



Lairhillock School Newsletter

30 September 2015

It is hard to believe we are nearly at the end of the first term and already a lot has happened.

THANK YOU



Thank you to P2/3 for organising out Jeans for Genes day. We raised £223.73 for this very worthwhile charity.

Our second charity fundraiser of the session was Primary 7's Macmillan Coffee Afternoon. This event was well supported by parents and community members and raised £544.60, over £100 more than last year! It was great to see so many of you there.



A huge posse of volunteers gathers on Sunday to work on the gardening tasks. Not only did they do a good job, but they also had fun. Thank you for all of their hard work



Three of the classes have been out and about in Aberdeenshire. P5/6 spent time at Gordon barracks at Techfest; P4/5 were at Blairs' museum as part of their Mary Queen of Scots topic; and P2/3 were at Drum Castle and Fetteresso Church today. The children clearly enjoyed their trips and we are most grateful to the teachers for organising these trips and to the volunteers and staff who accompanied the children.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The **Travelling Book Fair** is in school until the end of term. The children can purchase books up until the fair leaves. It will be open during the Learning Conversation events to allow parents to browse and purchase books.

On Wednesday 07 October we are holding our P2-7 **Learning Conversation events**. These events, alongside the curriculum information sessions held last week and the issuing

of Pupil Profiles, should help give parents a greater insight into what goes on in school. Please bring your child/ren to school anytime during the Learning Conversation session you chose to attend and talk with them about their work.

Parents of children in Primary 1 will have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher and attend a Learning Conversation with their child.

Please note the **Pupil Profile information session will be postponed** until next term due to a delay in the printing of inserts for the files.

Our **nursery Stay & Play** sessions are Monday 5th and Thursday 8th October.

For our outdoor classroom we are gathering **old clothes for dressing up**. Rather than items that are specific to children e.g. princess costumes, superhero costumes, we would like to have adults cast offs. We are only looking for a few items which could include dresses, jackets or shoes. If we are inundated we can put the excess clothes into the Rag-Bag collection.

We have decided to have a **harvest collection** again this year. This time we are collecting for an Aberdeen food bank supported by one of our families. The items we are looking for are things which have a long shelf life e.g. rice, pasta, tinned food, chocolate, oats, boxed food, cereals, tea bags, coffee, dried fruit, etc. Items should be brought to school on Wednesday 07 October.

STAFFING

We are delighted that Mrs Gill will be continuing as the class teacher for Primary 5/6 on Mondays. This is in addition to her taking on the Fridays in Primary 4/5. I did warn her when she first started that once I got her through the door I wouldn't let her out again!

On Fridays we have Mrs Joanna Blake, Pupil Support Assistant, working with us. This is a long term temporary arrangement, whilst Miss Unwin is working reduced hours.

CLOTHING

As the weather is often cold and damp it is important to make sure your children come to school with sweatshirts, jackets and appropriate footwear. **Please make sure ALL items are named** as we already have a large pile of lost property that we are unable to reunite with the rightful owners.

Items that are purchased from our used uniform stock may have the name of the previous child written on the label. Please make sure you change this to your child's name so that we can rehome these items too.

ACCESSING THE PLAYGROUND DURING SCHOOL HOURS

We are unable to allow parents to access the playground when the children are out at break and lunchtime. This means that nursery parents and children who want to stay and play after nursery should remain in the nursery play area during the lunch.

STAFF TRAINING

This term staff have engaged in training in CALM, Child Protection, Data Protection, Elklan, Equalities and Diversity Training, Getting it Right for Every Child, Number Sense and Early Years.

PARENT COUNCIL

The next Parent Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 04 November 2015 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.

FREE EYE EXAMINATIONS

We have been asked to share the following information on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian:



All children in Scotland are entitled to an annual free eye examination by a qualified Optometrist (Optician's). These examinations are really important for checking the health of your children's eyes and for making sure that children get any help they may need to make the most of their vision.

Sometimes children do not notice that one eye cannot see as well as the other and an eye examination can check to see if your child has any squints or 'lazy eyes' or if they need glasses. Vision can change over time so it is important to have checks regularly to see if there has been any change.

The Optician will give a prescription for glasses for your child if they need it. There is no obligation to buy glasses from the same Optician. Your child is entitled to an NHS optical voucher to help cover the cost of glasses. If the glasses you choose costs more than the voucher, you will have to pay the difference. The Optician will explain this in more detail.

We would encourage all parents to take their children to an Optician for regular eye examinations whether or not they think they may need glasses.

Contact:

Charlotte Ward, Optometry Lead, NHS Grampian.

charlotte.ward@nhs.net.

Lynne McCurry, Lead Optometrist, Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership.

lynne.mccurry@nhs.net.

Pat Dinwoodie, Sensory Support Service Manager (Education), Aberdeenshire Council.

pat.dinwoodie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Christeen Saward
Head Teacher

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

TERM 1			
Date	Day	Time	Event
02 10 15	FRIDAY		FAMILY BINGO NIGHT
05 10 15	MONDAY	09.00-10.00	NURSERY STAY & PLAY
07 10 15	WEDNESDAY	15.45-17.45	P1-P7 LEARNING CONVERSATION EVENT
	WEDNESDAY	15.45-17.45	P1 PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS
	WEDNESDAY	18.30-19.30	P2-P7 LEARNING CONVERSATION EVENT
	WEDNESDAY	18.30-19.30	P1 PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS
08 10 15	THURSDAY	09.00-10.00	NURSERY STAY & PLAY
TERM 2			
30 10 15	FRIDAY	TBC	PARENT COUNCIL HALLOWEEN EVENT
04 11 15	WEDNESDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
13 11 15	FRIDAY	ALL DAY	CHILDREN IN NEED
28 11 15	SATURDAY	TBC	CHRISTMAS FAYRE
TERM 3			
11 01 16	MONDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
21 01 16	THURSDAY	TBC	SUITCASE SALE
25 02 16	THURSDAY	TBC	FAIRTRADE CAFE
TERM 4			
26 04 16	TUESDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
SESSION 2016-2017			
31 08 16	WEDNESDAY	19.30	PARENT COUNCIL AGM

SCHOOL HOLIDAY / TERM TIME DATES

SESSION 2015 – 2016

Term 1 18/08/15 - 09/10/15

Term 2 26/10/15 - 22/12/15

Term 3 06/01/16 - 01/04/16

Term 4 18/04/16 - 01/07/16

In-service Days

17 August 2015

16 November 2015

17 November 2015

16 February 2016

17 February 2016

12 February 2016

Public Holidays

15 February 2016

25 March 2016

02 May 2016

Occasional Days

11 February 2016

Lairhillock
August 2015

With a very successful 2014/15 year for Active Schools initiatives behind us, I look forward to once again maintaining all established sessions and with the help of school staff & parent/community volunteers, hope to be able to offer some new out of school clubs/activities to allow the further development of our youngsters in sports/physical activity.

Lairhillock team at the Kincardineshire Badminton competition.



Pupils last school year had the opportunity to participate in Active Schools clubs out of school hours in:

Basketball (Mon P4/7)

Table Tennis (Tues P5 Terms 2 & 3)

Table Tennis (Fri P6 Terms 2&3)

Badminton (Fri P3/4/6/7 – Term 2 & 3)

Tennis (Tues P4/7 Term3&4)

Also, Active Schools coordinated in-school time activities in:

Curling (P6)

Rugby (P5/6)

Football (P4/5)

Badminton (P3/4)

Hockey (P6/7)

Golf (P5)

Tennis (P3)

The out of school clubs are mainly run by volunteers/parents rotas/school staff and I much appreciate their help in offering the pupils the chance to partake in these activities. Most of the activities both in school and out have further links to community clubs where, if desired, the pupils can gain further skills within that particular sport. I hope to be able to offer all these activities once again this coming school year and indeed would like to offer other out of school activities.

If there is any parent or indeed you know of a member of the community who would like to get involved with Active Schools initiatives through working

with pupils in out of school time sports activity clubs, please get in contact with myself, I can assure anyone who may be interested of my full support i.e. help in organising/setting-up/ accessing training/first aid etc.

I am especially looking for a parent/volunteer to set up a tennis club – Jenny Munro the PE specialist did a taster club last school year with 13 pupils attending and it would great to re-establish this but I need a volunteer, so if there is anyone interested please get in touch with me:

Doreen Seery, 07851287035
or email doreen.seery@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Thank you.



Lunchtime table tennis: great fun where skills improved greatly.



Monday Basketball P4/7s run successfully with Coach Aidan Dempsey and a parent's rota



Firstclubgolf offered to P5s in school time with an onward invite to more lessons at Stonehaven Golf Club

“We are a research group from the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge, investigating individual differences in how the mind works. Our research aims to provide a better understanding about the brain and behavioural differences within the general population, as well as those who have a psychiatric diagnosis. We are inviting you and your partner (if applicable) to join our research panel of adults so we can collect data that represents the make-up of adults in the UK, across all socioeconomic and educational levels.

You have been contacted because your son/daughter attends a primary school in Aberdeenshire, and we are writing to every parent who has a child age 5-11 years old in primary education. We need as many people as possible to help our research and it will only take you 5 minutes!

If you are interested in being part of our volunteer panel, please go to our secure website at <http://cambridgepsychology.com/psp>. If you register, we will ask you to provide some background information about yourself, and then you can go on to take some questionnaires and tests online. You can complete these at your leisure by logging in and out of your volunteer homepage with your chosen login details and will only need to complete them once. We will also encourage you to invite your partner (if applicable) to register (you can do this from your volunteer homepage once you are registered).

We will also contact you from time to time to tell you about new projects which might be of interest to you. Many of our research projects only involve filling in 5 minute questionnaires or doing tasks online. Some of our studies involve being assessed by one of our team (such as brain scanning studies). You are under no obligation to participate in any of the projects but you may find them fascinating and taking part is an excellent way to see what research is going on in Cambridge University. Any information you provide is entirely confidential. You can opt out at any time and we will remove your details, and any data you have provided, from our volunteer database. If you have any questions about registering as a volunteer, please contact our Volunteers Coordinator Paula Smith (pls28@medschl.cam.ac.uk).

There is also a Participant Information Sheet for additional information ([link](#) to PIS or https://cambridgepsychology.com/docs/CamPsych_PIS.pdf).

For more information about our research into psychiatric conditions such as autism, please visit www.autismresearchcentre.com

Thank you for considering our request.”

Best wishes
Professor Simon Baron-Cohen
Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry
University of Cambridge.



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:** _____