



KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone.

The end of November sees our thoughts turn to all things festive. Please note all the special dates on the back of this newsletter and check school bags, regularly, for any updates or slips which need to be returned. We'd hate for anyone to miss out on the fun...

Staffing

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Sarah Lippe, CA, gave birth to a baby boy, Nathan Jordan, on 5th November. He's been into school to visit already and he and his mum are both well. We are still waiting to hear from Mrs Lynne Beaton!

Mrs Carol Taylor, PSA, is moving on to pursue new challenges and will be leaving us, at the beginning of December. We thank her for her contribution to the team and wish her well. Mrs Mary Ross, PSA, has decided to reduce her working hours. As a result, we currently have a 12.5hr PSA post advertised on the Myjobscotland website.

We welcome Mrs Sandra Armstrong to the team as Home School Link Worker. Mrs Armstrong is not employed directly by the school and can support parents in ensuring that their children are making the most of the educational experiences, on offer.

Following recent interviews, Mrs Beth Bentinck Skinner (known as Mrs B, to the children) has been appointed to cover Mrs Beaton's Maternity leave. With her previous experience being mainly in Support for Learning, she is currently supporting children in The Beeches.



Pupil Equity Update

Learning activity packs have gone home with identified groups of children, at early stages. We hope that these will develop pre-writing skills e.g. fine motor control. Meanwhile, our Classroom Assistants are working with groups of children, in school.

Unfortunately, Mrs Hannah Galland, our PSA, has had a period of absence. We hope she'll be back with us, soon.

A Selection of Learning Experiences:

- At our Assembly, on 2nd of November, P.7T shared **songs from The Lion King**, which they performed, complete with signing. Thanks to Mr Malcolm Risk, who helped them with this.
- P.5S have been continuing their visits to **Glenisla Nursing Home**. All involved have been benefitting from the experience.
- Nursery pupils have been learning how to **brush their teeth**. Getting into good habits, now, will mean huge benefits, in later life.
- Staff were very busy, on the **In-service Days**. Teaching staff were in Millbank Primary, in Buckie, hearing about Developing the Young Workforce

and hearing from local employers about the fantastic job opportunities available, locally, for those with the all-important skills. Support staff were involved in a variety of different training opportunities, including First Aid and Moving and Handling. Admin staff were training, too and this included learning about the new ipay system and how this may be used, for many different transactions, in the future.

- We are very proud of the children in school who use **British Sign Language**, on a regular basis, at home. To encourage them to develop their skills, we have the help of a very able, volunteer student from Keith Grammar School, Beth Croft, who visits the school to converse with a group of our pupils, each week.

- **P.2MR** was the first class to present an **Assembly**, this session. Their knowledge of the autumn season, their singing and their poems were very impressive.



Children in Need

It's great to do something different every now and again. On 16th November, our "Come-as-you-please Day" raised **£429.92**, for the Charity. At Assembly, that day, we heard about the history of the event and about some of the ways in which the money is used to help youngsters all over the U.K.

"The Frog Squad" School Support Group

The group have been busy discussing ideas for fund-raising, as well as how best to support the school over the coming season. Frog Squad funds will be made available for buying craft materials for The Festive Fayre and food and Christmas Parties. The group also plan to help out Santa Clause, as in previous years. Thank goodness that Santa has so many helpers, all over the world; I'm sure he'd never manage, otherwise! The Frog Squad next meet on Monday 14th January, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room. Please feel free to come and join them.



drinks for the

Easy Fundraising

It actually is what it says on the tin! If you shop on line, you can raise money for our Frog Squad (formerly known as the PTA), without it costing you a penny! Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, register, then choose "Keith Primary School PTA", from the list. You can then shop, via the site, with all the major retailers including ebay, John Lewis and Amazon. For each purchase you make, Easyfundraising will donate to The Frog Squad. Simple!

Rag Bag Box

Whilst we're on the subject of "money for nothing", we'd like to remind you of our Rag Bag Box, which is situated beyond the school kitchen area, towards the back of the school. If you're having a clear-out of clothes and/or shoes, why not re-cycle them? Please place them in plastic bags and pop them into the Rag Bag Box. When it's full we have it collected and a few weeks later, a nice, fat cheque drops in through the letterbox. The Frog Squad makes around £80 per term with this.

Eco-group

The Eco Group have been busy organising a poster competition. We're waiting, eagerly, to hear the results!

The Gardening Club

Although members of The Gardening Club are hibernating, there is still work going on, in the background. Our new greenhouse has now been delivered and we have to thank our janitors and other member of FES staff, who have volunteered to erect it. Roll on, springtime!

Lunch Payments

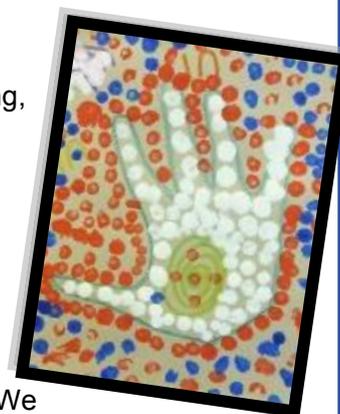
So far, the system seems to be working well, with only a few little hiccoughs. We hope that in the fullness of time, more school payments will move to an online system.

Nursery Inspection

Every now and again, our School Nursery receives a visit from the Care Inspectorate. The visitors check that we are providing the best possible experiences for our Nursery pupils, as well as ensuring that we have all the correct procedures and paperwork in place. We recently welcomed Sandra Robinson to Nursery and her resulting report is currently in draft form. It's looking very positive, so far and we hope to be able to share it with you, soon.

Fancy Nails

This may seem like a really strange topic for a school newsletter. However, fancy nails have been causing some unexpected problems. We appreciate that some of the girls (it has just been girls, so far!) like to have nail extensions done, complete with the colours and jewels which are so popular, just now. Now, whilst these are very pretty and ideal for Friday and Saturday nights out, they are not so handy in class; we have seen pupils struggling to hold pencils and use scissors, which





leaves them unable to participate in their learning! The advice, with the party season coming up, would be to plan carefully to avoid nails and schoolwork clashing.

End-of-Day Pickups

With younger and older siblings now finishing school at the same time, many parents have entrusted older children to collect their younger ones, at the end of the day. Whilst most children take their responsibilities very seriously, there are a few who don't and we have a few younger pupils who are left waiting at the gate, for quite a while. Perhaps the older siblings are having a quick game of footy or going for a run round the playing field before coming to the front gate, but we'd ask that they make their way smarty, to collect the wee-ones, who get quite anxious—as well as cold and wet, in the bad weather.

Morning Punctuality

On a similar topic, we have quite a band of children who are regularly late, every morning. Whilst we can all have emergencies, now and again, there is really no excuse for being late, every day. We suspect that some are coming late, on purpose, to avoid the busy carpark or the morning lines. This is really not a good habit to get into, for later life. It also causes problems for registration and lunch orders, as well as being very unfair on class-mates, who have made the effort to get here on time.



Prefects

Our prefects continue to carry out their tasks around the school, in a very conscientious and professional manner. Mrs Ross and the P.7 teachers meet with them, regularly, to discuss ideas. As a result, prefects now have hi-viz arm bands to indicate when they are on playground duty, when badges are not so obvious. They are also now carrying visual cards, as prompts, to help the younger children to understand the rules and boundaries.

Another idea which they have put into action is the "Prefect Award" scheme. They will identify pupils whom they see being particularly kind or helpful, and recognise that behaviour by including the good deed on the Achievement Slideshow. Well done to all, for continuing to develop the role.

Sharp items in School

Due to a number of unfortunate events, in schools across the country, we are all having to be particularly careful about having items which could be used as weapons readily available to children. Whilst, in theory, almost anything—including a pencil— could be used as a weapon, there is particular concern over pointed, metal objects such as scissors or compasses. These are perfectly safe, when used appropriately but extremely dangerous in the hands of someone intent on doing damage.

We would ask parents/carers to ensure that children do not have pointed scissors or compasses in trays or bags. If such items are required for school work, they will be provided by school, under close supervision.

Keep Doric Alive

fantoosh—	Fancy, elaborate
peelie-wally—	sickly, not well
shilpit—	feeble
stoorie—	dusty
thrawn—	stubborn, determined
yokey—	itchy
hummin—	smelly

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

If you have any interesting Doric words that you'd like to share with us, please do get in touch.



Up-coming Events...

- Please note that we are unable to hold our Christmas Service in church, this year. Instead, a Christmas Assembly, following the same Order of Service, will be held in the School Hall, on the morning of Thursday 20th December, at 9:30 a.m. It will be led by Rev. Michael Last.

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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)

29th November	Martin Houston, Engineer, visiting P.7T
30th November	Dress Down Day: please donate something chocolaty, for the privilege. Chocolate will be used for a children's stall, at The Festive Fayre. Assembly, led by Eckhardt Bosch: 1:30 p.m. All welcome.
5th December	Festive Fayre: Loads of crafts as well as teas and coffees. 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. A Scholastic Book Fair is also available, in the School Library. All welcome Fun activities for pupils only, in the afternoon.
7th December	Assembly: 9:30 a.m. All welcome.
11th December	P.5S & P.5-6H Providing Seasonal Entertainment at Taylor Court, p.m. P.1 songs for Parents: 2 p.m.
13th December	Nursery Sing-a-long 9 a.m., for parents , in the Music Room P.1-7 Christmas Lunch Nursery Song-a-long 1 p.m., for parents , in the Music Room
14th December	Assembly: 1:30 p.m., led by Re. Michael Last. Final certificates for this term, will be awarded. Incorporating the Heather Stanning Award. Birthdays from 10th –30th December, celebrated. All welcome
16th December	Rotary Christmas Carols—St Rufus Church: 7 p.m.
17th December	P.6&7 Party, p.m.
18th December	P.4&5 Party, p.m.
19th December	P.2&3 Party, p.m.
20th December	Christmas Assembly, Led by Rev. Last and Eckhardt Bosch: 9:30 a.m., All welcome. P.1 Party, p.m.
21st December	Nursery Party, a.m., for all. Nursery children. School finishes for the holidays, at the usual time.

Looking ahead...

7th January	First day of the spring term
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School Lunches

w/b	Menu
26/11/18	Week 2
3/12/18	Week 3
10/12/18	Week 4
17/12/18	Week 5
7/1/19	Week 6

Regards,



Head Teacher



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Something to think about:

“Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success.”

~ Shiv Khara