



KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Hello, everyone.

Here we are in the final week before the spring break and we find ourselves, once again, suffering the effects of every sort of weather imaginable. Still, last spring was unsettled and it turned out to be a terrific summer, so here's hoping!...

Staffing

Staffing is one of those things which is constantly changing—especially in a school of our size. Mrs Joyce Dawson, Music Specialist, has taken the decision to leave her Specialist post and also her post as Recorder Teacher. We send good wishes and hope that she is blessed with the good health to enjoy what ever new adventures she has planned. Mrs Hay has been absent, of late and we have Miss Cruickshank and Mrs Morrison to thank for stepping into the breach and to our NQTs for picking up some extra teaching time.

From amongst our Support Staff, Mrs McGarey is still absent. We are delighted that a few new Relief PSAs have joined us. Mrs Fiona Duncan, Mrs Kaela Crawford and Mrs Kelly Kellas have been helping us out, quite regularly.

Maria Schneider, our German Assistant, heads back to Germany, this week. Her input has been invaluable and we wish her well, in her next challenge.

Pupil Equity Update

Our Classroom Assistants have been working with P.2 and 3 pupils on a programme called "Memory Magic". We hope that this will highlight any individuals who need to work on short and long-term memory exercises. Mrs Ross and Mrs Morrison presented a Local Area Network Session on Emergent Literacy to teachers from Speyside, Keith and

Cullen. Their focus was the Benchmarks for Reading and Writing.

A Selection of Learning Experiences:

- At their **Assembly, P.3H** shared what they have been learning about The Romans, this term. Their letters from soldiers on the frontier were amazing, as was their singing and signing.
- Many thanks to The Frog Squad, who treated the whole school to a performance of "**Ye Canny Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus**", by The Take Away Theatre Company. The moral of the story was about respecting adults, so it was very pleasing that the actors were very complimentary about our pupils and their behaviour before, during and after the performance. Well done, everyone!
- It's not just the pupils who are learning; Miss Taylor held a training course, for teachers from around Moray. **Hydrocarbons** can be really exciting!
- Nursery parents joined their children for **Rhyme Time** and a pancake to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Yum!

- **Eckhardt Bosch** led our **Assembly** on 8th March, when he shared ideas for preparing for Easter.
- P.7 pupils benefitted from a workshop led by Generation Science. The **Robo Constructors** activities allowed the children to experiment with combining modules, in order to make robots which would solve given problems. Great fun. Thanks to The Frog Squad, who will fund this as part of their pledge to provide a learning activity or visit for every class, every year. We are very lucky.
- Our **Scottish Poetry Final** is always a highlight of the school year and the standard, this year, was higher than ever! The guest judges





were Cllr Teresa Coull, Cllr Donald Gatt, Mr Neil Kidd from Keith Community Council and Mrs Adeline Reid (Who had the difficult job of representing the whole Keith community!). This year, our judges were joined by Mrs Helena Anderson Wright, who is the Competition Convener for the North East of Scotland Burns Federation. Between them, they had the unenviable task of choosing the winners, but in the end, the P.1-3 Keith Community Council Trophy was awarded to Alfie Shand, from P.2 and the P.4-7 Gary Coull Trophy went to Kirsty Simmers, from P.6. Our thanks to the judges



but also to Mrs Simmers, Mr Brown and Cassie Findlay, for coaching the entrants and to Eilidh Simmers for being piano accompanist, on the day. And so the next generation step forward—which is the natural way.

- A fantastic performance was enjoyed by all who were lucky enough to be in the audience for the ASG **Scottish Opera** performance of “1719”, an original opera based on the Jacobite Risings. The singing was fantastic and the costumes were amazing. You may have spotted a few photos on Twitter. It’s a huge amount of work to reach that standard. Well done, everyone.

- Two of our P.7 pupils attended a **Young Engineers Showcase Event**, in Elgin. The battery operated car which they designed was, sadly, not the winner on the day, but our engineers—Casey Rennie and Lauren Innes—were awarded medals for being good communicators. Excellent work.

- The boys and girls of both the **am and pm Nursery** groups came together, for their **Assembly** and shared what they had been learning about the story of “The Little Red Hen”. We all enjoyed their singing, their signing and their enthusiasm.

Burns Federation Competition

Year on year, Keith is very well represented at The Burns Federation Competition, in Aberdeen. This year was no exception and our pupils did us proud on 9th March, at Portlethen Academy. Competition was very stiff, but our young people lived up to their reputation and very many of the medals and trophies have come home, to Keith. Please see the results, in the table:

Many thanks, once again, to Mrs Simmers, Mr Brown, Cassie Findlay and not forgetting Eilidh Simmers, who was commended for her accompanist skills, on the day.

Gardening Group

We have to thank our Janitors and FES staff, who have now finished putting our greenhouse together.

Next, we just need some warm spring weather and the members of the group can get going.



P.4	Verse	Entrant	Emma McWilliam
P.5	Verse	1 st 3 rd	Brooke Sinclair Isla McHardy
	Singing	Entrant 2 nd	Brooke Sinclair Isla McHardy
P.6	Verse	1 st 3 rd Entrant Entrant Trophy	Kirsty Simmers Ellen Largue Kassidy Walker Gracie Reid Kirsty Simmers
	Singing	1 st 3 rd Entrant Entrant	Ellen Largue Kirsty Simmers Gracie Reid Kassidy Walker
	Instrumental	1 st 3 rd Trophy Entrant	Kirsty Simmers (Piano) Kirsty Simmers (Fiddle) Kirsty Simmers (Piano) Gracie Reid (Fiddle)
P.7	Verse	Entrant Entrant	Lily Dunbar Abbie McWilliam
	Singing	Entrant Entrant	Abbie McWilliam Lily Dunbar
	Instrumental	3 rd	Sofia Dunton (Flute)

School for the Future Visit

We were very pleased to welcome the team into school and share all the work that is going on here. They visited classes and discussed the curriculum development work that has been taking place. They also met with different groups from around the school. They were very complimentary about the good manners and behaviour of our pupils. A report will be produced, in due course.



“The Frog Squad” School Support Group

Since our last newsletter, two fantastic fund-raising events have generated more money to benefit the children of Keith Primary. The “Family Quiz Night”, raised £526, while the Tombola’s grand total was £1200!! Many thanks to all who donated prizes and raffles - there was a fantastic amount. Thanks, also, to those who came along and made it such a sociable evening.

The group are very keen to attract some new members. It’s a friendly, welcoming group and you’re invited to get involved in whatever way fits your talents and your time. All the children benefit and school could not provide the experiences it does, without the funds which are generated.

The Next Meeting is on Monday 29th April, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room.

Snacks and Packed Lunches

Just a wee reminder to aid the smooth running and security of the school day... Could those bringing packed lunches to school please remember to keep their snack for morning break separate? In the mornings, packed lunch trolleys are removed to a cool area of the school. We have had increased instances of children wandering through the school to access packed lunch boxes at break time. We are keen to put a stop to this, as some children have reported that items have gone missing from their boxes.



Letters Requesting Authorised Absence

Another reminder... School is obliged to monitor and record authorised and unauthorised absences from school, very closely. Parents requesting time off school for their child are asked to put details in writing, to the Head Teacher. A note in a home/school communication book may be interpreted as “for information” and may not find its way to the office for an official reply.

Dogs on Campus

And yet another reminder... that dogs should not be brought on to the school campus. Even the most mild-mannered pooch could be frightened by the squeals and shouts of strange children and we would hate to think that a child may be hurt and a family may lose their beloved pet, due to a single, sudden reaction.



Crossing Patrol Questionnaire

Thank you to those who have replied to the recent questionnaire from the Community Council. Please note that this is not a school initiative. Any comments received by the school have been forwarded to the Community Council.

Keep Doric Alive

Here are some Doric words :

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| tae plowter — | to work messily | howp — | a mouthful of food or drink |
| tae girn — | to complain peevishly | sypin — | soaking |
| tae stravaig — | to wander | sotter — | a disgusting mess |
| tae kittle — | to tickle | wabbit — | exhausted |

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

Up-coming Events...

- P.7 pupils will soon embark on a second block of Outfit Moray sessions, this time, including an overnight stay.
- Keith Spring Show takes place on Saturday 20th April. Thanks to the parents who have volunteered to help. Without them, school would be unable to enter.
- The annual Rotary Quiz will take place at Keith Grammar School on the evening of Wednesday 27th March.
- Good luck to P.1 pupils for their concert on Friday 29th 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)

29th March	P.1 Concert: 9:30 a.m. Invited guests, only. Easter Assembly, led by Rev. Michael Last. Birthdays from 25th March to 14th April celebrated. Also including The Heather Stanning Award : 1:30 p.m. All Welcome.
19th April	Good Friday holiday.
20th April	Keith Spring Show, Longmore Halls
22nd April	Vista photographs for Nursery and P.7 pupils.
26th April	Assembly, led by Rev. Michael Last: 1:30 p.m. Birthdays form 15th April to 28th April celebrated. All welcome
29th April	Frog Squad Meeting: 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room. All welcome.
Looking ahead...	
3rd May	Assembly, led by P.3D: 9:30 a.m. All welcome.
6th May	May Day Holiday
16th & 17th May	In-service Days. School closed to all pupils.

School Lunches	
w/b	Menu
15/4/19	Week 1
22/4/19	Week 2
29/4/19	Week 3
6/5/19	Week 4
21/4/18	Week 1



Regards,

Head Teacher

School Contact Details:

Address: Keith Primary School
School Road
Keith
AB55 5GS

Phone: 01542 882802
THUS: 08700549999 PIN 031290
(Calls to this number will be charged a 2p per minute service charge plus your call provider's access charge.)
Email: admin.keithp@moray-edunet.gov.uk
Web: www.keithprimary.co.uk

Something to think about:

“Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted. And experience is often the most valuable thing you have to offer.”

~ **Randy Pausch**