ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – EDUCATION, LEARNING AND LEISURE

Craigievar

Alford

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##### Acting Head Teacher: Valerie Stoddart

**Craigievar Newsletter 3 – Term 1 2022/2023**

September 2022

Dear Parents,

We are really beginning to notice a difference in the daytime temperatures now and also the fact that the nights are getting longer – it’s certainly time to start digging out the scarves and gloves!

**House Captains / Vice Captains**

The new House and Vice captains are getting into the swing of their new roles and doing a really good job. Well done!

The House points are growing steadily each week and we will announce the winning house at the end of the first term at our Harvest assembly.

**Parents evenings**

We look forward to welcoming you into school for our informal parents evenings on 27th and 28th September. These will be held in your child’s classroom with their teacher. Each family will have a 10 minute slot. Should you require a longer slot to discuss your child’s progress then we will be happy to organise a date and time for you.

**Pupil Entrance upgrade**

We were delighted to receive the donation of some large pots and planters recently from one of our families – thank you very much for this. We will be using these to brighten up the Pupil Entrance to the school. We plan to buy lots of spring bulbs to plant in them for spring time flowering. Other parents kindly offered to donate some planters, so if you want to drop them off at school at some point next week, that would be great. We would like to get some of the masonry painted outside this term if the weather is suitable, so if you offered to help with brightening up the pupil entrance, you will be hearing from Mrs Nichol in the next week or two. It will probably be last minute to try and get a time when the weather is ok.

**Garden Bash**

Thank you very much to everyone who came along to our first Garden Bash of the year last week. Many hands make light work and we successfully cleared 3 large bags of weeds and undergrowth.

The Wildlife Garden is so much better now and we are looking forward to Lindsey Duncan leading 2 Forest School sessions with the school on a Friday this term. Thank you to all our parent helpers at the class sessions.

Thank you too, to Mrs Nichol for helping to sort out the garden shed – everything now has a place and a label so we know where to put things back to.

The three P6/7 pupils from Tullynessle will also be joining in the P6/7 session in the afternoons so they are looking forward to meeting up with old friends and making some new ones too. This is great for supporting them as they transition up to S1.

**Rotary Shoe Box Appeal**

Alford Rotary have been in touch to say that they are running their annual shoe box appeal again this year. We have received a number of boxes and a list of things which can go in them. Letters have gone home with your child about this today, so please complete as appropriate and return the reply slip to the office on Monday.

If you feel you cannot fill a whole box but are happy to put in one or two items such as toiletries, coloured pens/pencils/ small toys then you can send these into school and we will make up some boxes here.

The boxes will be collected straight after the October holidays, so ideally filled boxes should be returned to the office by the end of this term.

**Pokemon Cards**

Unfortunately, we have had a number of issues concerning the trading of Pokemon cards at school over the past couple of weeks and several unhappy children.

We have had a whole school discussion at assembly regarding this and everyone agreed that, for the meantime, cards can come into school but **MUST** remain in school bags **UNLESS** it is break or lunchtime, when they can be taken outside to play with, as they are very distracting in class.

Pupils can show their cards to each other but there must be **NO SWAPPING** of cards during the school day on school premises or on the school buses. Everyone agreed that this was a fair and reasonable action.

If swapping happens out of school then that must be with parents permission.

**Library update**

Thank you so much to all the parents who came into school to make a start sorting out the school library and reading books. The shelves look so much better and we are looking forward to starting weekly library sessions soon, as well as purchasing some new books to update our resources. The next library session is planned for this coming Monday, 26th September, at 9:30 am, so if you are able to come and lend a hand with more sorting you are very welcome.

**Parent Council/PTA**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10th November at 6.30pm, to which you are all warmly invited.

**Dates for your Diary:**

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| Date | Action |
| 23rd September | Forest School session 1 |
| 26th September | Library session, 9:30am |
| 27th September | Informal settling in Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm |
| 28th September | Informal settling in Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm |
| 7th October | Forest school session 2 |
| 13th October | Joint Harvest Assembly at Craigievar 9.30am |
| 14th October | Filled Rotary Shoe boxes to be returned to the school office by now |
| 14th October | PC/PTA Halloween Party 6 – 8pm : More details to follow |
| 15th October  | October Hols start |
| 31st October | Start of Term 2 |
| 31st October  | PC/PTA Halloween crafts afternoon at school |
| 10th November | PC / PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm at school |

**Contacting the school**

Should you wish to pass on any information to either myself as Acting HT or any of the staff then we would be grateful if you can email the school on craigievar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Please do not use the personal email for the Administrator as Mrs Nichol is not in school on a Wednesday and important information can get delayed.

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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