



November Newsletter

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



Bbbbbbbrrrrrrrrrrrrrr it's cold outside now! The clocks have gone back and we are officially into the beginning of our winter months. This school year is flying in and we are all working hard but looking forward to a term of new projects and dare I say it... Christmas!

Diary Dates

November

Thurs 9th **School Fundraiser Evening
- Family Quiz**

Doors open 6:30pm

Mon 13th In Service Day - School closed to pupils

Tues 14th In Service Day - School closed to pupils

December

Thurs 7th School Christmas Dinner

Tues 12th Concert Dress Rehearsal at 9.30 am

Wed 13th **Nursery Performance (During nursery time)**

Thurs 14th **Christmas Concert
1.30 pm and 6.00 pm**

Mon 18th P6 and P7 Party

Tues 19th P4 and P5 Party

Wed 20th Primary 1,2 and 3 Party

Thurs 21st Nursery Party (AM)

Thurs 21st Church Service @ 1.45 pm

Thurs 21st Christmas Disco

Nur - P3 5.00 - 6.00 pm

P4 - P7 6.30 - 8.00pm



Welcome to Lynsey Gammack who has officially joined our staff team here at Inverallochy. Lynsey will be in the office every afternoon and all day on a Friday. This means that our office will be fully staffed again which is great news for everyone. As with every new role, patience is required as Lynsey may not be able answer your query or request immediately. However she will endeavour to reply to you as soon as possible.

Healthy Snacks!

Reminder that all children should be aiming to have healthy snacks at school on Monday-Thursday and they can 'Ate fit they like' on a Friday. Increasing numbers of less healthy options are appearing through the week e.g. crisps/sweeties. It is also reminded that lolly pops and chewing gum are not allowed in school due to possible choking hazards.

Hopefully we can get back into the habit of healthy choices 4 out of the 5 days. I will be monitoring this over the next few weeks.



Please note...

There has been a few enquiries about Christmas gifts for staff. As with previous years I would like to remind parents that the giving of gifts to Staff at Christmas time is not encouraged. Arranging collections for staff in class groups is certainly not something we want to start in our school. We as members of the council are policy bound in terms of receiving gifts and hospitality. Christmas can be a very expensive time of year without spending money on 'extra' presents.

We fully appreciate and recognise your support throughout the year and that effort is a priceless gift which we enjoy all year round.





Lunchtime Clubs Reminder

Flutes - **Mon - Beginners (P4s)**
Tues - P6/7
Wed - P5s

(Please remind children to bring their flute to school - Georgie puts in a lot of time and effort for our flutes so please remind your child to go on appropriate day)

Knitting Thursday @ 1.00pm
(P3 - 7)

Lego Club Thursday @ 1.00 pm in
Gym hall (P 1- 4)
starting 16th November

Choir Will start back Friday
17th November 1pm in
the music room. (P4-7)

Thank you

Thank you to our Parent Council for generously paying for our new welcome mat in the front hall. It really brightens up the space, although we are all currently walking round it!



This is an example of the hard work put in by our fundraising committee and our parents in general that we can afford to buy those little extras for our school.

Invercairn Gala

Our School has been awarded £800 from the Invercairn Community Support Group for 2017. This is an excellent contribution from the Gala and it will allow us to buy 10 Flutes and cases for our youngsters to use in school. We currently have so many fluters that we have run out of spares! I am certain that this contribution from the Gala will not only benefit our youngsters but it will also benefit the community with our children taking part in Flute Walks and other events.

As part of our funding we are asked to provide support for the 2018 Gala. Specifically 2 helpers to be markers for the Tuesday night Horse Racing Event, 4 helpers to man various stalls on the Saturday Afternoon activities and lastly to provide bottles for the bottle stall on the Saturday. Whilst I am aware of the great support the Gala receives from the village from both pupils and parents, it would be great to offer names of helpers to the gala committee as soon as possible. If you would like to put your name down, please contact the school office.

SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments)

You may have heard some information about this in the media and also through TV and news coverage. New standardised assessments for P1, P4 and P7 have been brought into Primary Schools from August 2017. Whilst this may sound quite daunting, it is not a huge change from what was taking place previously. There is no need for children to prepare for these and they will take place during the normal working day for the children. Parents can access information (which is very parent friendly and quite informative) at

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>

Aberdeenshire Parental Leaflet is also added to the end of this newsletter.



Coastal Schools 2017



Room 2 and 3 had great fun last term taking part in the Coastal Classrooms on our beautiful shore. The focus of the learning was about living in the past. The boys and girls took part in a range of activities from rock pooling to making paint from rocks as well as making lovely shell necklaces. They even learned how to be an



archaeologist for one of their sessions! Through these experiences and further discussions in the classroom, the children now have a very good understanding of living on the coast in the past. The staff team from Wild Things were great with the children and really enthusiastic about the topic and really made the sessions fun for everyone!



We are hoping to continue this programme next session and Mrs Edwards is trying to plan ahead for Coastal Schools 2018!





Room 5 Science!

The children had some special visitors in Room 5 last term who spoke to them about the different career options available to them that involve different aspects of science. We welcomed a doctor, a nurse and a scientist into Room 5 speak to us about their jobs and we even got to use some of the things that they would use on a daily basis when they are working - it was all very exciting! We would like to say a massive thank-you to the parents who happily gave up some of their time to come into school to speak to us about their job.

Angela Kirkpatrick is a doctor and she brought in her doctor bag to show Primary 4/5 some of the things that she uses in her

job. We listened to our heart beating with a stethoscope, looked in each other ears with an otoscope, looked at some very big books and even tested a fake urine (apple juice) sample. We now know that the heart makes a 'lub dub' sound and it takes 5 years to study medicine at university to become a doctor.



Alison Buchan is a nurse and she brought in a big skeleton friend with her to talk about the bones in our body. We learned that the body is made up of 206 bones. She brought in crutches, oxygen masks and some bandage materials that would be used to help people who have broken a bone, or sprained their wrist or ankle. The

boys and girls enjoyed watching Alison put a cast on Beth's arm and the majority of them went home with a



small arm bandage on - I hope you all didn't get too much of a fright when the children returned home with a fake injury!



Angela Duthie is a scientist and she works in the labs that are part of the university in Aberdeen. The children had lots of questions they wanted to ask Angela about working in a lab and carrying out experiments. Angela specialises in bones and the children learned



that we get a new skeleton every 10 years as the bones in our body regenerate. They even got a chance to write

on a chalk board with calcium from a real animal bone! Angela also spoke to the children about DNA. They learned that there are only 4 letters that make up a DNA code and these are the letters a, t, g and c. We used Lego to make up the DNA of our eye



Next month...

We will be sharing some of the learning from Room 1 and our Nursery!

Digital News!

www.inverallochy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk



With the family quiz coming up you can use these apps to either brush up on your quizzing skills or use after the quiz as a fun family activity ☺

FAMILY QUIZ

DK QUIZ





Empowering Schools – Consultation on the Provisions of the Education (Scotland) Bill

John Swinney, Depute First Minister has launched a consultation on a new Education Bill to empower schools, teachers and parents. He has written to Parent Council Chairs. He is keen for this information to be shared with all parents and with speaking to Donna Pesic she is happy for me to add it into this newsletter as it reaches all of our parents. Further information and the full consultation paper can be found following this link.

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

The consultation is open now and will run until 30th January 2018.

Bad Weather Arrangements

Hopefully these will not be required but a quick reminder for those of you who have not set up the online alerts. This is the quickest and easiest way to know if the school will be closed for any reason. As soon as the decision is made an email alert will be sent straight to your computer/mobile device making you aware.

Online Alerts (information from Aberdeenshire Council)

Aberdeenshire Council has changed the way parents receive on-line 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 13000 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 stay 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.

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



SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT (SNSA) Parent/Carer Information Leaflet

What is SNSA?

- From session 2017/18 the Scottish Government is introducing a new system of standardised assessments, called the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA), which will replace the variety of other standardised assessments that have been used until now in local authorities across Scotland. The new system will be delivered by all Aberdeenshire schools and will involve all children at the P1, P4, P7 and S3 stages of their education, focusing on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy.

What will SNSA involve in my child's school?

- The assessments are completed online and will be automatically marked by the system, providing teachers with immediate feedback. The assessments do not have any pass/fail mark, as results are used to help teachers plan the next steps in learning for each child in order to help them make the best possible progress.
- SNSA is an *adaptive* system, which means that all pupils are challenged and receive an assessment suited to their ability. It is designed so that if a child is struggling with the initial questions being asked, it will make subsequent ones easier. Similarly, if the child copes well with the initial questions, it will make subsequent questions more challenging.
- **Children do not have to revise or prepare for the assessments.** They are designed to be used as part of normal teaching and learning and the information that they provide will be used in the same way as other assessment information which arises from day to day teaching and learning activities.
- The assessments do not have a time limit attached to them, however, the majority of children will complete an assessment in no more than 45 minutes. Pupils in P1 will take 2 assessments (one in literacy and one in numeracy) and pupils in P4, P7 and S3 will take three assessments (in reading, writing and numeracy).



- The assessments are designed, as far as possible, to be appropriate for use with all children. Children who require additional support will be able to receive the support they normally receive in the classroom when completing the assessments.
- Head Teachers and Teachers will determine, as part of their planning for the session as a whole, when the assessments will take place. Pupils and Parents/Carers will be notified when these are scheduled to take place by their individual school. **

*** The timescales set from the Authority which Inverallochy will be following are;*

P1 assessments – Term 4, P4 and P7 assessments – Term 3.

What does SNSA mean for Parents/Carers?

- The information that is generated from SNSA adds to the range of other assessment information arising from normal teaching and learning activity. As such, it is primarily designed to be used by teachers to assist them in identifying strengths and areas for development and for planning next steps in learning. As part of the range of assessment information available, SNSA will also assist teachers in assessing when key stages in learning, such as when a Curriculum for Excellence Level has been achieved.
- The information arising from SNSA will also play a role in informing the normal engagement processes with parents/carers (Parents' Evenings, Reporting processes etc.) about their children's learning, which will take place in each school.

Where can I find out further information about SNSA?

- The Scottish Government have created a dedicated website at <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot>

***If you have questions or concerns regarding SNSA,
please contact your child's school in the first instance.***