



KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone.

February is, of course, the shortest month of the year. However, changeable weather, and seasonal bugs have been conspiring against us, making it seem like one of the longest! Lengthening, warmer days and the promise of spring will keep us optimistic, in the month to come...

Staffing

Colds and flu are still taking their toll and we have had a number of staff absences. Once again, we are grateful to colleagues who have stepped in, to fill the void. Mrs Dawson, our Music Teacher, has had a longer period of absence. We send her good wishes for a speedy recovery. Mrs Kate McGarey and Mrs Mary Ross, PSAs, are also battling longer illnesses. We hope that they will be back with us, soon.

We have now been joined by Mrs Sam Simpson, who is part of our Support for Learning team. She is very quickly getting to know the children.

Our Home School Link worker, Mrs Sandra Armstrong is working with groups, individuals and families, to help support everyone to make the most of their learning opportunities.

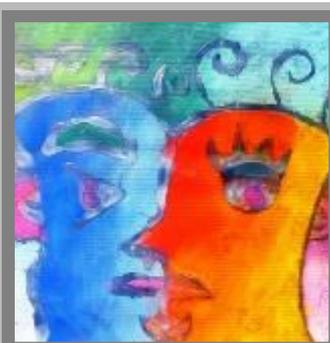


Pupil Equity Update

Families, groups and individual pupils continue to benefit from the support of our Family Support Worker and Classroom Assistants. Unfortunately, Ms Hannah Galland, PSA, is leaving us due to family circumstances. As she was employed through the ASG, rather than Keith Primary School, local Head Teachers will decide, together, how to fill this gap.

A Selection of Learning Experiences:

- P.7 pupils treated us to a performance of “**Pirates of the Curry Bean**”. It was a hilarious production which really showcased the talent which is developing within the cast. Our thanks go to Miss Taylor and Mrs Hay for directing and producing the show. Thanks, too, to the parents who provided suitable costumes.
- On 1st February, **P.5S led an Assembly** where they showed off their knowledge of the German language as well as sharing their learning all about the Jacobite Risings. They were all very knowledgeable (and very scary!)
- P.6 pupils took part in a workshop with our Police Liaison Officer on “**Internet Safety**”. We hope that this will help them to make good choices when browsing, posting and communicating, online.
- Younger boys and girls have been learning about tooth brushing from the **Childsmile** team. Skills for life, indeed.
- **P.2M** made a fantastic job of leading the Assembly on 15th February, where they shared their topic on the **Katie Morag** stories, during which they have learned about life on a Scottish island. Their singing was superb and they all knew their words really well. Lots of great talent to build on, in coming years.
 - Groups of **P.7** pupils took part in **team activities**, based on the German language and culture, at Gordon Schools Huntly. The event was a collaboration between Keith Grammar School, Gordon Schools and Keith Primary. Many thanks to Mrs Lisa Bayliss, for organising the visit.
 - **P.5&6** pupils had a **visit from a Jacobite**, who was able to show them the clothes which would have been worn at the time and how to dress in them. Our thanks to Mr Neil Duncan, one of our parents, who



certainly made a few people in school do a double-take, as he passed them, in the corridor. He could certainly have a second career as an extra in Outlander!

- It was lovely to see all our Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, who dressed in their uniforms on 22nd February. **Rev. Michael Last** joined us at Assembly, when he reminded us that Jesus encouraged us to think, by telling parables.
- Although not related to their topic work, P.5-6H benefitted from a visit from some little **piglets!** Very cute. Many thanks to Eilidh Hourston's family, for bringing them in.
- We owe a huge thank you to Dana Wilson's aunt, who went to a great deal of trouble to research clans and provide a piece of tartan for each pupil in the class. The children found it fascinating and the classroom is looking very colourful and very Scottish.
- Mrs Ross and Mrs Morrison have been working with a group of parents to share emergent literacy skills and activities which will support some of our youngest pupils and help them develop solid foundational fine motor and pre-writing skills.



Eco-Group

The Eco-group's Power Rangers are on the case, ensuring that we are not wasting electricity, around the school. Please remember to switch off lights and screens, when you leave a room.

Gardening Group

It's rapidly getting to that time of year when the Gardening Group will be "springing" into action. Our janitors have been working, behind the scenes, to put our new greenhouse together. We can't wait to see it, in situ.

"The Frog Squad" School Support Group

This busy group have got lots planned, for the coming months. There is a Family Quiz Night, on Friday 1st March, at the Golf Club and the annual Tombola takes place on Wednesday 20th March. Pupils and staff are very grateful to The Frog Squad whose fundraising is paying for the theatre group's performance, the Culloden visit and learning experiences for other classes.

Please feel free to join the group for their next meeting on Monday 29th April, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room.



Snow Day

The snow certainly took us by surprise, on 4th February. We hope that the Moray Council's new system for information sharing was effective for you. If you need a reminder about the new system and how to register, please contact the school, via the usual channels.

Parents' Meetings

Thank you to all who came along on our two Parents' Evenings. The children take great pride in showing off all their hard work.

The Book People's Book Fair

This year, we hosted a book fair from The Book People, for the first time. Thank you to all who came along and purchased books, helping us to earn a commission of £165.75, in books.

The fair was planned to coincide with Parents' Evenings, but in practice, it felt very close to the Festive Fayre event, so we'll re-think, for next year. As usual, we extend our thanks to those who volunteered as parent helpers.



Car Park Safety

This is an area of concern for which there seems to be no simple solution. Once again, can we ask that parents/carers please:



- park in allocated bays, in the car park, rather than blocking the flow of traffic. We know that it's difficult to exit a space once parked, due to the volume of cars, but if you find this a problem, why not "park and stride" i.e. park well away from school and walk the last bit. Older children can be encouraged to walk to meet you at a pre-arranged spot
- note that parking in the Grammar School playground is not allowed. There are often one or two vehicles there, but they are there for legitimate reasons e.g. to support disabled pupils. Parents/carers must all park in the car park when bringing vehicles inside the campus. The only exceptions are those with blue badges.



- do not encourage small children to walk amongst the cars in the car park. Alight from your vehicle and meet them at the gate
- respect the, "Give way to pedestrians," sign at School Lane; it is very intimidating for small children, in particular, to encounter large vehicles in such close proximity—even though the driver may find it acceptable!
- encourage children to be alert and respectful, when crossing with the Crossing Patroller; which is a privilege they may well lose, in the future.

Burns Federation Competition

This will take place on Saturday, 9th March, at Portlethen Academy. In Mrs Dawson's absence, Mrs Laura Simmers has volunteered to accompany our musicians and to help them rehearse. Our verse speakers are being coached by Mr Brown and Cassie Findlay is sharing the expertise which has helped her win so many prizes, whilst a pupil here. Our thanks go to Keith Rotary Club, which has again offered to pay for the bus to take the competitors and their parents to Portlethen Academy, for the event.



Keep Doric Alive

Here are some words and phrases which you might like to try:

blether —	to talk without an aim	deray —	uproar
scutter —	delay, time-waster	doited —	tired, shattered
fash —	trouble	leesome lane —	quite alone
drookit —	drenched	trachled —	weighed down

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

You might like to know...

- P.7 pupils are being offered the chance to take part in another two days of adventurous activities with Outfit Moray. This time, they will cook their own food and spend the night in a tent—if they dare! A meeting will take place on 13th March for parents and pupils which will give them the opportunity to decide if they wish to take part.
- We have been given new advice on dealing with head lice outbreaks. We will no longer be sending home letters when there is an outbreak in a class. Advice can be found, here: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/skin-hair-and-nails/head-lice-and-nits>
- Councillors Coull and Gatt are among the judges for our Scottish Poetry Final, on 15th March.



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

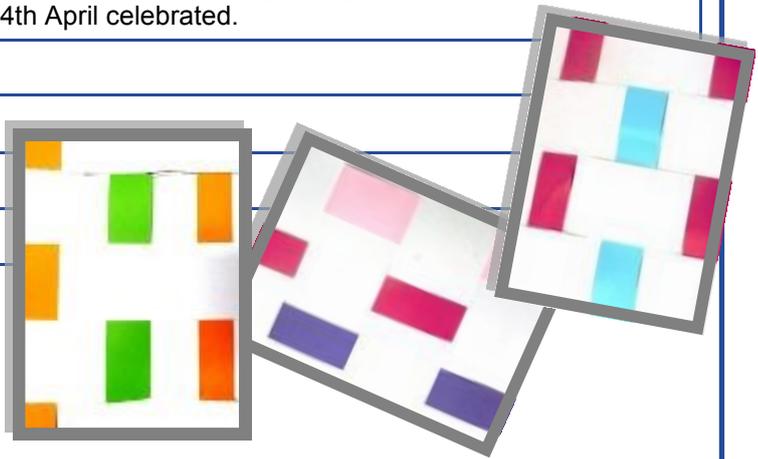
More details to follow, by letter, for some events. (TBC = to be confirmed)

1st March	Assembly, led by P.3H: 1:30 p.m. All welcome. Frog Squad Quiz Night, Keith Golf Club 7 p.m.
4th & 5th March	“Schools for the Future” visit
4th March	The Takeaway Theatre Company visiting with, “Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus”.
7th March	World Book Day. No whole –school event is planned, but please refer to Homework Sheets and Nursery Bulletin, for events in individual classes
8th March	“Robo Constructors” show for P.7 pupils. Assembly, led by Eckhardt Bosch from St Rufus’ Church: 9:30 a.m. All welcome. Birthdays from 4th-17th March celebrated.
12th March	Scottish Opera Workshop for P.6 pupils, at Keith Grammar School
13th March	Parents’ Meeting for P.7’s Outfit Moray Overnight Activities. 6:30 p.m.
14th March	Primary Engineers’ Workshop, for P.7 pupils
15th March	Scottish Poetry Final 1:30p.m. All welcome.
19th March	Scottish Opera Workshop, all day Performance. for parents at 1:45 p.m. in Keith Grammar School.
20th March	Frog Squad Tombola, in British Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
22nd March	Assembly, led by Nursery pupils: 9:30a.m. All welcome.
27th March	P.5&6 trip to Culloden Moor.
29th March	P.1 Concert 9:30a.m. Tickets only. Easter Assembly, led by Rev. Michael Last from Holy Trinity Church. Birthdays from 25th March—14th April celebrated.

w/b	Menu
4/3/19	Week 2
11/3/19	Week 3
18/3/19	Week 4
25/3/19	Week 5

Looking ahead...

1st—12th April	Spring Holiday
15th April	First day of summer term.
19th April	Holiday—Good Friday



Regards,

Head Teacher

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Something to think about:

“I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.”

~ **Albert Einstein**