

Bervie Primary

School

Newsletter



18th January 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes that I received before the holidays as well as the lovely biscuits and chocolates that were sent in for all staff to enjoy. They were all very much appreciated and we felt thoroughly spoilt! I hope that you had a good festive break despite the awful weather we've had in Aberdeenshire. Hopefully none of you have been too badly affected by the rain which has certainly had a devastating impact in many parts of the local area.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the families who have joined us this term. We look forward to getting to know you and working together with you as part of the Bervie School Community. This newsletter contains information which will be useful for the coming term, including a list of relevant dates for term 3, as per the annual calendar. It might be useful to keep these somewhere handy to refer to as required however the information is also available on our school website. We also make use of our text messaging service so please ensure we have an up to date mobile phone number for you. We also make use of Twitter (@BerviePS) to share examples of the learning going on in school. If you do have any queries at any point please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school by phone, email, pop into the office, or drop your child's class teacher a note.

Christmas Collection

Our end of term Church Service collection raised £84.83 which the Can Do Council agreed would be sent to the Starlight Wish Foundation along with the £18 collected from their 'Design a Bauble' activity.

Staffing

We said 'Farewell' to Mrs Weir at the end of last term as she entered very early 'retirement' after over 23 years at Bervie School. However she hasn't had too much time to relax as she has returned to deliver PE one day a week whilst we continue to recruit a permanent replacement for her role. In the meantime we are very pleased that Mrs Smart has agreed to work with Mrs Simpson in P4 whilst also continuing with her 2 days a week in P2. In terms of PSAs, we welcomed Mrs Ewan and Mrs McMahon back at the start of term and are pleased that Mrs Cummins returns to work today. We'd like to thank Mr Findlater for his support during the last few months. Mrs Donald who joined us in August has increased her time with us from 2 to 4 days a week which will provide continuity within the PSA team.

Important Reminder

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that Bervie School is a '**Nut Free Zone**'. We have a number of pupils and staff who suffer from a severe nut allergy which can be potentially fatal. We therefore ask that, as far as possible, no nuts or products containing nuts (particularly peanuts) are brought into school or consumed on the school premises.

Scottish Week

The whole school will celebrate our 'Scottish Focus' from today, Monday 18th January. Pupils will be learning about Scotland's history, geography, culture and generally finding out more about our country. They will be attempting to memorise Scots poems and practising the Scottish Dancing they have learned for our Whole School Ceilidh on Friday 22nd January. Children are invited to come to school suitably dressed for a 'Touch of Tartan' theme if they wish that day. This could be normal school uniform with a tartan ribbon or tie for example; they do not need to have access to full Scottish dress. Children are not asked to bring any donations for this. The poetry recitals will be held in each class early during the week beginning Monday 25th January

and Dave Ramsay, from the Maggie Law Museum, will join us as we share some of the children's recitals and give his thoughts on the children's performances on Thursday 28th January.

Our P7s have also begun preparing in earnest for their annual Burns Supper which will be held on Thursday 21st January. This is an excellent learning opportunity for pupils and a way of demonstrating what goes into organising a traditional Burns Supper, as well as the customs and heritage involved in the event, celebrated by people around the world. Further details have already been issued to P7 parents.

Rotary Photography Competition

At assembly this week we will be talking to the children about a photography competition being run by the Rotary Club. The theme is 'Our World is Beautiful' and it is open to pupils aged 7 years and over. However we will also accept entries from our younger pupils for a school based heat, although these cannot go forward to the Stonehaven Rotary round. More details and a permission slip will be issued separately this week however the deadline for entries to be received in school is Monday 22nd February.

Nursery & Primary One Enrolment Dates

Enrolment for entry into **Primary One** took place last week. **Nursery Enrolment** will run from today Monday 18th January to Friday 29th January 2016 for children born between 1st March 2012 and 28th February 2014. Application packs are available online or from the school office. We are hosting an Open Afternoon at Bervie Nursery between 3.45pm and 4.30pm on Monday 25th January. All prospective parents of 3 and 4 year olds due to begin ante pre-school or pre-school education in 2015-2016 are welcome to come along during this time to see what Bervie Nursery has to offer and speak to the Nursery Team. Please share this information with anyone concerned who may not receive this newsletter.

Wear It, Beat It

The British Heart Foundation have organised a national fundraiser 'Wear It, Beat It' to take place on Friday 5th February. This will involve wearing something red to school and donating £1 which will go to BHF for the important work they do in terms of research and support. One of our pupils, Sophie Gibson, was born with Congenital Heart Defects, having to undergo surgery a few years ago and may well require further surgery at some point in the future. Her mum brought 'Wear It, Beat It' to our attention and we are very keen to support this, not only on Sophie's behalf but also for the many members of our school community whose families have been touched in some way by heart defects and disease. Miss McNab, Miss Buchan and the Can Do Council will meet to discuss this later this week and may come up with other ideas for activities on the day, which they will inform you of, however please make a note of the date and treat it as a Dress As You Please Day with a splash of red.

Wintry Weather

As we are experiencing lower temperatures in line with the season, we would ask you to ensure that all children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Our aim is to try and allow the children time outside at break and lunch even if there are light showers/snow. Obviously if weather conditions are severe, pupils are kept indoors but it is important for them to get some fresh air and a bit of a run around if at all possible. If children come to school with hats, gloves, scarves and appropriate footwear, it makes it much easier for us to allow them some time outside without the risk of them becoming too cold. If they have welly boots in school, they will be allowed onto the pitch at lunchtimes providing conditions are not too muddy.

Class Assembly Dates

Several of our classes will be preparing whole school assemblies this term or next, when they will showcase aspects of their learning to the whole school. You will be invited to attend your child's assembly in the school hall at 2.30pm and will receive more information from the class teacher nearer the time. The proposed dates are:

Term 3

Tuesday 9th Feb P6
Tuesday 23rd Feb P2/3
Tuesday 8th March P3

Term 4

Tuesday 3rd May P5
Tuesday 10th May P1L
Tuesday 24th May P2
Tuesday 14th June P1MS

Should any of these assembly dates need to be changed we will aim to give you as much notice as possible.

Road Safety

At this time of year when the afternoons are still quite dark and the weather conditions can be poor, it's worth a gentle reminder to adhere to the traffic restrictions around the school. When we have wet weather, there tends to be an increase in the volume of traffic and cars parked around the school. In school we regularly remind pupils about road safety and we appeal to the adults in our school community to be mindful of the safety of all our pupils when dropping their own children off or picking up at the end of the day. A gentle reminder too, that the school car park is for staff use only. Thank you.

Adverse Weather Procedures

The temperature has definitely dropped in the last week and with snow forecast in other areas of the country, it would seem a good idea to issue a reminder of the current procedures for informing parents of school closure. Hopefully conditions will allow us to remain open but it's best to be prepared.

The Aberdeenshire Council website contains the most up to date Adverse Weather Leaflet and information of all school closures. The website address is: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures
There is also a telephone information service which can be used in the event of adverse weather. You can call the Information Line on **0870 0544999**, where you will be prompted to enter the Pin Number for Bervie School which is **021340**. A recorded message will then tell you whether Bervie School is open to pupils.

Local radio stations are automatically told of school closures and make regular bulletins between 7am and 9am. In our experience it also helps if parents discuss in advance any arrangements for what their child should do in the event of an emergency closure. For example, if your child is on their way to school and they are made aware of closure via a friend or another adult, your child should be advised to continue to school and remain with us until a named adult picks them up. They should not head home alone. Their safety, as always, is paramount.

Class teachers will issue your child with suggested activities for any potential snow closure days.

As always if there are any items in this newsletter you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Susan Smith

Head Teacher

Term 3 Dates for your Diary

Monday 18th January - Nursery Enrolment fortnight starts

Thursday 21st January - P7 Burns' Supper 6.30pm

Friday 22nd January - Whole School Ceilidh & Touch of Tartan Day

Monday 25th January - Nursery Open Afternoon 3.45-4.30pm

Tuesday 26th January - P5 'Bags of Books' Parent Info Session 6.30pm

Friday 29th January - P1 & P7 Dental checks

Thurs 4th February - P7 Parent/Pupil Info session with Mackie HT 6.30pm

Friday 5th February - 'Wear It, Beat It' - wear something red (for British Heart Foundation)

Tuesday 9th February - P6 Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th & Monday 15th February - Holidays, school closed

Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th February - Staff Development Days - school closed to pupils only

Monday 22nd February - BSA Meeting 7pm

Tuesday 23rd February - P2/3 Assembly 2.30pm

Wednesday 24th February - Learning Journeys sent home

Wednesday 24th February - Curriculum Evening 7-8pm

Friday 26th February - Nursery Stay & Play sessions 11am & 2.30pm

Monday 29th February - Learning Journeys due back to school by today

Thursday 3rd March - Rag Bag Collection

Tuesday 8th March - P3 Assembly

Thursday 17th March - Ardeonaig P7 Parent Information evening 6.30pm

Friday 25th March - Good Friday - Holiday - school closed

Tuesday 29th March - 'Join the Learning' - opt into one of 3 slots - 9.45am, 11.15am & 1.45pm

Friday 1st April - Term Ends

Monday 18th April - Term 4 begins

As always if anything additional crops up over the course of the term we will be in touch. Class teachers will issue details of anything specific to your child's class.