



# Lairhillock School Newsletter

December 2016

The new **playground markings** are fabulous and are inspiring lots of imaginative play. Thank you to the Parent Council for funding these.



We enjoyed seeing so many parents in school for the **Learning Conversations**. If you were one of those parents and it has whetted your appetite to become a classroom volunteer we'd love to hear from you!

Both the P1-3 and Nursery **nativities** were superb, with the children putting on excellent performances. Could there possibly be a better way to start the festive season? I very much doubt it.



*Mary's solo performance*

Our **Christmas parties** were very lively (particularly the P1-3!) and the feasts provided by the Parent Council were devoured by the party goers! The parent helpers did a great job preparing and serving the children.



## Lairhillock School

At the final 'Wriggly Nativity' performance we drew the winning tickets for the P4-7 fused glass candle shades. The lucky winners were:

Ava McKilligan  
Councillor Alison Evison  
Mollie Skea  
Mrs Christine Anderson (friend of Mrs Blair)  
Mrs Christine Ward  
Mrs Linda Wilson  
Mrs Sharp  
Ned Daley  
Roan Beattie  
Rudi-Gené Farquhar  
Ryan Fraser  
Rylan Park  
Tanya Heath  
William Irvine-Fortescue



Our Christmas jumper day for **Save the Children** raised **£85** and we enjoyed seeing the vast range of Christmas attire.



We had a very famous visitor pop in to see the children...







What a lovely **Christmas service** we had with Banchory-Devenick School here today. Mrs Blair had arranged this for us and we really enjoyed it. Thank you for the lovely comments, they have been passed on to Mrs Blair and the other staff.

### **SCHOOL HANDBOOK**

The 2017 school handbook can be accessed through the following link:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-Contacts/detail.asp?schoolid=klhp>

### **PRIMARY 1 ADMISSIONS FOR 2017-2018**

Information regarding enrolment of children for Nursery and Primary 1 will be available in January.

### **STAFFING**

On Monday 23 January we will welcome Ms Lisa Watt, PGDE student, into Primary 2. She will be with the class until 03 March 2017.

In addition Ms Lynsey Fyfe, also PGDE student, will join Primary 1 on 20 February and remain with them until 26 May.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Now is the time to get involved in shaping the future of communication with schools. Aberdeenshire Council is rolling out a new service to communicate with parents by email, text message and a new app for smartphones and tablets.

A parents' survey is available that will directly influence how the school uses the new messaging service - you can complete it at the following link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AberdeenshireSchools>

This improved system will allow us to send home newsletters, certificates and other communication electronically.

We are scheduled to begin using this technology by next summer and are seeking parents' views on what they want to receive, delivery methods and how often they want to hear from the school.

Please note, telephone and letter communication will still be used for communication that is of a sensitive or confidential nature.

Further information is available by visiting <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-communications/>

### **SPARE UNIFORM**

We have just about run out of spare uniform for younger children who have accidents e.g. falling in the mud, so would ask that any uniform sent home with your child could be laundered and returned for others to use. We do not expect underwear to be returned.



In addition we are happy to accept donations of old uniform to use on these occasions.

### EVENTS

Primary 1 will be organising the annual **Suitcase Sale** for **Thursday 19 January**. The Christmas holiday is the ideal time for the children to gather together unwanted toys, books etc. that they can sell at this event and raise money for charity.

### WHAT THE PUPILS SAY!

I asked Primary 2 what they had been learning and this is what they had to say:

Dean – I have learned my letters c, a, n, t

Jack – I have been learning to spell 'ship' and 'pencil'

Harry – I have been learning the alphabet and what it stands for.

Ethan – I can count to 100 and we do our 10 times table

Gregor – I have been learning the phonemes 'ow', 'aw' and 'oi'

Alfie – We know the coins up to 20p so we know when we are older and how much things cost.

Eve – I am good at my reading because in the whole book I don't spell things out.

Ava – I have been reading about Tam and Sam.

Ollie – In PE we did gymnastics and we were balancing on the benches.

Jessica – We did hundreds, tens and units. Units are ones.

Kiki – in PE we did Scottish Country dancing. We learnt how to light bulb with the crocodile clips. You put one end on the battery and the other end on the bulb.

Lacey – to light the bulb the crocodile clip goes onto the bulb and the other one on the battery.

Thomas – we were doing spooky stories so in art we were learning to mix the colours

Ruari – I am reading longer stories because I can say the words and read a whole book

Jamie – I can say 'bonjour' which means 'hello' and 'au revoir' which means 'goodbye'.

### ONLINE SAFETY –SEXTING

All schools have been contacted to remind us the importance of children keeping themselves safe when using their smartphones etc. The following information was shared from 'SelfieCop'.

"Thousands of kids will get their first smartphone this Christmas. The idea is to teach safe camera-behaviour early. When children are older they are more likely to STOP-&-THINK before sharing an unsafe image.

Our app SelfieCop can be of extra help for kids who need additional support. It encourages them to think-twice before taking or sharing risky photos. Download for free at [www.selfiecop.com](http://www.selfiecop.com)

The app works in 2 ways:

#### Child-App only

Install the Child-App on your child's phone or tablet.



Your child will then see a safety reminder every time their camera is turned 'on'.

This teaches your child to STOP-&THINK before sharing a photo.  
(This option may be used for children of any age.)

### Child-App + Parent-App

Install the Parent-App onto the parent's smartphone.

Link the Parent-App to the Child-App & share the encryption code.

The parent can then review copies of photos taken by their child.

(This option should only be used on children up to about 13 years.)

#### **Article 16**

*Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life.*



#### **Article 17**

*Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.*

### **STAFF TRAINING**

This term staff have engaged in training in Modern Languages, CALM, Data Protection, Equalities and Diversity Training, Early Years Literacy, Growth Mindset, Numeracy & Maths and Resilience for Children.

### **PARENT COUNCIL**

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 17 January 2017 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 at the new Parent Council email address [Lairhillockparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Lairhillockparentcouncil@gmail.com)

### **AND FINALLY...**

From all of the staff and pupils at Lairhillock we wish you all a very enjoyable break and will see the children back in school on Thursday 05 January.

Christeen Saward  
Head Teacher



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

<b>SESSION 2016-2017</b>			
<b>TERM 3</b>			
17 01 17	TUESDAY	19.30	Parent Council meeting
19 01 17	THURSDAY	TBC	Suitcase Sale
22 02 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	P5/6 assembly
		17.45-20.00	Interim Parents' meetings
23 02 17	THURSDAY	15.45-18.00	Interim Parents' meetings
24 02 17	FRIDAY	09.30	M&M Productions ' <i>Treasure Island</i> ' performance
03 03 17	FRIDAY	18.00	Parent Council Bingo!
15 03 17	WEDNESDAY	09.30	P1 assembly
22 03 17	WEDNESDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
24 03 17	FRIDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
16 04 17	SUNDAY	-	<b>SCHOOL'S 10<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY</b>
26 04 17	WEDNESDAY	a.m.	Nursery visit to Aberdeen Science Centre
		19.30	Parent Council meeting
27 04 17	THURSDAY	TBC	Parent Council photography session
<b>Term 4</b>			
23 05 17	TUESDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
24 05 17	WEDNESDAY	17.45-20.00	End of session parents' meetings
25 05 17	THURSDAY	15.45-18.00	End of session parents' meetings
25 05 17	THURSDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
01 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P4/5 assembly
14 06 17	WEDNESDAY	TBC	Digital Technologies exhibition
16 06 17	FRIDAY	TBC	Parent Council disco
29 06 17	THURSDAY	TBC	P7 leavers assembly



**SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES**

**SESSION 2016 – 2017**

<b>Term 2</b>	24/10/16 – 21/12/16
<b>Term 3</b>	05/01/17 - 31/03/17
<b>Term 4</b>	18/04/17 – 30/06/16

**In-service Days**

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:** \_\_\_\_\_