

January Newsletter

INVERALLOCHY SCHOOL
Working Together for Excellence
Everyone's a Learner
Be Happy
Do your Best



Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a great holiday and enjoyed the festivities. The children and staff are all back into the swing of things here at school and are eager for the busy term ahead.

Our new webpage is live! Please visit at inverallochysch.uk

As always this is an on-going project and hope to get the children more involved in the up-dating of this site.

Diary Dates

JANUARY

Mon 23rd Nursery enrolment fortnight - forms from the school office.

Wed 25th Burn's Afternoon (Pupils only)
Children can wear tartan/Scottish themed clothes today.

FEBRUARY

Wed 8th Room 7 Trip to Aberdeen (All day)

Fri 10th Holiday - School Closed

Mon 13th Holiday - School closed

Tues 14th In-service day - closed to pupils

Wed 15th In-service day - closed to pupils

MARCH

Tues 7th Reports home today

Thurs 9th **Parent's Evening**

Mon 13th Start of Science Week

Fri 17th **Fit Like Friday - Science!**

Fri 24th Red Nose Day

Thurs 30th End of Term Disco (Evening)

Fri 31st Last day of Term 3

APRIL

Mon 17th Holiday - School Closed

Tues 18th First day of Term 4

Reminders ... TRAFFIC!!

It has been raised at Parent Council again the traffic issues outside the school gate. Please remember that the bus circle has no entry to cars and that there should be no cars parked in the bus stop area. I appreciate that for some it is not possible, but I would encourage the children to walk to school, whenever possible, to reduce number of cars at the school gates.

Burn's Day 2017



We will be celebrating Robert Burns's day in School on Wednesday. The classes have been busy learning songs and poems and also some Scottish country dancing to share with each other on Wednesday afternoon.

Children will also have the opportunity to taste haggis, neeps and tatties courtesy of Rm 7. Rm 1 and 3 are also going to be baking some shortbread.

(Please let the school know if your child has any allergies relating to these foods before Wednesday)



This event is for pupils and staff only but there will be pictures posted to the website soon after.

Children can wear tartan to school on Wednesday or Scottish themed clothing.

Lunchtime Clubs Reminder

Flutes - Mon - Beginners

Tues - P6/7

Wed - P5s

(Please remind children to bring their flute to school)

Knitting - Thursday @ 12.45pm (P3 - 7)

LEGO - Thursday @ 12.45 pm (P1-4)

(If particularly nice weather lego club will not be on)

Choir - Friday Lunchtime (Will start later in the term)



Digital News!

PROJECT PADZ

- Teacher iPads have been ordered for each class and staff will be attending Digital Learning Training during the in-service days in February.
- We have also added to the Pupil iPads and when they arrive we will have 3 per class.
- New website up and running! - Check out some of the photos from the Christmas Concert.

App of the month!



Remember we would welcome parent/pupil suggestions for this too. Let us know if you use one that you feel is worth sharing.

This month, try out...

Various numeracy apps



Maths, age 3-5



Math Genius



Invasion of the moon monkeys (times tables)

Thank you! May I pass on a huge thank you from 'Maggies' Cancer Care Centre in Aberdeen. Megan Davies came to our assembly on Thursday to collect a cheque for £370 raised through our Christmas Concert and Staff Christmas Card Donations. Megan explained to the children the work that the centre does for those people who are sick and living with Cancer. She tried to answer lots of questions too. She said that this money will be a great help for the centre and its visitors and is greatly appreciated.



Nathan (P4) and
Demi (P7)
presented the
cheque on
behalf of the
school.



New Approaches to Reporting

Part of our development this year has been to modify our approach to reporting to parents. Along with the other primary schools in our cluster we have been looking at ways in which we share information about your child's learning.

Reporting is not simply about the annual written report. The school is continually reporting and shares information and learning with parents at various times of the year, for example through:

- Fit like Fridays
- Sharing the Learning - Nursery
- Concerts
- Class/School newsletters
- Assemblies/events in classes

All of the above help you to know what your child is doing at school and how they are getting on. Your child is like a 'living' report and through discussion with them you can learn a great deal about their learning. We will be encouraging the children and developing their skills to talk more about their learning with you at home. We will also be putting together a guide for parents including the best questions to ask. This is currently being put together and will be shared with Parents soon.

As part of this process, the written report, which you will receive in March, has been modified and is now more streamlined. Basically the new report will show where your child is working in terms of Curriculum for Excellence levels and it will include next steps for key areas of Numeracy, Literacy and Health. Each child will have to opportunity to go through their report with their teacher and add their own comments too. This should result in a much more personal report for the child.

I shared the draft form of this report with the Parent Council (Wed 18th) and the feedback was very positive. I appreciate not every parent is available at these meetings so I am making the draft form available to view in the school office. Please feel free to come and have a look at it and add any comments to the sheet beside it.

We are currently finalising the reporting calendar for the school year which highlights all the different methods we use to share and report the learning. When this is complete, it too will be shared with Parents.

Finally the children have all been asked to design a new 'reporting' logo. We have made this into a small competition and the winning design will be added to all reporting paperwork e.g. newsletters, invitations, written report etc. I am looking forward to seeing what great ideas they have.



Snapshot of an afternoon at Inverallochy

The variety of different activities going on in the school at any one time is always fascinating. On Wednesday I took a walk round all the classes and took some photos of everything that was going on.

Rhys and Mclean (P1) were making 'stuff' with Lego and bricks.



Nathan (P4) was concentrating on a piece of writing about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Rm 3 had been creating stories using only pictures and speech bubbles in their own cartoon strips!



Kacper, Sebastian and Olivia (p2) were reading with Mrs Masson



Rm 6 were preparing for their Titanic Assembly!



Sarah (P6) was doing her research project on shelters in WW2.



Jake, Isla and Cameron (p5) and Chantelle (P6) were working with Mrs Campbell on a piece of art work for the school wall.



Heidi (p4) was summarising a chapter from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Liam (P7) was working on his research project on the Blitz in WW2



Maisie and Fraser (P1) were working hard on their numbers in maths!





We have new specialist teachers this term. Mrs Heatherwick in PE, Mrs McConnachie in Music and Mrs Campbell in art. In addition to her classes, we have allocated some time for Mrs Campbell to work with different groups of children across the school to create a large piece of art work for the wall as you enter the back entrance of the school. We felt that when parents or visitors come to watch the concerts or come to events in the hall they often pass through this area and we felt it lacked something. I have seen Mrs Campbell's plans for this project and I am excited to see the finished work.

PARENT COUNCIL

The parent council met on Wednesday 18th January. I will add a section into the website titled Parent Council. Minutes of the meetings will be uploaded for you all to read if you so wish. There is a suggestion box in the front hall for anything parents wish to bring up at parent council or any suggestions you might want to make. The next Parent Council meeting is Wednesday 15th March.

As always if you have any suggestions or information which you would like to share through this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact myself at the school.

Mrs Edwards