completed when your child returns. Additional work for the

children will be put on 'Glow' by the teachers so it might be a good idea to make sure you can access glow in this event. You also have the option to use 'Mathletics' at home.

VSA Giving Tree

After the huge success last year, we are running out giving tree initiative again this year.

How does it work?

The VSA provide us with a number of gift tags to hang on our tree in the infant area. Each tag had been written on behalf of a child of a certain age and gender. There is often a clue on the tag about what they may like. If you would like to take part, you can request a gift tag and your child chooses one from the tree. You then buy a gift, wrap it up and attach the card. Your child then brings the present in and pops it under the tree.

Just send a note to the teacher requesting/ giving permission for your child to take a gift tag home and they can go to the tree and select one to take home to you.

Where do the gifts go?

The presents are then delivered to the specific children the tags were made up for. They are all local children who, for whatever reason, are not as fortunate this Christmas.

How will we know what to spend?

It's up to you but as we all know, many children are happy with a small gift and something to open.

What's in it for my child?

In a similar way to the Rotary shoe box appeal, the children learn to think about other children, it allows them to consider how much things cost and spending time with family members to wrap and talk about the gift is a valuable experience.

What if I don't want to contribute?

That is totally fine. There is certainly no expectation to take part. We understand that it's a busy and expensive time of year for all.

When do the gifts have to be in for?

We are waiting for the confirmation of the date but ASAP is good enough for now and we can ask the VSA to pick them up.

Here are Paul, Beth, Emma and Amy collecting our award from the VSA on behalf of the school.

