

Broomhill Primary School

News - October 2017

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Keep up to date with everything that's happening in school on our website:

www.broomhill.aberdeen.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @SchoolBroomhill



I can't believe that we have reached the end of our first term of 2017-18 already. It has whizzed past!

This has been an exceptionally busy first term with class teachers and support staff working with pupils on new planning and assessment procedures for literacy. This has been a huge piece of work across all stages and I'm pleased to see that we are already noticing a positive impact on learning and attainment for our pupils. You can read more details about this later in the newsletter.

We held a very successful Open Afternoon in September with almost 200 visitors to the school during the afternoon. It was great to see many parents/carers sharing their children's learning in the classrooms before stopping off for a cup of tea in aid of Macmillan. We raised £293.26. Thank you very much to everyone who came along to help and support this worthwhile cause.



We are looking forward to a busy second term and as usual at this time of year there will be lots and lots happening in and around school. I've attached a list of key dates for next term and the following terms at the end of this newsletter. Some details still need to be worked out but this will give you an idea of what's coming up.

Please have a wonderful October holiday, hopefully the sun will shine for us all!

Mrs D Reid (Head Teacher)

Active Schools Update

Broomhill now has 2 Active School Coordinators. Vicki Tait has returned and will be working Monday-Wednesday. Kelly Forrest joins us and will be working on Thursday-Friday. Both Coordinators can be contacted on 07825 227 822 or by emailing

activeschoolsharlawasg@sportaberdeen.co.uk



P4 – P7 Dance Club

Spaces are available for the P4-P7 Dance sessions at Broomhill School on a Tuesday from 4-5pm. Cost is £3 per week. Places must be booked through Active Schools.

P4 - P7 Tennis Club

Spaces are available for the lunchtime tennis club on a Thursday. Please contact Active Schools for more details and to book a place.

P4 – P7 Jogging Club

Due to huge demand, we are looking at the possibility of running a second morning of Jogging Club for this age group, hopefully on a Tuesday from 8.00-8.45am. In order to make this happen we are looking for some parent volunteers who are able to help out on a weekly basis and who are willing to go out running with the group. If you would be able to help out please contact Active Schools.

Uniform Re-use and Recycle

As part of our ongoing work in ensuring that we are being a more eco-friendly school we are introducing a Uniform Reuse and Recycle Scheme. Any items of uniform in good condition can be handed into school to be made available to other families to reuse. One of our parents, Mrs Laura Angus, has very kindly agreed to run this scheme and will be available on the 1st Friday of each month at the beginning and end of the day in the Infant Hall(9am—9.30am) and 2.40pm—3.10pm) to help anyone wishing to recycle or re-use items of uniform.

Although we try and keep the costs of our uniform to a minimum, we understand that the cost of the school day and equipping our pupils can mount up. We hope that by introducing this scheme it will help all our pupils to be able to wear the Broomhill uniform that we are so proud of.

School Improvement Priorities 2017-18

Our Annual Standards and Quality Report and Improvement Plan is currently with ACC for approval. This document details the current context for Broomhill School and our progress with our current improvement plans.

Our School Improvement Priorities for this session are as follows:

1. Develop a Curriculum Rationale and High Level Curriculum Map for Broomhill School.
2. Raise attainment in literacy with a specific focus on writing and phonological development
3. Develop effective practice in Planning for Learning, Assessment and Moderation with a particular focus on AiFL strategies. (Assessment is for Learning)
4. Improve our understanding of the mental health needs within our school and support pupils wellbeing appropriately.

The full report and further detail of these priorities will be on display during Parents Evening in November and we would encourage you to look at this and provide comments and feedback to help us take these improvements forward.




Blog/twitter - *This article appeared in last month's newsletter but we have been asked to include this again.*

Classes have been updating their class blogs on our school website: www.broomhill.aberdeen.sch.uk and a new addition to the website will make it



easier for you to keep up to date with any new information/announcements. Simply subscribe to the website by adding your email address at the bottom left of the screen on our webpage and select the categories you wish to be notified about and you will receive an email when new information appears on the site.

 We also use Twitter @SchoolBroomhill to communicate quick snapshots of events in school. The website will display our twitter feed too.

Please ensure that you notify us if you change your email address. We don't want you to miss out on any important information.

House Captains



Our House Captains have been very busy in their first few weeks “in office” and have run a competition to design a house mascot for each house. The winners have been chosen and the winning designs are currently being made into soft toys to take pride of place during House Events. Congratulations to the winners:

Angus (P7) - Fraser House

Hollie (P7) - Craigievar House

Alice (P6) - Crathes House

Kyla (P7) - Drum House

Outdoor Learning

At Broomhill School we are encouraging outdoor learning for all our pupils. The benefits of learning outdoors are well researched and are part of the Broad General Education that pupils are entitled to. As we approach the winter months I would like to ask that where possible all pupils come to school dressed appropriately for being outdoors with their classes. As you know, pupils are taking part in the daily mile (rain or shine) and at break time and lunchtime we encourage all pupils to be outside (even in the drizzle!) However, there have been a couple of concerns raised by parents about pupils being “out in the cold”. Throughout the winter months pupils will continue to be outside wherever possible so we would really appreciate if you could ensure that your child comes to school with the appropriate clothing so that they are prepared for the adverse weather likely to come our way.

Fresh air is good for coughs and sniffles too, if pupils are wrapped up warmly.



Goodbye

At the end of term we say goodbye to Mrs Thomas who has been working in many classes over the last term on a Monday/Tuesday. Mrs Thomas has worked at Broomhill since 2011 on both a full time and part-time basis and we'd like to thank her for all she has done for the pupils at Broomhill during her time with us. We wish her well as she leaves to take up a new post nearer to her home in Aberdeenshire.

Ski Team Success

We are delighted to have many successful sporting teams at Broomhill and our Ski Team are achieving regular success at the various events they take part across Scotland. This is due to the huge amount of parental support we have in ensuring that the team can access the training and be able to compete in the various events that take place across the country—combined with the talent and skills of these pupils.



This weekend, 4 pupils represented the school at the Scottish schools Dual Slalom event at Garthdee on Saturday evening.



Abbie Harkness, Zoe Strachan, Evan Sinclair and Nuala Williams skied amazingly and achieved 3rd place. This was a fantastic effort by them at a great fun event.

Sparkle and Shine Time

Next term we would like to invite parents/carers of pupils in P1-3 to take part in our first *Sparkle and Shine Time*, during the first week of December. This is an opportunity for you to come and take part in an afternoon of Christmas Craft with your child, in their classroom. As the name suggests, there's likely to be a little bit of glitter, tinsel and all things sparkly involved!

The pupils will send you an invitation nearer the time but we thought we would share the dates with you so you could put them in your diaries.

Primary 1 (Rooms 4, 5 and 7)

Tuesday 5th December

Primary 2 (Rooms 9 and 10)

Wednesday 6th December

Primary 2/3, 3 (Rooms 8, 11 and 12)

Thursday 7th December

Literacy Developments

A message from Miss McCartney (DHT) about our new literacy processes.



Last year all staff worked hard to create a literacy programme and phonics progression suitable for the pupils at Broomhill School. The programme that has been created ensures progression, challenge and support for pupils across the school.

This year, all pupils have completed individual assessments to identify areas of development and to ensure appropriate challenge.

Assessments identified the common words individual pupils were finding difficult to spell. Every child now has their own common words which they will learn at home and in school at a level suitable for them. The class teacher assesses these every fortnight and pupils move on to the next set of words when they have full marks in this assessment. Please encourage your child to practise these regularly at home.

Pupils' knowledge of sounds (phonemes) were also assessed and pupil groups were established from this assessment. Each week pupils will learn a new sound and this will be tested weekly to ensure understanding of the sound.

Pupils have also completed a reading assessment which has identified the book band colour that pupils will begin on and the comprehension skills which they need to develop. We are using the reflective reading approach which develops comprehension and reading skills in an engaging way, also making use of Higher Order Thinking strategies. Pupils are challenged by the questions which are set and this links to the class or group reading book.

There will be an information evening next term to share our Literacy developments and approaches with you further next term but in the meantime we hope this information helps you in assisting your child to continue to develop their literacy skills.

Parents Evenings

During this school year there will be two opportunities for you to meet individually with your child's class teacher. This first opportunity is now approaching in November and hopefully you have all handed in the slips to indicate your preferred appointment time on either; Tuesday 7th November (6pm—8.30pm) or Wednesday 8th November (3.30pm—6pm).



If you have forgotten to send the slip back, don't worry, just contact your child's teacher after the holidays and we will arrange an appointment for you then.

Appointment times will be sent home with your children on Monday 30th October.

It's been great to see everyone returning to Nursery this term and we are so delighted to welcome our new children into both nursery rooms, everyone is settling in really well and we've been so busy already. Keep checking our school blog to see what we've been up to.



Snack

The pupils in nursery very much enjoy discussing and devising the snack menu each week. Staff help to support the children in making healthy choices in order that all snacks meet the guidance in "Setting the table" (*Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards for Early Years Child care providers in Scotland*).

Please note that Snack Payments in Nursery are £2.50 per week. This amount is payable regardless of your child being present or absent in nursery. Adjustments to the amount are made during weeks where there are school holidays/in service days.

From the start of the new term, we will only be accepting snack payments on a Monday. This is to help us with banking arrangements. Snack payments can be paid weekly or in full for the term. Next term is an 8 week term with one In Service Day so snack payment will be £19.50 for the term.

Trips



We are really enjoying being out and about this term and continue to plan outdoor opportunities with the children. Next term we are hoping to be out enjoying the colder days and the changes in the season as well as visiting Ferryhill Library and other local areas. In order to do this we really need some more adult helpers. If you are available to help out, please talk to a member of the nursery staff with your availability.

Interactive Learning Diaries

We are continuing to use our Interactive Learning Diaries this session. These are online diaries which document your child's learning and progress and you as parents/carers can access these at home. There have been a couple of technical issues with the system this term but this is now fixed and we can't wait to update these with new photographs and information about your child's progress in nursery. All new parents will be issued with a password shortly and support will be available to get you started. If you have lost or forgotten your password from last session please let a member of staff know and we will set up a new password for you.



Dates for your diary

Friday 13 th October 2017	Term Ends
Monday 30 th October	Term begins
2nd November 6.30pm—7.30pm	P1 Curriculum Evening
7 th /8 th November	Parents Evenings
Tuesday 14 th November	Parent Council AGM
Friday 17th November	School Closed – In Service Day
Monday 27 th Nov – Friday 1 st December	Scottish Book Week
<i>Saturday 2nd December</i>	PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 5 th December 2pm—3pm	Sparkle and Shine Time (P1 Rm 4,5,7)
Wednesday 6 th December 2pm—3pm	Sparkle and Shine Time (P2 Rm 9, 10)
Thursday 7 th December 2pm—3pm	Sparkle and Shine Time (P2/3 P3, Rm 8, 11,12)
Monday 11 th December	Concert Week
Monday 18 th December	Primary 6/7 Parties
Monday 18 th December	Primary 6 and 7 Parties
Tuesday 19 th December	Primary 4 and 5 Parties
Wednesday 20 th December	Primary 1, 2 and 3 Parties
Thursday 21 st December	Nursery Parties
Thursday 21 st December 2.30pm	P1-7 Carol Singing in the playground
Friday 22 nd December	Term Ends
Monday 8 th January 2018	Term begins
Monday 5 th February – Friday 10 th February	Scottish Week
Monday 12th February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 13th February	School Closed – In Service Day
Wednesday 14th February	School Closed – In Service Day
Tuesday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 23 rd March	Sport Relief
Week beg 26 th March	Annual Reports issued
Thursday 29 th March	Term Ends
Monday 16 th April	Term begins
1 st /2 nd May	Parents Evenings
Monday 7th May	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 8th May	School Closed – In Service Day
Monday 14 th May – Friday 18 th May	Science Week
Tuesday 29 th May	Musical Evening
Tuesday 12 th June	Sports Day (P1-3 am) (P4-7 pm)
Wednesday 13 th June	Nursery Sports
Thursday 21 st June	P7 Show
Wednesday 4 th July	P7 Prom
Friday 6 th July	Term Ends
Tuesday 21 st August 2018	New session, Term 1 begins