

February 2017

Portlethen Primary Newsletter



All of our achievements are shared on Twitter first! We have shared 552 pieces of information since the start of session. Don't miss out!



@Portyschool
552 tweets, 437 followers and 661 likes.

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SCHOOL CLOSURES	SCHOOL REOPENS
Friday 31 st March at 3.20 pm	Tuesday 18 th April at 9.00 am
May Day – 1 st May	Tuesday 2 nd May
Friday 30 th June at 3.20 pm	Tuesday 22 nd August at 9.00 am

Answering Machine for reporting absences:
01224 780238

School Closures

If you have not yet signed up to receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport, please sign up for notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website - if you already pay for school meals online, you will be registered.

Dear Parents/Carers

More daylight and an improvement in the weather are very welcome. It is always lovely to make best use of our outdoor environment but it's so much more pleasant in better weather.

Scotland Topic

We are nearing the end of the whole school Scotland topic. Some classes have chosen to extend their work in this subject and others are taking their interdisciplinary learning in a different direction. The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed the wide variety of experiences and we will certainly embark on other whole school topics in the future. The standard of the children's recitals of Scottish poetry was excellent. Well done to all of our amazing pupils! "All of the finalists from Primary 4 to 7 are of the standard to participate in the Aberdeen Burns Competition." (Beth Pratt, Aberdeen Burns Society who judged our Scottish poetry recitals)

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

Children should bring their favourite book to school and may dress up as a book character. We have a whole school parade planned and we will also listen to some of our favourite stories.

Science Week - Monday 13th-Friday 17th March

There are lots of fun, interesting learning experiences organised. If you are able to offer expertise in this area we would be delighted to add you to the timetable. The children are in for a treat!

February In-Service

All staff participated in training on "Whole School Nurturing Approaches" and we worked with our cluster colleagues from Fishermoss, Hillside, Newtonhill and Banchory-Devenick on mental maths. It was a very useful and productive two days.

Attendance and Lateness

Good attendance and punctuality can help us reach our goal of raising attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children as well as enhancing their wellbeing. We aim to work together with parents to ensure that the whole school's overall attendance improves. Attached is an attendance leaflet for your information.



*You have the right to a good quality education.
You should be encouraged to go to school. Article 28, UNCR*



Dates for your diary

- 2.3.17
World Book Day
- 13.3.17-17.3.17
Science Week
- 17.3.17
MUGA Opening
- 27.3.17-31.3.17
National Autism Awareness Week
- 29.3.17**
Onesie Wednesday
- 31.3.17
Easter Bonnet Parade

Aims, Vision & Values



T TRAIN

After full consultation, the final draft of the revised Aims, Visions and Values will be shared with the Parent Partnership at the next meeting for final approval. The next step will be to develop a high level curriculum map (an overview of what the curriculum at PP looks like).

PARENT GROUPS' NEWS

Multi Use Games Area Official Opening

This will take place on 17th March. Every class from both Hillside and Portlethen Schools will have time on the MUGA. S1 and S2 academy pupils have been invited along to a fun football and basketball shoot out tournament and we intend to have a mums and dads v mums and dads session. More information will follow soon.

National Autism Awareness Week

We always aim to heighten understanding of autism but this week presents an opportunity to share the challenges that children and adults on the autistic spectrum cope with every day. Children may, if they wish, wear their Onesie (or pyjamas) on Wednesday 29th March. *"I am looking forward to Onesie Wednesday. I feel good about sharing that everybody is different but we care about our friends and family."* (Jake Peachey, P3P)

Easter Bonnet Parade

Children and staff are invited to wear an Easter bonnet to school on Friday 31st March. We will have a parade and prizes for the best bonnets will be awarded. I am very glad that I won't be judging this - a very difficult decision.

You have the right to follow your own religion, Article 14, UNCRC

Enhanced Provision

The Education and Children's Services Committee has now approved the relocation of Newtonhill Enhanced Provision Centre to Portlethen Primary School. My understanding is that this will officially be from August 2017.

Trial of New Lunch Break

Since Hillside is on track to open on Monday 27th March, Portlethen Primary will trial a whole school lunch break from 12.10pm to 1.10pm that week. Children who are home lunches should be picked up/released with prior permission at 12.10pm. Entry to the lunch hall will still be staggered.

We will monitor the effectiveness of the proposed new lunch hour and advise parents accordingly.

Staffing

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Philp, Support For Learning teacher to team Porty. She is already impressed by our fabulous pupils. We are now fully staffed!

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra McKechnie
Head Teacher

Friends of Portlethen Primary meeting - to be confirmed
Parent Partnership meeting - Tuesday 28th February at 6.30pm