



Welcome to our



Autumn Term Newsletter

I can't believe that we are facing Autumn when we don't really seem to have had much of a Summer! Despite the weather, I hope that you all had a wonderful break and managed to get out and about. An extra special welcome to our new children and families...we hope you settle quickly and enjoy your time at BD School.

As always, we have a busy (and hopefully fun filled) term ahead of us, and both classes have already hit the ground running.

Dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 29th August - Parent Council meeting and AGM

Wednesday 30th August - P1 lunch with parents

Friday 8th September - National Read and Book / Teddy Bear Day

Friday 8th September - P5-P7 Teams meeting with Hannah Gold (author of 'The Last Bear')

Monday 25th September - European Languages Day

October - Black History Month

Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 5th October - Parent Meetings

Wednesday 4th October - P1-P4 visit to the Fire Station (tbc)

Friday 6th October -Dyslexia Awareness Day

Wednesday 11th October - World Smile/Hello Yellow Day

Wednesday 11th October - Share a Session - Forest Schools

Friday 13th October - Break Up

Monday 30th October - Back to School

Tuesday 31st October - Rights Respecting Schools Gold accreditation visit

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th November - INSET days - school closed to pupils.

Tuesday 12th December - Parental Engagement - Reading Around the Christmas Tree

Monday 18th December - Christmas movie

Tuesday 19th December - Christmas nativity

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas party

Thursday 21st December - Christmas Forest School

Friday 22nd December - Break Up



Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Miss Colette Smith's PSA hours have been extended and that she will be working with us full time for the remainder of the financial year. We would also like to welcome Mrs Laura Walter who will be taking on the role of ASL teacher. She will be working with us every second Tuesday. Graeme McCall (Active Schools Coordinator) will be leaving his post at the end of the month to start up his own sport's massage business. I would like to thank Graeme for all the work he has done for Banchory-Devenick School and the opportunities that he has facilitated for the children. I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for his new venture.

School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan is now available for you to peruse on our school website. This year's priorities are:

- Teaching, Learning and Assessment - this will include a review of the work we have introduced over the past three years, with a view to us fine tuning what makes a high-quality lesson/assessment, so that we can provide the very best that we can for the children in our school.
- Outdoor Learning - this will continue on from work started last session and we will continue to develop our work on Forest Schools and embed work introduced in Loose Parts.
- Health and Wellbeing - all schools in the authority are tasked with working through the Circle Framework. This is a resource aimed at promoting inclusion and meeting the needs of our learners. The Rights Respecting Schools Group have also asked to learn more about Dyslexia and Autism.



Special Days

As you will see from the diary dates, a number of special events and days have been planned throughout the term. Many of these were chosen by the Rights Respecting Schools group at the end of last term, and they also helped identify themes for this term's assemblies.



We will send out more information about our special days as they come up, but in the meantime, do pencil 11th October (9.15am) into your diaries as we hope to invite you along to share in a special Forest Schools session. This will tie in with our

World Smile and Hello Yellow celebrations, so if you have anything yellow to wear, that would be wonderful!

Once again, we will be widening the focus of European Languages Day to include the countries represented in our school. If anyone has an affiliation with a different country and would be prepared to read a story in their mother-tongue or bake a treat for the children to taste, please let me know so that I can start planning.

Equipment

Please ensure that children come to school equipped for the day ahead. As the weather is so changeable, they do need a jacket and should have indoor shoes to change into. Forest Schools will remain on Wednesday mornings and children should come to school dressed for the weather. They do not need to change into their uniforms afterwards. Children will need a change of clothes and appropriate footwear for P.E. and class teachers will advise which days they are planning to do P.E.



Emergency Response and Evacuation Drills

In addition to Fire drills, all schools are now expected to hold Emergency Response drills. Fire drills will continue to be carried out on a termly basis and Emergency Response drills annually. Please be assured that these are nothing to worry about. They are designed to ensure that staff and children are familiar with the procedures that should be followed in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Reading Schools

As part of our work towards our Gold Reading Schools accreditation, we must look at ways of engaging with the wider community. After discussion with the local library, the children in P5-P7 will be visiting the 'Young at Heart' group monthly to read them a story. As a practise, we will record the story and email it out to you to share with your child as a bedtime story. They will also devise an optional activity that you may wish to do with your child. Look out for our first edition on Tuesday 19th September where our story has been chosen to coincide with International Talk Like a Pirate Day.



Trips/Workshops

To support the P1-P4's work on Superheroes, we are in the process of trying to arrange trips to a local fire station and police station. We are also looking at the feasibility of inviting Chief Chebe (an African drummer, storyteller and dancer)

into school to run an African experience day for the children in P5-P7 to enhance their work on Africa. There is obviously a cost implication to events such as these, and I am hoping to open-up funding discussions at tomorrow's Parent Council meeting.

Last Term's Achievements

Last term the school achieved wider success in the following areas:

- Eco Green Flag award
- Silver Reading Schools accreditation
- Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts article in the Big Issue magazine
- School Enterprise Academy Champion award
- CREST awards: Star Level (P1-P4) and Discovery Level (P5-P7)

Primary 1-4

Welcome back to another exciting term in P1-4! The children have settled in quickly and we are having lots of fun already. We have focussed on Health and Wellbeing during the initial week of term using the story 'The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be' and focused on our strengths with a view to starting the year on a positive note.



Our context for learning for this term will be **Superheroes**. This will allow lots of scope for Literacy and story writing as well as Art and Technology. Our studies will include people who help us as well as real-life superheroes who have made a big impact on the world. We are hoping to go on a couple of trips later this term (fire station and police station) and will be in touch with more information soon!



In Literacy, the children will have daily phonics lessons to both introduce and consolidate their sounds. We will also be working on learning sight vocabulary to assist our reading. Guided reading for most children in P2-4 will be back up and running this week, with the remaining assessments being finalised to ensure we find the correct level for each child. It would be appreciated if you could support your child to read their book each evening, discussing the characters and storylines where appropriate. We would also love it if you would encourage a love of stories at home. In writing, we will be working on character descriptions, comic strips and fact files as well as planning a short speech about who their real-life superhero is.

In Maths, we will focus on number: either the introduction of number or place value depending on the age and stage of the children. We will be moving on to addition and subtraction using both written and mental strategies and will introduce problem solving activities once our place value knowledge is solid. Any practice of number bonds and times tables for the P3s and P4s at home would be very beneficial. In addition, we will be looking at patterns and shape.



In RME, we will be focusing on key figures from Christianity, one other world religion and a group independent from religion. These choices will be led by the children as the term progresses.

P.E. will be on a Thursday, and we will aim to be outside for our sessions so please ensure your child has suitable kit and trainers (no wellies). There may be times where we must stay inside so your child's indoor shoes will be used. Please make sure they have shoes that can be fastened to their feet in school (Velcro fastenings).

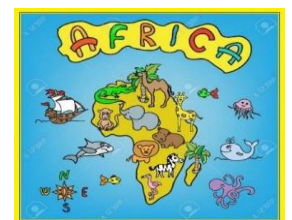
We will be taking our learning outside as much as we can (including in cold or damp conditions) so a waterproof will be needed at school in case the forecast changes.

I hope you are looking forward to the year ahead. If you have any need to contact me, please email the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Primary 5-7

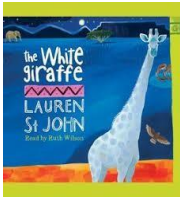
Well, that's the first week under our belts and we have already hit the ground running. The children have come back keen and eager and have settled quickly and are working hard.

This term, our context for learning will be **Home and Abroad**. This will involve a comparative study between Scotland (UK) and Africa. During this project, children will be looking at the physical geography of Africa and comparing it to the UK. Be ready for much excitement as the class prepare to go on safari (if only this were really possible as a school trip)! Along the way, they will have the chance to find out more about the culture of the country as they participate in African art and music workshops. As we discover more about the country's culture and lifestyle, we will be looking at the way Africa and its people are portrayed in the media, and challenging common stereotypes.



This project links quite naturally with Rights Respecting Schools and as part of this we will focus on the right to education, food, shelter and clean water. There will be plenty of opportunities for practical work as we plan to build models of African houses and wells. Our ingenuity will be put to the test as we try to figure out how to make the wells work and how to clean the water in them.

As we consider how well children's rights are being met, we will continue to run our Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts enterprise and we are hoping that the Social Enterprise Academy can help us to establish a link with a school in Africa.



If this isn't enough to pique your interest, we will be joining Martine and following her adventures in the novel 'The White Giraffe' by Lauren St. John. This is a rich text that will provide a lot of opportunities for comprehension and Book Detective/Reflective

Reading style activities. Written tasks will include letters, leaflets, fact files, information posters etc. We even hope to find time to write short adventure stories for our buddies in P1-4 based on an aspect of the project that has interested us. As the children write, we will be encouraging them to consider the writing process: collecting ideas, drafting, revising (improving the content), editing (spelling and punctuation) and publishing. We will continue to give spellings out on a fortnightly basis so that the children can practise what they are learning in school at home.

Amidst all this excitement, we will still find time for Maths! Starting with a focus on number work (place value, rounding, addition and subtraction), we will move on to using these skills in the context of Africa...money, measurement etc. We will also be looking at coordinates, compass directions, pattern and symmetry as we find out more about the geography of Africa and its flags.

In RME, we will be learning more about the Islamic religion and comparing and contrasting it to the Christian religion. October is traditionally Black History Month, and during this time, we hope to introduce the children to some influential figures who have had a real impact on society.



We are very excited for our P.E. lessons this term as we will be introducing the children to lacrosse. We will also be comparing and contrasting games and dances from the UK and Africa. P.E. lessons will take place on Mondays and Fridays, and we anticipate taking the children outside as much as possible.

We hope you are looking forward to the year ahead. As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

