



HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

Each week we email out an update of what is going on and reminders for parents/carers.

Please look out for these each Friday



HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

A very warm welcome back to everyone after our October break. It's hard to believe that November is just about upon us so as the evenings get darker I remind you all to stay safe when playing outside. Wear bright colours and always let an adult know where you are.

Absence

We still have a number of parents who fail to contact the school when their child is absent. If your child is not able to attend school due to illness you should contact the school by 9.30 am on the first day of absence to advise us of the reason for the absence and the likely date of return to school.

Please note - In the interests of your child's safety you must inform the office by 9.30am at the very latest.

The office is manned each day between 8.45 and 12.30pm.

Please also advise the school office of any appointments etc. as soon as possible after they have been made.

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time for a family holiday you should write to the Head Teacher to seek permission.

It should be noted that the Scottish Government treat such absence as unauthorised and your holiday will be recorded on your child's record as such.



Building Works

The boy's toilet has now been refurbished (just a few last minute things to be done this week) and is looking great. If you would like to see what has been done please just call in at the school office any morning for a tour! The girl's toilets will get the same treatment during the Easter break.

Nuts

A reminder that we have a number of children in school this year with allergies which require medical intervention if triggered.

In order to try to minimise any issues we would ask you not to send any snacks for break or lunch containing nuts and stress to your child not to share their snacks as some children have dairy and gluten intolerances as well.

Picking-up after school

To ensure children's safety we require you as parents/carers to inform us of any changes to travel arrangements or who is picking up your child each day.

We cannot take a child's word for this or a relative. It must come from you as their main carer.

Parent Council

The Parent Council is made up of every parent/carer of a child in the school and everyone is encouraged to come along to meetings and events when you can.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 29th OCTOBER AT 7pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

There will be a Christmas coffee morning in the Town Hall in Forres on Saturday 22nd November to help pay for the panto trip. Please look out for more information and ways you can get involved.

Guitar lessons

Lessons will continue this term with Ewan for any P4-7 children. Lessons are 30mins long and cost £4.50 per week. If your child would like a place please send contact the school office by Friday 1st Nov. We have a spare guitar if your child would like to try out a new instrument.



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School Improvement Plan

This year we have set up a school strategy group to lead the changes and improvements we agreed in the improvement plan.

The strategy group is made up of our 3 House captains, the Chair and both Vice Chairs of the Parent Council, a support assistant, a teacher and myself. We have met only once so far however this was very productive and each group, children, parents and staff, will feed back to their own groups what has been discussed and agreed.

Our improvement priorities for 2019-20 are;

- Review school values
- Work towards a Rights Respecting School Award
- Review school Positive Behaviour Strategy
- Review timetabling of numeracy across the school
- Support parental engagement in numeracy home learning
- Develop emerging literacy strategies from P3 upwards
- Develop digital literacy skills
- Develop a new digital literacy curriculum
- Review and upgrade I.C.T resources

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday 8th Nov.

Parent's Night Appointments

We are trialling a new system this year to make it easier for all parents to book appropriate appointments to meet with your child's class teacher. The office has issued parents with the instructions and I urge you to make sure you log-on and make your appointments. Please contact the office by the end of this week if you have any issues.

Staff are looking forward to meeting with you all on the 6th November.

Parent Helpers

Every Wednesday afternoon from 1.50 - 3.05pm children are involved in a variety of skills groups to help them develop skills and knowledge in a number of different areas.

Teachers lead the groups but need support to help the children undertake the tasks. If you can spare the time on a Wednesday afternoon we would be very grateful for your help. This session we are running groups in; Art and Design, Music making, Wellbeing, Cooking, Technology, Drama and sewing.

We also welcome adult helpers into classes to support children with their class work or help with classroom tasks. If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time each week please let us know. We would be delighted to have your help.

Medication

If your child is required to take prescribed medicines in school for any reason it is important that the following is adhered to;

- Medicines must be prescribed by a doctor and have a doctors label with the child's name and dosage on them
- The Moray Council 'administering of medication' forms must be completed and handed in with the medicine. (Form available on the Moray Council website or from the school office)
- Medicine and form should then be handed in to the school office (not to the class teacher) where either Mrs Innes (admin) or myself can agree and authorise an appropriate member of staff to administer the medication to your child.



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Open Afternoons for Parents

This term we have a series of open afternoons where we invite you as parents to join your child in their class to see what they have been learning and to find out how things are taught in school today.

Please join your child in their class if you can from 2pm on the following dates:

P6/7 - Tuesday 5th November

P1/2 - Tuesday 19th November

P3/4/5 - Tuesday 26th November

P4/5 - Tuesday 3rd December

Christmas Festivities - dates

- Pre-school/P1/2 nativity in village hall on Thursday 12th December at 6.30pm
- Panto at Eden Court in Inverness on Monday 16th December
- Carol singing at Brodie Country Fare at 10.30am on Tuesday 17th December
- Christmas lunch on Wednesday 18th December at 12noon
- Christmas service in Dyke Parish Church on Thursday 19th December at 2.30pm
- Christmas party in the village hall on Friday 20th at 10am

Christmas jumpers may be worn instead of school uniform from Tuesday 17th December.

Try decorating your own this year with old decorations from your tree

Young Leaders of Learning (YLL)

Dyke Primary is part of a pilot project with Education Scotland (the body which supports, inspects and implements government policy across Scotland) to support schools to develop pupil voice and give children in Primary schools the opportunity to 'inspect' their own and other schools from a child's perspective.

Our YLL's are Max, Romimi, Eva, Owen, Emelia, Luke, Charlie and Keira. They have had one training session with the other Moray schools involved and will have another session in January before embarking on their task here in Dyke and then in our partner school which will be Applegrove Primary.

Children from both schools will spend time together looking at how children's voice is encouraged and will then write a report to the Head Teachers laying out their thoughts and ideas for improvements.

We look forward to hearing what they discover and what their thoughts are.

First Minister's Reading Challenge

This session all classes are involved in the 1st Minister's Reading Challenge which encourages children to read and enjoy reading a variety of different types of writing and genre. It is not a competition to see who reads the most but an incentive for all children to get involved with reading both in school and, more importantly, at home. All children will bring home a challenge passport and I would ask you to support them to keep it up to date.

School Website

The school website is not active at the moment as we are currently in the process of updating it to ensure the information is accessible to everyone and relevant to what we are doing in school today.

Please be patient whilst this work is being done and we will let you know as soon as the new site is up and running.

In the meantime please keep looking at the Facebook page and keep up to date with our Friday news bulletins.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

*We look to the universe and reach for the skies
We think of others and together aim high*