



Lairhillock School Newsletter

August 2016

Welcome back from the summer break. I hope that everyone is well rested and ready for what is set to be another busy year.

During the holiday we received the great news that under Mrs Blair's leadership, and with the hard work of the staff, pupils and families, we now have successfully renewed our **Eco-Schools Green Flag**. This is our third one!



Last Saturday finally saw the Invercrynoch Football Tournament and family barbecue go ahead after the postponement due to the appalling weather last term. By all accounts the stalls were heaving, the sun was shining and the players were magnificent! Another very successful event organised by the Parent Council and volunteers.



*Archie Robertson, Carl Saunders, Roan Collin, Craig Strachan
Finlay Green, Keon Hay and Alfie Grant*

The Lairhillock A team won the Cup! They were unbeaten in all matches and didn't concede one goal. They were commended by the coaches from other schools on their manners and sportsmanship throughout. Not only that, but the boys have also won every match and tournament they have played all year. Well done boys. A credit to their parents and coaches.

Lumphanan were triumphant in the Shield competition for the younger players. Thank you to all of the children who participated in the tournament.



Lairhillock School

We are sad to see Gary Strachan leaving as coach and very much appreciate the hard work he has put into the training. Duncan Collin is remaining as coach but needs more volunteers for this to carry on. If you are interested in helping out please contact him at dcarchitect@mac.com

REPORTING TO PARENTS

In June we surveyed parents to garner ideas for our new reporting. Over the past few weeks teachers have worked hard to pull together the ideas and we now have our plan for 2016-2017 session. These plans were shared with the Parent Council and are ready to be shared with parents at one of two events, i.e. Monday 19 September 09.15 or 19.00. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

As part of our sharing the learning with you we are going to be Tweeting. We can be followed: @lairhillockps Please be patient while we learn how to Tweet.

EVENTS



We said goodbye to Miss Murray, PSA, on Wednesday 24 August but welcomed her back on Monday 29 August as Mrs Wilson! The whole school wish Mr and Mrs Wilson a wonderful future together.

Our first visitors this year are the **Osiligi Maasai Warriors** who will be in school on Thursday 01 September at 09.15. They perform authentic Maasai tribal song and dance plus the world-famous Maasai jumping.

This Saturday, 03 September from 2pm.-4pm is the first **family gardening session**. All families are welcome!

On Tuesday 13 September we welcome two assessors who will tour the school chat with children and parents and reassess our **Rights Respecting School** work. We hope to be reaccredited at Level 2. We are looking for parent volunteers to come and meet the assessors

A photographer from the Evening Express will be in school on Monday 19 September to take the **Primary 1 class photo**. This could be a photo to remember as it will be taken in the afternoon and the children are not always pristine after lunch!

As part of the Parent Council fundraising **SPREE Books** are on sale through the school office. If you have lost or misplaced the original letter with the tear off slip please just pop a not in with your child indicating how many books you would like and enclose £20 per book ordered. Cheques are preferable and should be made 'Lairhillock Parent Council'. Alternatively, if you prefer to can contact Shona Grimmer directly on Facebook or by email.

The **Travelling Book Fair** will arrive in school on 27 September and will be open for business on Wednesday 28th. It will open for business each morning until Thursday 06 October.



Joyce Murison from Cookney Hall attended the Parent Council meeting to share information about **family ceilidhs** they plan on holding at the hall for Lairhillock School. These sessions will be a fabulous opportunity for your children (and you!) to learn traditional ceilidh dancing, which we all know is an important skill (when we progress past being scared to hold hands with someone of the opposite sex) for events such as

weddings. If you would like to attend please come along on the day.

When? Sunday 25 September 2p.m. - 4p.m.

Sunday 20 November 2p.m. - 4p.m.

Where? Cookney Hall




How much? £1 per child & £2 per adult to be paid on arrival (all children must be accompanied by an adult)

More information? Call Joyce Murison on 01569 731236

SPARE CLOTHES

If you have any old school uniform that you no longer need we can make good use of them either as second hand uniform for sale at a reasonable price or as spare clothes in school for when we have accidents. Please just hand them into the school office.

LUNCHTIME GROUPS

Day	Club	Group Leaders	Year Group
Monday	Chess (Outdoor classroom) 	Rasmus & Seumas	P1-7
Tuesday	Equipment	P6 & P7 rota	P1-7
	Art (Library area)	Freya, Hayley, Lilia & Ruaridh	P1-4
	iPad Club (ICT - B week)	Mrs Begg	P7
Wednesday	Playground Games	P6 & P7 rota	P1-7
	iPad Club (ICT - A week)	Mrs Begg	P7
Thursday	Football 	Keon & Dexter	P3 & P4
	Equipment	P6 & P7 rota	P1-7
	 Lego (GP room)	Toby & Murray	P1-7



REMINDERS

Due to allergies children **should not bring nuts, nut products or latex** items into school. These can cause severe reactions with potentially life threatening results.



Please remember for safety reasons to reverse park in the **school car park**. As the school is very busy at drop off and collection time it is important to park within the marked bays. The bus bay should not be used for parking during school hours.

We have been very fortunate with the weather recently, but even so the children should **bring a jacket to school** as they will be out in the playground unless the weather is particularly bad.



By day two of the term there were 8 items in the lost property box... only one had a name! **Please ensure all items are named** to allow rehoming to take place.

STAFFING

We have started the session with the staffing in classes as was shared at the end of term.

Nursery	Ms McGachy Miss May Mrs Scouller	Lead Practitioner Early Years Practitioner Early Years Practitioner (Temporary)
Primary 1	Mrs Campbell Mrs Begg Mrs Trilk	Teacher- Mon, Tue & alt Wed Teacher - Alt Wednesday, Thurs & Fri Pupil Support Assistant
Primary 2	Mrs Gill Mrs Fraser Miss Murray	Teacher- Mon - Wed Teacher - Thurs & Fri Pupil Support Assistant
Primary 3/4	Mrs Blair Mrs Strachan Mrs Blake	Teacher – Mon to Thurs Teacher - Fri Pupil Support Assistant
Primary 4/5	Mrs Bosson Mrs Kirk Mrs Blake	Teacher - Mon Teacher – Tues - Fri Pupil Support Assistant
Primary P5/6	Miss Davies Mrs Bosson Mrs Blake	Probationer (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri) Teacher (Wednesday) Pupil Support Assistant
Primary 7	Mrs Hodge Mrs Saunders Mrs Blake	Teacher– Mon to Thurs Teacher – Fri (Cover until vacancy filled) Pupil Support Assistant
Specialists	Mrs Begg Mrs Bosson Miss Munro Mrs Ward	Digital Technologies – Tues/Wed Music - Tues PE – Tues & Fri Additional Support for Learning Mon & Wed



Our Janitor for this session is Adam Campbell, who will be here on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

COMMUNICATION FOR PARENTS

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 07 November 2016 at 7.30 p.m.** All parents of children from Nursery to P7 are invited. Items for the agenda should be forwarded to the secretary, Mrs Joanne Owen.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We would be delighted to welcome any **volunteers** into the school to share their skills and talents. We currently have volunteers who help with baking, library, gardening, trips, cross country and arts and crafts. If you would like to help with these, or any other activities, please contact us by telephone, email or come in to the school for a chat.

We will have a '**Learning Conversation**' event on Wednesday 05 October for parents and their children to discuss the work that has been going on in class over the term. This will run alongside the meetings for Primary 1 parents.

If at any time over the course of the year you have **concerns, comments or question** about your child please contact the school to arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher. Alternatively you can arrange to come and meet with me.

A number of parents have indicated that they would like more advice on **how to support their children's learning at home**. The following information is from the 'Supporting Learning at Home' document shared with parents for the last two years.



Learning doesn't only take place in the classroom. Much of children and young people's learning takes place at home, through interacting with family, friends and the wider community.

What can I do as a parent?

Parents, carers and families can make a positive difference to a child's learning. Your support can play a vital role at all stages of your child's education.

- **Listen, talk, and encourage** – this can have a big influence on children's learning
- **Encourage your child to talk** to you about their learning, what learning is happening at school and do what you can at home to build on that
- **Talk** to your child about their strengths and interests and how they are progressing
- **Encourage your child to talk** to you about their next steps in learning and find out how you can work with the school to support this
- **Ask for help** if you think your child needs it for any reason.
- **Praise** your child if he/she is working hard at something or has achieved something within or out of school
- **Encourage any reading**
- **Look for opportunities at home** to develop literacy and numeracy skills: money, number problems, time, measuring, matching, size, reading, writing, understanding instructions, questioning information
- **Encourage your child to take part in activities** e.g. hobbies, clubs which will provide opportunities to develop a range of skills
- **Help them work on tasks on their own** and then talk about it with you afterwards
- **Do things together where appropriate** – learn together e.g. if your child has a project or task to do, take an interest and discuss with them what he/she is doing or offer support if this is needed
- **Help prepare for change** particularly at key transitions – talk about the change together.
- **Talk** to them about how they are feeling
- **Work together with the school** by taking part in discussions about your child's learning and progress e.g. at parents nights, reviews

Supporting Literacy

Literacy is important in all areas of learning. Being able to read and write accurately, to listen carefully and to talk clearly about ideas will increase the opportunities for young people in all aspects of life and will allow them to participate fully in learning and later in a work environment.

Parents play a crucial role in helping children to develop literacy skills from an early age. They contribute to this by reading to their children every day, learning nursery rhymes together and using normal events in life to help children learn about the world around them, for example by pointing out signs. Parents can contribute further to their children's learning by encouraging children to talk about their thoughts and ideas, and about how they are feeling. Parents can encourage children to explore literacy outside the classroom.



Young people will enjoy reading different types of texts and all reading helps them to develop their skills. So whether they are reading a book, a blog, a magazine or a sports report, it will help if parents are encouraging and supportive.

Supporting Numeracy

Numeracy is about being able to understand and use numbers in a range of situations e.g. when solving problems or making decisions in situations involving numbers.

All staff and all teachers, regardless of the subject being taught, are responsible for supporting, developing and extending learners' numeracy skills and for ensuring that what a child has learned in earlier years is built upon, practised and refreshed regularly throughout their time at school.

Families are key partners in supporting and developing numeracy skills at all stages of their child's development.

How can you help?

Learning doesn't just take place in the classroom, it can happen anywhere. A child or young person's everyday routine offers many opportunities and experiences to (practice and) apply their numeracy skills in real life and in meaningful ways.

There are many ways that you can build learning activities into everyday routines to support your child's numeracy skills. Excellent learning opportunities exist within daily experiences such as washing the dishes, preparing a meal or doing the shopping.

Some simple ideas at home

- **Time:** Encourage your child to use a watch or clock to tell the time, provide timed activities and read timetables.
- **Calendars:** Plan family birthdays on a calendar and do a birthday countdown.
- **Measure:** Take advantage of measure opportunities in the kitchen; weighing, timing and temperature.
- **Money:** Talk about best deals with your child, budgeting pocket money or wages.
- **Estimating:** plan for activities in advance like calculating the number of rolls of paper or paint required to decorate a room, the length of time activities may take.
- **Logical thinking:** Ask your child to explain their thinking and consider consequences of actions e.g. using the information gathered from reading newspapers, using the internet and watching TV to draw conclusions and make choices that involve numeracy.

The above information is from the Education Scotland Parentzone website:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp>

Christeen Seward
Head Teacher





Dates for your Diary (Dates may have to change but you will be kept informed)

SESSION 2016-2017			
TERM 1			
01 09 16	THURSDAY	09.30	Osiligi Maasai Warriors
02 09 16	FRIDAY	ALL DAY	ALEC caravan
13 09 16	TUESDAY	a.m.	Rights Respecting School Reaccreditation
21 09 16	WEDNESDAY	14.30	Music showcase
25 09 16	SUNDAY	14.00-16.00	Family Ceilidh at Cookney Hall
27 09 16	TUESDAY	19.30	Christmas Fayre planning meeting at Elaine Brainwood's house
28 09 16	WEDNESDAY	a.m.	Travelling Book Fair opens for business
		14.00	Eco celebration
29 09 16	THURSDAY	TBC	P7 Macmillan coffee afternoon
03 10 16	MONDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
05 10 16	WEDNESDAY	PM	P1 parents meetings
		PM	P2-P7 learning conversation sessions
06 10 16	THURSDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
		a.m.	Last day for Travelling Book Fair
		14.30	P3/4 assembly
Term 2			
31 10 16	MONDAY	ALL DAY	P4/5, 5/6 & 7 visit to Aberdeen Science Centre
		18.0-19.30	Parent Council Halloween Party
02 11 16	WEDNESDAY	ALL DAY	P1 & 2 visit to Aberdeen Science Centre
07 11 16	MONDAY	19.30	Parent Council meeting
08 11 16	TUESDAY	18.30-20.00	Curricular evening for parents
20 11 16	SUNDAY	14.00-16.00	Family Ceilidh at Cookney Hall
26 11 16	SATURDAY	10.00-12.00	Christmas Fayre
Term 3			
17 01 16	TUESDAY	19.30	Parent Council meeting
22 02 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	P5/6 assembly
03 03 17	FRIDAY	18.00	Parent Council Bingo!
15 03 17	WEDNESDAY	09.30	P1 assembly
26 04 16	WEDNESDAY	a.m.	Nursery visit to Aberdeen Science Centre
		19.30	Parent Council meeting
Term 4			
01 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P4/5 assembly
16 06 17	FRIDAY	TBC	Parent Council disco
29 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P7 leavers assembly

SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES

SESSION 2016 – 2017

Term 1	16/08/16 - 07/10/16
Term 2	24/10/16 – 21/12/16
Term 3	05/01/17 - 31/03/17



Lairhillock School

Term 4 18/04/17 – 30/06/16

In-service Days

15 August 2016
14 November 2016
15 November 2016
14 February 2017
15 February 2017

Public Holidays

13 February 2017
01 May 2017

Occasional Days

09 February 2017
10 February 2017



COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS

We welcome feedback on how we are doing and will use this to plan for improvements. Please note any points in the space below and return to the school office. Please sign your name if you wish someone to respond to your comments.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____