



Lairhillock School Newsletter

November 2016

Do you have last minute Christmas shopping to do? If so don't forget about the beautiful **Lairhillock Calendars**, available from the school office for only £7, or the handmade **Christmas cakes** for only £6!

Fiona Paterson from **Mearns Art House** came in to work with the children in Primary 4-7 to help them create beautiful fused glass Christmas decorations and candle shades. We are selling **raffle tickets** for the candle shades. This raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 14 December. If you would like to buy tickets please contact the school office.



Article 31

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



The GP room was been a hive of industry for most of the term, with the parent volunteers making cakes, chutneys, crafts etc. for the **Christmas Fayre**, which yet again was an incredible success. Thank you to the organisers, without whom this event would not be so spectacular, and to everyone else for the amazing support shown on the day and by purchasing the items made by the children. This event raised close to £5000!

Christmas cakes and **Christmas craft** items made by the children will be available for collection on Monday 05 December during the open session. Anyone still to pay can either send money into school with a child or pay on collection.

Thank you to the 14 parents that came along to our **curricular evening**. We appreciated the positive feedback, particularly as the teachers remained in school for the evening to deliver the sessions and some came in on their day off.

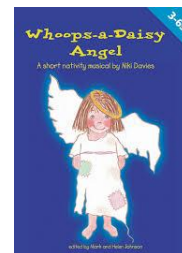
EVENTS

Our next **open session** is Monday 05 December between 14.00-15.00. All parents are invited in to spend time with their children discussing their work. Please ensure all Pupil Profiles are returned before this date.

Primary 7 will be visiting His Majesty's theatre on Wednesday 07 December to watch Olivia Manning perform in the **'Dick McWittington'** pantomime.



Primary 1-3 will perform their '**Wiggly Nativity**' twice on Wednesday 14 December at 14.30 and 18.30. '**Whoops-a-Daisy Angel**' is **Nursery's Nativity** and this will be open for public viewing on Friday 16 December at 09.30. If these performances don't get you in the Christmas spirit nothing will.



Our **Christmas party** dates are all listed in the 'Dates for your diary' at the end of the newsletter. Children can either come to school in their party clothes or bring clothes to change into at lunchtime.

The **Christmas lunch** has been moved from Thursday 15 December to Friday 16 December.

Due to refurbishment work being carried out at Maryculter Church the **Christmas service** for Banchory-Devenick and Lairhillock schools will be held in Lairhillock School at 10.00. We hope to be able to accommodate parents as normal but there may be standing room only.

Hopefully tomorrow the new playground marking will be painted. Look out on Twitter for an update! Thank you to the Parent Council for supporting this.

ONLINE PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

The school cook sends out emails to parents if children's online accounts are in arrears. It would appear that some of these emails may be going into 'junk' mail, therefore we would request that you regularly check your junk mail for these.

ECO

As an Eco school we encourage everyone to reduce, reuse or recycle. What can you recycle here?

- Wearable Clothing, paired Shoes, handbags and belts through our Ragbag banks at Lairhillock Inn and behind the school
- Spectacles – collection box outside the office
- Toner and inkjet cartridges – collection box outside the office
- **School uniform** – you can either donate or purchase good quality uniform from the office.



LOST PROPERTY



Currently we have 18 unnamed school sweatshirts (a number of which are clearly quite new) and a range of other items in our lost property box. **If these articles are not rehomed by the end of term they will be laundered and added to our nearly new uniform stock.**

Please label all items that belong to your child, this can just be done with biro, but don't forget to redo every so often as it washes off.



JUNIOR LIBRARIAN

We currently have a limited period of access to a new online Reading Cloud which was offered to volunteer children in P4-7. This new system allows pupils, staff and parents to view our school library catalogue online and pupils are encouraged to use this to help with research, to write reviews about books they have read, blog about what they are reading and their favourite authors and search for new books and other library resources. Children also have the ability to chat about books etc. with their friends in this safe environment. Staff are able to access this to ensure it is moderated and used sensibly. The chat facility allows the introduction of the idea of social networking for children in a safe environment which is focussed around reading. We would also encourage children to use the 'Home Library' function to catalogue books they have at home which can then be shared with friends.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

The number of children arriving late and entering through the main door appears to have increased. We would ask that every effort is made to get the children to school on time and that they enter through the pupil entrance with their peers.

As per the Aberdeenshire Council "Attendance at School: An Information Leaflet for Parents and Carers" leaflet (emailed out with this newsletter):

"Persistent lateness can have the same adverse effect on the progress and wellbeing of children as poor attendance. Good timekeeping is a life skill and good habits need to be encouraged at school and at home."

SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO BAD WEATHER

Unfortunately we are approaching the time of year where I go into meltdown with the thought of snow arriving and having to make the decision to close the school! At all times I put the safety of staff and pupils as my top priority. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly.

- I contact Central Coaches as early as possible (around 5.30 a.m.) to find out if the buses are running. They cannot make their decision until someone has driven the route to check it.
- I then update the telephone information service and the school closure site on the Aberdeenshire Council website (see below for contact details).
- If possible I drive to school to check accessibility.
- Once I know how many staff are able to make their way safely to school I am then in a better position to make the decision whether or not to close the school.

We want to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the safety of children at all times. These guidelines outline the procedures for dealing with school closures during bad weather or other emergencies.

Parental Role

We would like you to:

- Ensure your child wears appropriate outdoor clothes throughout the winter.



Lairhillock School

- Decide whether it is safe for your child to travel to school in bad weather, either by school transport or on foot.
- Provide the school with information about emergency contacts to whom your child can be sent at short notice if you are not available. Also tell the school about any changes to this information and to your daytime contact details.

Also:

- If school transport is not running please don't take your child – or other children – to school yourself unless it is safe for you to do so. **You will be responsible for ensuring that the children you took to school are transported home again and therefore need to be available in the event that the school has to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions.** Children who cannot attend due to school transport issues are not marked as absent.
- In difficult weather conditions pupils should not wait any longer than 15 minutes past the normal pick up time before returning home. In case the transport doesn't arrive please make sure you have made alternative arrangements for your child.
- If your child travels by school transport you are responsible for their safety *to and from the pick up/drop off point* whether they use school transport or a public service vehicle.

School transport contractors have been told not to allow children to walk home alone from drop-off points *under any circumstances* during extreme weather conditions. If you can't meet or arrange for your child to be met, the school transport will return them to a designated location.

Early closing

In the event of the school having to close early, we will contact you by telephone. If this is not possible the school will contact your named 'emergency contact'.

No child will be released from school without contact being made. It is important contact details are current and the people named are available – particularly during bad weather.

What education might my child be missing?

Some parents and pupils worry that important work is missed because the school is closed or conditions make it difficult to attend. However, the *safety and welfare of children must take precedence* when making judgements about travelling to school in bad weather. Along with this newsletter the school 'Snow Days' pack will be emailed out to parents. The work in the booklets is not compulsory but simply suggestions for useful learning ideas.

Further Information

Outwith school hours, your local radio station is a good place to find out information on school closures. The following radio stations receive updated information every 15 mins from our website:

Northsound 1

FM 96.9

Northsound 2



MW 1035 kHz

BBC Radio Scotland

FM 92.4 - 94.7 MW 810 kHz

Moray Firth Radio

FM 97.4 MW 1107 kHz

North East Community Radio

FM 97.1 - 106.4

Waves Radio

FM 101.2

Original 106 FM

Twitter

Aberdeenshire Council Twitter: <http://twitter.com/aberdeenshire>

School Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lairhillockps>

Aberdeenshire Council Website

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

You also have the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school(s) updates their closure status:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>

School Information Line

Tel: 0870 054 4999 then **02 2850**. If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

Please note: Call charges to the School Information Line will depend on your contract with your telephone service provider, for example, calling from your home telephone may differ in price from calling from your mobile phone.

Public Transport Unit (9am – 5pm) 01224 665194

Education Offices (9am – 5pm)

Banff – 01261 813340

Fraserburgh – 01346 515303

Peterhead – 01779 473269

Inverurie – 01467 620981

Stonehaven – 01569 766960

Contact Details

It is vital that parents keep us informed of up to date telephone contact numbers – home, work and local emergency contact(s) so that we can be sure of reaching you in any emergency situation.



HEAD LICE

Please check your child's head regularly (we recommend weekly) and **notify the school** if you find head lice. Current advice on the treatment of head lice is available from your local pharmacist.

WHAT THE PUPILS SAY!

I asked Primary 1 what they had been learning and this is what they had to say:

Ryan M – "I have been learning cutting and sticking."

Thomas – "I know my colours in French, bleu, orange and violet."

Joseph – "I can write 4, 5, 2, 1."

Astrid – "I can count to 10 in French" (and she can!)

Ryan F – "We were Scottish dancing."

Lily – "We are learning how to write stuff the right way."

Oliver – "We are learning about doing our 'b' and 'o'. I can twist around with one hand in PE and no one can help me."

Owen – "We've been learning about some numbers. We were learning zero and one and two and three and four and five and six and seven and eight and nine and ten."

Leah – "Kick begins with a kicking k."

Harry – "We've been learning gymnastics. I am good at jumping."

Nate – "In the last few weeks when we did gymnastics we did the climbing one and we climbed up and jumped down. We did balancing."

Finlay – "We have done Scottish dancing today. We had to make up our own Scottish dances. I was good."

Kali-Jo – "We have been learning about getting up to ten and now we go up to eleven."

Hiruki – "We have been learning lots of letters and numbers. Snake begins with 's' and orange begins with 'o'."

Harris – "We get to climb on the thing with the different colours on the side of the wall."

Blair – "I can count to 10 in French." (He can too!)

Megan – "We were baking Christmas cakes with Kathy."

Ayla – "I like doing French numbers because it's fun. I know orange, rouge, vert and jaune."

Chris – "I know that off and on start with 'o' and rainbow starts with 'r'."

Jack – "We use our boards and letters to try and make words. I can make 'on', 'off' and 'orange' and 'orange'" (The second orange was said with a French accent)

Rudi – "We got on the climbing frame in gymnastics. The best thing was jumping off it."

STAFFING

We welcomed Mrs Emma Gardner to Primary 7 as the Friday Class Teacher on Friday 18 November. She will be in post until the end of the summer term. Yet again we thank Mrs Saunders for covering a vacancy and appreciate all her hard work.



STAFF TRAINING

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

HIP HOP CLASSES

There are still spaces available at the Hip-Hop sessions in school on Tuesdays.

HIP-HOP SCHOOL SCOTLAND



HIP-HOP

EVERY TUESDAY
NOV 22ND - DEC 13TH

Hip-Hop Dancing @ Lairhillock School

Come have some fun & learn some Hip-Hop dance moves (poppin', lockin' & breakin') with Hip-Hop choreographer M.C. aka Millennium Child & Hip-Hop School Scotland.

ALL WELCOME



**Hip-Hop Dancing
with M.C.**

Sign up by
emailing
thainfo@aol.com

Generally just
having fun and
learning new skills
at the same time

5.30pm-6.30pm:
P4 - P7

£12 Term Fee
(4 sessions)

**LAIRHILLOCK
SCHOOL**

Hall

Netherley, Stonehaven

www.millenniumchilddw.com

For more info email:
thainfo@aol.com



'BACKLESS BOOSTER SEATS'

We have been asked by the transport unit to share the following information re 'backless booster seats'.

1. New regulations have not yet been introduced and the details of the proposed changes are currently being looked at by the UN & EU. It is expected that the changes will come into force March 2017 at the very earliest. (This has been confirmed by the Department of Transport).
2. Backless Booster Seats are not being banned - what is being proposed is a height and age increase in when children should use backless booster seats.
3. Currently booster cushions fall under the Group 2/3 car seat category, meaning they can be used from around 4-years-old. The new regulations are proposing that children use backless boosters once they are 125cm or taller, which is roughly about 7-years-old.
4. Existing booster seats will still be legal as long as they conform to the current (ECE R4/04) law.
5. Any changes to the law will apply to new products, not child restraint systems that are already in use and meet existing safety standards (ECE R4/04).

When full details of the regulations, and when they come into force, are published we will review our position and advise accordingly

Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect 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

Christeen Seward
Head Teacher



Follow us on @lairhillockps



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

SESSION 2016-2017			
TERM 2			
05 12 16	MONDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
		p.m. TBC	P1-7 open session
07 12 16	WEDNESDAY	09.00-10.00	Nursery Stay & Play
		p.m.	P7 visit HMT – ‘Dick McWittington’ Pantomime
14 12 16	WEDNESDAY	14.30	P1-3 Christmas performance
		18.30	P1-3 Christmas performance
15 12 16	THURSDAY	p.m.	P6 & P7 Christmas party
16 12 16	FRIDAY	09.30	Nursery ‘Whoops-a-Daisy Angel’
		12.20	Christmas lunch
19 12 16	MONDAY	a.m.	Nursery Christmas party
		p.m.	P4 & P5 Christmas party
20 12 16	TUESDAY	p.m.	P1-3 Christmas party
21 12 16	WEDNESDAY	10.00	Christmas service in LAIRHILLOCK SCHOOL
Term 3			
17 01 17	TUESDAY	19.30	Parent Council meeting
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	-	SCHOOL’S 10th BIRTHDAY
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
Term 4			
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

Term 2	24/10/16 – 21/12/16
Term 3	05/01/17 - 31/03/17
Term 4	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:** _____