ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – EDUCATION, LEARNING AND LEISURE

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##### Acting Head Teacher: Valerie Stoddart

**Craigievar Newsletter 10 – Term 3 2022/2023**

March 2023

Dear Parents,

It is really lovely to see all the snowdrops flowering in the wildlife garden – please feel free to pop in and have a look if you are passing the school. We look forward to the crocuses and daffodils popping up next!

**Staffing news**

We would like to start off with some really lovely news – Miss Pittendreigh has let us know that she will be going off on maternity leave again for a year at the end of Term 4 which means that we will be welcoming 2 new babies to the Craigievar family this year! Ms Morley will be going off on her maternity leave at the end of this term, returning after Easter 2024 and Miss Pittendreigh will be returning in August 2024.

We will be interviewing shortly for cover for Ms Morley so we will keep you posted.

**Nut Allergy**

As we have pupils in school who have nut allergies, can we please remind you NOT to give your children any snacks which contain nuts. If you are unsure then please do give us a call to check suitability.

**Design an Easter Egg**

We would like pupils to design an easter egg decoration. You can be as inventive as you like, but the decoration must be able to sit on a table, with the base being no bigger than 15cm x 15cm and it must be no taller than 30cm in height. Finished designs should be brought into school on Monday 27th March and they will be judged by Mrs Stoddart, with the winning decorations being announced at assembly.

**P6/7 Residential**

The P6/7 pupils had a great time on their recent residential trip to Alltnacriche with their peers from Tough, Tullynessle and Lumsden. They really enjoyed all the activities and making new friends from our neighbouring cluster schools and sharing their power point with their parents. We look forward to the next one in 2 year’s time.

**Footwear**

Can we please remind parents to send in a clean pair of appropriate indoor shoes with your child. A number of pupils have been wearing their indoor shoes outside and this has been causing problems with the amount of mud coming into school and being transferred onto the carpets. Can you also check that your child has not outgrown their indoor shoes. Indoor PE shoes can be worn but please note that crocs are NOT suitable or safe footwear for PE. We appreciate your support with this.

**Toys from home**

We would be very grateful if pupils could be discouraged from bringing toys in to school from home as they are starting to cause issues both in the classroom and outside.

**School Improvement Plan review**

The School Improvement plan will be on display in the corridor for the next 2/3 weeks for parents to review. We would appreciate you taking time to come into school to read this and then leave a post-it comment for our next steps, prior to writing our plan for next session.

**World Book Day**

We had a fun time for our World Book Day today and it was great to see the variety of costumes worn by the pupils and the books which everyone brought in. The school doors have been beautifully decorated to look like book covers, and the whole school took part in a book quiz – well done to the winning team from the Pine Martens. Thank you to our parents who came in to read to our pupils – they really enjoyed having you in school.

**Judo Taster Session**

The pupils all enjoyed taking part in a Judo Taster Session today, organised by the Garioch Judo Club. The club runs sessions at Alford Community Campus on a Friday after school.

**Music Initiative workshops**

We have been delighted to have Jenny Sturgeon and Adam working quite intensely with P4-7 over the last 4 weeks on a local folk music songwriting project via the Youth Music Initiative. This has now been completed and we look forward to hearing the “final cut” of their musical composition. Well done to everyone for all their hard work.

**Netball Training**

Mrs Nichol will be starting up the weekly P3-7 Netball training again on Monday 6th March, 3.15pm to 4pm. Hopefully this will be held outside, but if the weather is bad it will be held in the school hall. Please make sure your child has trainers in school. If they don’t have the appropriate footwear they will not be able to join in. If any parent would like to help with this then please contact the office.

**New school furniture**

If you have been in the school this week then you will have seen that we now have our new neutral blinds in both the hall and the P4-7 classroom. Getting rid of the old dusty broken curtains and replacing them with the blinds has made such a difference to brightening up the front room of the school.

We are delighted that the new bookcase for the library has also arrived – third time lucky! Miss Scholey has been busy filling it with books for P1-4.

The bright new drawer units for both classrooms came this week – if anyone wants an old drawer unit for their shed or garage then please contact Mrs Nichol and we would be happy for you to take one away.

We are just waiting on our new tables next so there will be a surplus of tables should anyone wish a few!

We are trying to instil in the pupils a sense of pride by making these changes and everyone agrees that the school looks so much fresher and tidier as we get rid of old clutter. We are all working together as a team to take a greater responsibility to keep Craigievar School clean and tidy on a daily basis.

**Dates for your Diary:**

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| **Date** | **Action** |
| 8th March | National Trust Ranger in school with P4-7 class |
| 9th March  | P7 Cluster information meeting at Echt School – 11-12.30pm |
| 10th March  | P7 Cluster get together at Tullynessle School – 9.30 – 11am |
| 13th March  | Week-in-a-jotter 2 |
| 18th March  | Cluny Netball Festival – 10am |
| 20th March | Forest School all day |
| 22nd March | Rotary Club Primary School Quiz, 4pm Alford Community Campus |
| 24th March  | P7 Cluster get together at Echt School – 1.30pm |
| 24th March | Beetle Drive at Cushnie Hall 6.30pm |
| 28th March  | P7s Tree of Knowledge morning at Alford Campus 11-12.30pm |
| 28th March | Easter Crafts afternoon |
| 30th March  | Easter Assembly 9.30am, with tea/coffee |
| 31st March | Easter Egg Hunt - pm |
| 31st March  | Last day of Term 3 |
| 17th April  | Start of Term 4 |
| 24th April | Parent Council / PTA meeting, 6:30 pm |
| 28th April | SSPCA visit to school, sessions with both classes |
| 1st May | May Holiday – School closed to pupils and staff |
| 8th May | Coronation Holiday – School closed to pupils |

Should you have any questions about your child’s academic progress then please do not hesitate to contact the school to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Stoddart

Mrs Valerie Stoddart

Acting Head Teacher Head Teacher

Craigievar Primary School Tullynessle Primary School

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