



KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone.

The May weather has brought us a mixed bag and unfortunately, the School Sports planned for 21st had to be abandoned. We had partial success, on 28th with N-P.2 Sports being run in the hall. P.3-4 and P.5-7 events were able to go ahead, as planned, later in the day. Please watch our Twitter feed; we will be posting photos...



Staffing

We have a number of changes in staffing coming up, for the new session. Parents will already have received a letter with news of my own retirement, at the end of this school year. It will be a huge change for everyone, not least for me! The post of Head Teacher has been advertised, but no candidates have been put forward for interview, as yet. The plan, now, is to put an Acting Head Teacher in Post and re-advertise in August. I am confident that someone will find the role an attractive one.



Mrs Elaine Henderson, P.E. Specialist, is also due to retire from her post, this summer. She is hoping to pick up some supply work, so we may yet see her around Keith, in her gym kit. Also leaving us, at the end of term, is Mrs Margaret Thomson, who has supported many of our young people, as Support for Learning Teacher. A huge miss, both in the playground and in classrooms, will be Mrs Lorna Stephen, who is also retiring. Lorna has been the "Doric" champion, in school and she and Keith the Frog have had regular, banter, over the years! Keith Primary will certainly miss these dedicated ladies and their talents. We thank them for all their hard work, over the years and wish them well, in their new ventures.

Miss Caoimh McLaughlin, NQT in P.1, this session, is leaving to explore life nearer the central belt. We wish her well—wherever she ends up settling.

Although we are also losing Mrs Eilidh Ewen, Class Teacher, from Nursery, this June, it's for the very best of reasons, as she is off on Maternity Leave. We will wait, eagerly, to hear news about her new addition and look forward to welcoming her back, in the future.

Having worked with us as Classroom Assistant (PEF), for most of this year, Miss Jana Williamson has decided to train as a teacher and will begin her course in August. We obviously didn't manage to put her off! Who knows; we may see her back, one day, wearing a different hat. Good luck, Jana!

It's pleasing to know that not everyone is leaving us! We are delighted that Miss Natasha Mitchell, currently teaching in P.2, has secured a permanent post and will be back at Keith Primary, next session. Returning from Maternity Leave will be Mrs Lynne Beaton, Class Teacher and Mrs Sarah Lippe, Classroom Assistant (PEF). We'll catch up with their news, in August.

Due to re-structuring of Early Years provision, there will be no teacher in Nursery, next session, so Mrs Linda Whitecross will be back with us, in the main school. There are likely to be a number of other changes, in Nursery, which we will update you with, as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Unfortunately, Mrs Sandra Armstrong, our Home School Link Worker, has been off ill, for the past few weeks. We hope she'll be back with us, soon.



Pupil Equity Update

It's the time of year when we have had to make plans for how we will support pupils in the new session. Our two Classroom Assistants will continue to work with groups and individuals, in school. We're delighted that Mrs Lillian Brown, Family Support Worker (PEF) will be based at Keith Primary full time, next session and will work to support families, in a variety of ways, including various groups and information-sharing opportunities.



A Selection of Learning Experiences:

- Nursery children have been learning about the **world of work** and

were very keen to learn all about **hairstressing**. A big thank you to one of our Nursery mums, Ms Laura Davidson, for coming in and sharing her knowledge and expertise.

- **P.3D** shared their impressive knowledge about The Romans, at their **Assembly**. Their letters from Hadrian's Wall to their families back in Rome were very through-provoking. Well done!
- The **Playground Group** are a very active lot—in more ways than one. Their "**Funky Friday**" fundraiser brought in **£325.58**. Amazing! They didn't stop there, though. A **Coin Collection**, where coins were laid in the outlines of Keith the Frog and his cousins, raised a further **£234.74**. Thanks go to all who organised and contributed. We do try and ensure that all our pupils appreciate and respect the resources which are provided for them to play with.



- **P.4M** entertained us on 10th May, by sharing their Egyptians topic, at **Assembly**. They looked very smart in their hand-made, jewelled collars.
- Students from **Keith Grammar**, aided by Mr Derek Shepherd, organised a **Highland Games** afternoon, for **P.6P**. Great fun, but disappointing that no-one turned up in a kilt!
- **In-service Days** gave some staff the opportunity to attend a variety of essential training while others liaised with colleagues from across the ASG, to share ideas on how to raise attainment and improve learning for all.
- On 24th May, **P.4R** led us through their Egyptian themed **Assembly**. They impressed with the songs that they had written, themselves. It's amazing how two classes following the same topic can come up

with such different learning experiences and presentations.

- **P.7** pupils are continuing their **Survival Adventures**, with Outfit Moray. The variety of weather, from week to week, has not hindered them and great learning experiences have been had, by all.
- The **School Sports** went with a swing—once we got the weather. There were lots of happy faces—even amongst those who didn't get 1st, 2nd or 3rd places. Many thanks to the Keith Grammar students who assisted and also the parent helpers.



Playground Developments

The most recent fund-raising events of this very busy group, have already been shared but you may have noted in the Banffshire Herald and on Twitter, that the green house, funded by Tesco, is now in use.

A special mention must go to Mrs Suzanne Ross, who has been working tirelessly, in the background, to put together the bids to various groups and also to co-ordinate the Playground Group and their many fundraising events.

"The Frog Squad" School Support Group

Please join us, if you can, for our Coffee Morning in North Church Hall, on Saturday 8th June from 10 a.m.—12 noon. The next meeting of the group is not until next session, but please look out for dates and come along.

The Frog Squad members will be playing a very important part in the appointment of the new Head Teacher.

Eco-group

The Eco Group recently took part in a litter audit of the school's playground areas. The hard-working class representatives did a fantastic job of hunting for litter and they now have a clear picture of what type of litter we sometimes get in our school grounds. I wonder if our frog-shaped bins have helped to cut down on the litter?

Sweatshirts

Please note that there will not be a big uniform order this term, as there has been in previous years. All uniforms should now be ordered through the iPay system. If you have not done so, please set up your account, as soon as possible. We will not be taking cash or cheque payments for pupils already registered, at school. The iPay system makes ordering uniform simple and easy. You order and pay, online, with a debit or credit





card and we will send the items home from school, with your child. Therefore, you can now order uniform for next year, as soon as you know what you require. Please note that if an item is “out of stock” you will need to revisit the site. We will do our best to pre-empt stock requirements, so that there will be minimal waiting time. If you have any trouble with the system, please see Mrs Haley, in the office.

Chewing Gum & Energy Drinks

Please note that chewing gum is not allowed in school. This is in order to minimise blobs on the playground and plaza as well as avoiding the distress caused by gum in hair and on clothes.

We have also noticed that some children are consuming energy drinks on the way to school, in the morning. As you can imagine, the high caffeine content is not conducive to concentration and quality learning. We ask parents to be vigilant.

Sunscreen

We do want our pupils to be protected, in the playground and when they are out and about, for active learning activities. However, some children are bringing large bottles to school and plastering on huge amounts. We ask that sunscreen is applied before leaving home, if possible and only sent in if the children are able to apply it, sensibly. Staff are unable to apply creams and lotions to pupils.

Bikes and Scooters

We have had a few calls from concerned members of the public regarding pupils who are putting themselves in danger by riding bikes and scooters irresponsibly, whilst crossing the roads and negotiating pavements, on the way to and from school. We're pleased to see pupils using healthier modes of transport, to and from school but must urge everyone to take care. We also ask that in busy areas, such as around the school gates and entrances to the campus, that common sense and good manners, regarding speed, will prevail.

Extra In-service Days

The Scottish Government has granted two extra In-service Days for the year 2019-20. Moray Council has set these as 16th and 17th September, 2019. School will be closed to pupils, on these days.

Classes 2019-20

We are currently in the process of trying to work out how classes will be configured for next session, given the number of pupils we have at each stage and the staffing formula given to us by Moray Council. The difficulty is that the numbers are changing, on a daily basis; we are still receiving enquiries about pupils who wish to join us in August—or even within the next few weeks. Rather than make early decisions and then have to re-configure, we will finalise things later, rather than sooner. Once we know the classes, we can allocate pupils and teachers. Please bear with us. We will have a “Moving On Up”, afternoon, before the end of the session, when pupils will meet their new teachers and classmates.

Keep Doric Alive

Here are some Doric words:

lang-luggit—	inclined to eavesdrop	tae deave—	to weary someone, with talk
gie it laldie—	give it your most enthusiastic effort	tae chauve—	to work hard
high heid yin—	someone in power or authority	tae thole—	to endure or tolerate
hingy—	unwell and looking for sympathy (particularly a child)	tae clype—	to tell tales

Listen to find out if these words are being used by others, around school and in the community.

Up-coming Events...

- Looking for something different to try? www.newwavesurf.com
- Paul Whittaker, Deaf Musician, speaking at Assembly on 7th June. www.paulwhittaker.org.uk



Dates for your Diary (Please note that these may be amended and others may be added)

More details to follow, by letter, for some events. (TBC = to be confirmed)

31st May	Assembly, led by Keith Chaplains: 9:30 a.m. All welcome
3rd June	Local Holiday. School closed.
5th June	Annual Pupil Reports out to parents/carers.
7th June	Assembly, with Paul Whittaker: 1:30 p.m. All welcome.
8th June	Frog Squad Coffee Morning, in North Church Hall. 10a.m.—12 noon.
10th, 11th, 12th June	P.7 Inductions at Keith Grammar School.
14th June	Assembly, led by P.6P: 9:30 a.m. All welcome.
17th June	“Critter Keeper” and “Drum Fun”, visiting Nursery.
19th June	Nursery Information Evening: 6:00 p.m. P.1 Information Evening: 7:00 p.m.
21st June	Celebrations Assembly: The opportunity to thank our Prefects, Eco Group and Technicians, who have worked so hard over the past year. The last Frog Certificates of the year will be presented. The final Heather Stanning Award of 2018-19 will also be presented. Due to next week’s Leavers’ Assembly, we shall celebrate birthdays, this week, from 17th June to 31st July. 1:30 p.m. All welcome.
25th June	“Dinky Docs” visiting Nursery
27th June	Moving On Up—Pupils will visit their 2019-20 classrooms, for the afternoon and meet their new teachers and classmates.
28th June	Last day of term. Leavers’ Assembly with presentation of badges to new Prefects and Technicians. Also, the winning House will be revealed. 9:30 a.m. All welcome.

Looking ahead...

19th August	In-service Day
20th August	First day of the new session, for pupils.

School Lunches

w/b	Menu
3/6/19	Week 4
10/6/19	Week 1
17/6/19	Week 2
24/6/19	Week 3

Regards,



Head Teacher



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Something to think about:

“Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.”

~ **Francesa Reigler**