

## Happy New Year

We have had a busy and exciting start to Term 3. We are looking forward to our visit from Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre visit and our P7 Residential Trip in March.

## Screen Time

At our last Head Teacher assembly, Mrs Farquhar spoke to pupils about her concerns regarding the impact screen time is having on our Mental Health. We would love you to follow this up at home and discuss this with your child. The NSPCC offer advice on conversation starters and family agreements.



As a school we would like to support families in reducing screen time and preventing issues such as gaming addiction which can have a huge impact on both home and school life. We are looking for a group of volunteers who would like to be part of a pilot study in which children will go through a screen 'detox'. This would require a 4 week commitment from parents and children. If you are interested in being involved or would like more information please contact [Ruth Stannard](#).

## Arrival at School

It has come to our attention that many pupils are arriving in school long before 8.50 am. There is not supervision in the playground before school. Pupils should not arrive before 8.50 am.

## Accidents in School

If your child has an accident in school and borrows school clothing, please wash and return it or replace it.

## Playground

We have been working closely with KSPC in relation to resourcing our playground and encouraging quality play during break times.

We have spent approximately £1200 on new resources for the playground and an additional £2000 on outdoor storage which has been made possible by your contributions to fundraising events run by KSPC. These include parachutes, agility ladders, stilts, balancing activities and small world toys.

Mrs Turriff has been allocated some time to organise these and plan for different activities and games to be taken out on different days in order to ensure these are looked after and used properly.



KSPC are also looking into the possibility of having purposeful playground markings painted and discussed some of the options with P7 representatives at the last meeting.

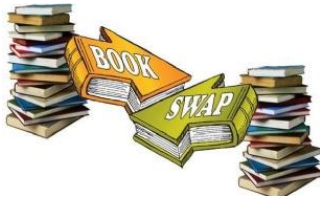
Our Primary 7 pupils have now completed their Play Leaders training and this term will be starting to work with younger pupils during break times. Each day, a different house will be responsible for leading a game for the younger pupils in that house. We look forward to seeing our P7s take on this responsibility.

## Book Swap

To celebrate World Book Day, KSPC have decided to hold a Book Swap on Tuesday 5th and Friday 8th March. This will replace the Scholastic Book Fair for this year.

Pupils should donate one or two books and will then have the opportunity to choose one book to keep which has been donated by someone else.

The pupils already attend library on a Tuesday or Friday so they will come to the Book Swap during their allocated library slot.



All we ask is that the books donated are relevant to your child's year group and that they are in very good condition.

Please feel free to ask your child to write a few lines about the book and why they liked it. Then pop the slip of paper inside the book.

All donations of books should be given to the class teacher by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. We will remind you again nearer the time!

## SNSA & Standardised Assessments

Just a reminder that P1, P4 and P7 will be taking part in SNSA this session. This data will be used by staff to support professional judgement and planning. Previously pupils have taken part in InCAS assessments, these are no longer necessary on a year group level but we may still use InCAS as a tool to gather data where required.

## Phone Numbers

We are having some problems with our SMT Skype calls as they are no longer displaying the school number. Our calls are showing up as 0345... and are understandably being ignored much of the time! Please answer these calls as we may be trying to contact you urgently. Hopefully our IT department will be able to resolve this soon.



## Kinellar Nursery

Mrs Dorothy Benzie had a lovely send off at the end of last term and we are sure she is enjoying her retirement! Mrs Alison McKeown has taken on Mrs Benzie's hours and we have also welcomed two new members of staff – Mrs Nicola Nicol and Miss Lucy Burgess. We will continue to increase our staffing over the coming months in order to accommodate the additional nursery hours. We are not in a position to start this yet and will inform parents as soon as we are.

## Dates for Diary

Wed 30 Jan ALEC begins  
Mon 4 Feb ALEC ends  
Fri 8 Feb Holiday  
Mon 11 Feb Holiday  
Tues 12 Feb In-service Day  
Wed 13 Feb In-service Day  
Thurs 21 Feb Family Learning – Little Learners

## Recognition of Achievement



We are so proud of all our staff and pupils who have brought in their achievements to show us. We would like to say a big well done to Mrs Turriff for her 25 years in Scouts award.

Our awards included Martial Arts, Swimming, Football, Gymnastics, Climbing and Chess. If your child has an achievement to share with us, please send it into school on a Friday.



## Who to Contact?

In the event that you have a question or concern, you should contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. They are the people who know your child best in school and will be able to resolve most issues which arise. If you feel that your concern has still not been resolved then you should contact the appropriate Depute Head Teacher; Miss Morrison Nursery – P3 or Miss Finch P4-7.



We work very closely as a management team and all issues which arise within school are shared with Mrs Farquhar, the Head teacher. If you feel you require to meet with her, please make an appointment via the office.

As always if there is anything we can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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To keep up-to-date with all that is going on in school, please follow us on [twitter](#).

P3M and P7D are on Twitter Takover this week!



## Update from Parent Council

December was a fantastic month. The children had fun opening the UNICEF advent calendars provided by the KSPC and learned about helping children around the world who are less fortunate than themselves.

Elf Shelf and the School Disco were a great success raising £2028, this money will go towards some exciting projects within the School.

At our last Kinellar School Parent Council meeting we invited the P7 House Captains to come and talk about how they would like the money to be spent within the playground, they did a great job and provided us with some valuable information which we will take forward with the help of Kinellar School.

This term is just as busy as we look forward to many more exciting events with information coming home very soon inviting the children to bring a favourite recipe to be included in a recipe book for each class.

February usually brings the Scholastic Book Fair, this year we have opted to try something different and host our own book fair.

As always we thank you for your continued support. Our meetings are open to all, our next meeting date is Wednesday 24th April at 7pm.

