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**NEWSLETTER**

**March, 2017**

Dear Parents/Carers

It's Springtime!!! As we approach the end of another term, we are reflecting on all the fantastic experiences we've had and looking forward to some exciting things that are to come in term 4.

### **Staffing**

Dare I say it...but we are now fully staffed! (well, almost). Apart from the lack of a PE specialist, we now have a full permanent staff. I would like to officially welcome Miss Kristy Smith, our new P1-3 teacher, who is settling in well and is already bringing some fantastic ideas to the school. I would also like to thank all the staff that have continued to deliver high quality learning and teaching for our learners in what has been at times a challenging situation.

### **Quality Improvement Visit**

Last Wednesday we had our annual Quality Improvement Visit. Two officers and a Head Teacher from the authority spent the day in school looking at all the marvellous things we are doing. They spoke with the Pupil Council, visited classrooms and met with staff and parents. The initial feedback was very positive and we will receive a written report in due course. Thanks to all the parents/carers who attended the meeting.

### **Improvement Plan Update**

Our improvement plans for this session are progressing well.

### **Improvement Priority 1: Maths and Growth Mindset**

In class, children and teachers are continuing to work on having a Growth Mindset in maths. They have discussed how they see themselves as learners in numeracy and explored how mistakes can be marvellous. P4-7 have taken part in a week of inspirational maths, which they all really enjoyed. Staff have attended several meetings with the Educational Psychology team to explore the needs of our learners to ensure we continue to raise attainment in this area.

### **Improvement Priority 2: 1+2 Modern Languages**

At Chapel of Garioch, our second taught language is French. In term 1, we had our French Café and funding has been secured for us to create an ePassport for language learning to be launched next session. Our third taught language will be on a 4 year rolling program and will only be for P4-7. This year it is Japanese. The other languages for the next 3 years will be confirmed at a later date.

### **Improvement Priority 3: Developing Scotland's Young Workforce**

As mentioned in previous news, we were granted a sum of money for our Skills for Learning, Life and Work project. We have purchased role play equipment for the younger children to be able to explore different skills. We have had our World of Work days and P4-7 have made an interactive profile of all the volunteers who have come into to speak about their jobs. P4-7 went to Nasa to find out about careers in space.

### **NASA Aberdeen**

P4-7 went on a trip to Aberdeen Science Centre where they got to meet a NASA astronaut and a NASA scientist. They had a go at remote communication and saw lots of interesting demonstrations of how things work in space. As part of the visit, the children entered a competition where they had to design their own planets, lifeforms and spacecraft and they won!! The groups collaborated extremely well on this project and this was the key to their success. Well done to all.

### **P4-7 Open Afternoon**

At the beginning of March, P4-7 had their open afternoon which was all about challenge. The children took part in Breakthrough sessions which involved working in groups to learn something completely new. There will be more information on this to come.

### **Red Nose Day**

For this year's Red Nose Day, the Pupil Council decided that we would have a Talent Show. Children auditioned for the show last Friday and are very much looking forward to performing on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to come along at 2pm on the day, tickets are £2.50 and all the money raised goes to Comic Relief. Children are also invited to come to school on Friday dressed in red for a £1 and the Pupil Council are selling Red Noses throughout the week. In class, children watched a film about Hassan, a boy from Sierra Leone who lost his mother to Ebola and missed out on school for a year as a result of the spread of this disease. The children explored how the money raised for Comic Relief helped Hassan and his friends get back to school.

### **Literacy Jotters**

Please check your child's bag for their literacy jotter which has been sent home to look at as part of our reporting process. These should be returned by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Coming Up....**

#### **End of Term Service**

We are having our end of term Easter Service on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.00pm in the Church. All are welcome to join us. Children should be picked up from the church and the bus will pick up from there as well.

#### **Parents Workshop/Report Sharing Session**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April we will be holding a Parents Workshop at 7pm in school. There will be a lot going on at this workshop including looking at Homework, challenge, improvement priorities for next session, iPads and home learning and a fair bit more. This evening will also be an opportunity to look at part two of your child's school eReport. We are almost at the stage of being able to send the iPads home and part of this process will be included in the workshop. I hope to see as many of you there as possible to support the school and its journey to excellence. Letters regarding the workshop and the reports will be out next week. (Please note the reporting calendar has an error on it regarding the date of the report sharing session, **it is the 25<sup>th</sup> April**)

## Dates for your Diary

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day/Talent Show
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Run Garioch
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Active Schools Cross Country (Kemnay) (no running Club)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	End of Term Service, Church 2pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return for term 4
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents Workshop/Report Sharing
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Running club will start including P1
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	World of Work Day Active Schools Cross Country (Westhill)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Parents Evening
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bennachie Trip (whole school)
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Spring Fayre

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**End of Term Service – Friday, 31 March, 2017**

Please complete all sections

I will be able to walk with the children at 1.45 pm Yes/No

I will take my child/ren home from Church on Friday, 31 March Yes/No

My child/ren will use school transport as normal Yes/No

Child/ren's names.....Class.....

Your signature.....Date.....

***Please return to school by Monday, 27 March, 2017***