

Broomhill Primary School

News – FEBRUARY 2020

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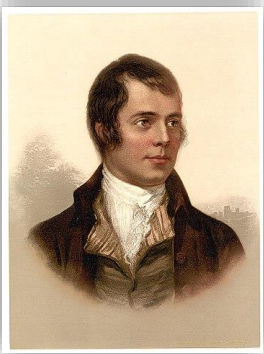
Keep up to date with everything that's happening in school on our website:

www.broomhill.aberdeen.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @SchoolBroomhill



We're almost halfway through the term and our school is a Busy Broomhill as always. All classes are working hard learning about "Our Community" and a shared focus on "Scotland". A progression of learning is evident across the school with pupils developing their skills within the context of Scottish history in P7 and our P1s learning about what's on our doorstep. Throughout the term, our classes will be collating evidence of their learning and will be sharing this with you all in video form towards the end of term.



On Friday 7th Feb, we held our 4th Annual Scottish Assemblies celebrating excellence in Scottish Verse and Poetry. Our pupils have been busy learning a variety of Scottish poems, with P7 focussing on the work of Robbie Burns. Our poetry winners from each class were awarded Burns Federation Certificates and all pupils who participated were awarded School Certificates for participation. During the assemblies we were all so impressed with our winners who not only demonstrated great skill in learning and reciting the poems but also it was clear that many of our pupils had put a great deal of effort in to really understanding the poems and presented them to their audience in a creative and dramatic way.

Hopefully, most parents and carers will be keeping up to date with snapshots of our learning on Twitter @SchoolBroomhill and from termly updates on our website.

The Book Fair is Coming!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school from Tuesday 3rd March until Monday 10th March. A letter with all the details will be issued separately along with a leaflet displaying some of the books that will be on offer. If you can help at all with sales particularly on Thursday or Friday of that week, please let Mrs Turner know.



Health and Safety



Car Parking

I've been receiving an increasing number of concerns from parents/carers regarding the car parking issues at the end of the school day. People have been parking on the double yellow lines at the end of the street and subsequently blocking the view for people to cross the road safely. This is an issue at the bottom of Hammersmith Road and at the junction of Gray Street and Broomhill Road. The City Wardens have been contacted in this regard and will be patrolling the area from time to time. If you must drive to school to collect pupils at the beginning/end of the day, please avoid a parking ticket or fine by parking appropriately and therefore ensuring that we keep our children safe.

School Toilet Issues

I have issued a separate letter to parents/carers of P1-3 pupils but would also ask for all parents/carers assistance in talking with their children to ensure that our toilet facilities are used appropriately. A lack of hygienic practice is very off putting for our pupils and some are choosing not to go to the toilet in school time. I'd appreciate if everyone could speak with their child/children to ensure that they understand how to use these shared facilities properly and also about the need for proper hygiene.



Parent Council – Gym Renovation Project

Following a recent survey of our Parent/Carer Group, there was a clear consensus that Parent Council Funds should be put towards the renovation of our Gym Hall. At a recent Parent Council Meeting it was agreed to move forward with this proposal. I am currently consulting with staff and pupils to gather views on what they feel would improve this teaching area. We will then seek quotes with an aim to having the work done during the summer holiday.

Christmas Fair

The funds raised at the Christmas Fair will be invaluable in ensuring that this project can go ahead. This Christmas Fair raised a record **£7,317.28**. This is due to the hard work and efforts of the Parent Council and willing volunteers cajoled and persuaded by Karen Baxter to support our school and lend a hand on stalls, selling raffle tickets, making pancakes, serving teas etc etc etc. It was a great day and the fantastic amount of funds raised will really help to ensure that we keep improving the learning environment for our pupils.

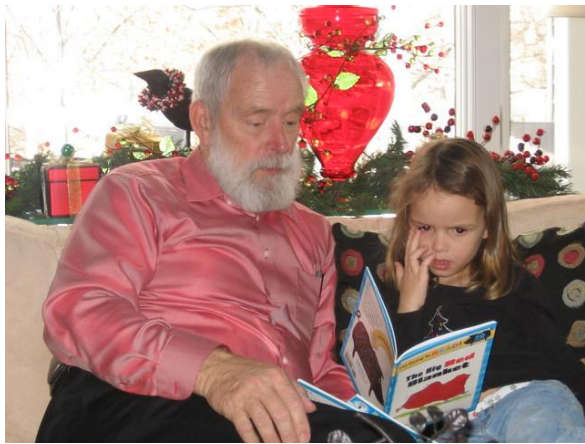
Performance Fund

Thanks to donations during our Nativity Performances this Christmas we raised over £300 for our Performance Fund. This money will go towards props and costumes to support future performances at school.



We were also really pleased to raise £120 during our Carols in the Playground afternoon, for MND Scotland. Thank you to everyone for their donations to this amazing charity which supports research into finding a cure for Motor Neuron Disease.





Ten Reasons to Read to your child

- Reading to your child will encourage them to become better readers and writers.
- When you hold them and spend this time with them, they know you love them.
- As you read aloud, you strengthen their power of imagination.
- Books are one way to pass your oral values to children. They know how to put themselves in others' shoes.
- Children's books have great illustrations, allowing them to appreciate good art.
- Until they learn to read themselves, they will think you are magic!
- For that short period of time, they are quiet!
- Reading to your child extends their attention span.
- Reading aloud aids language development.

School Improvement

Progress in Writing

As you know, one of our improvement priorities this year is in the area of Writing. Our attainment in writing is good but it's an area that tends to dip at times. Miss Murray has led some workshops with parents who are all set to come into class to support the teaching of writing. Some have been supporting in class this week and the teaching staff have reported that this has been a tremendous benefit to the pupils.

Recently, Mrs Friel, Mrs Mutch and I monitored a sample of pupil's work and were really pleased with the progress our pupils are making. We are seeing a much more consistent approach to the teaching of writing across our school, pupils are beginning to understand more clearly the links between their intended learning and how to be successful. In some cases, we observed pupils who were very clearly aware of their own next steps and knew what to do to improve. This is a huge step forward and is very encouraging. We predict that we will continue to see an improvement in our pupil's attainment in this area by the end of this session.

Please keep encouraging your children to read a wide variety of books at home and remember that talking really helps children to write about their thoughts and experiences. Children are never too old to be read to either. A bedtime story is a fantastic way to spend time together and to encourage a love of stories and books. Believe it or not, children enjoy this more than looking at a screen! Why not come to the Book Fair and choose a book to read together!

So far this winter we have escaped any severe weather. I hope that by resending our arrangement for Adverse Weather, this will continue to be the case!

Adverse Weather Information arrangements 2019-20

1. School Information Line

Parents/carers can access any severe weather message in the following way:

Telephone: 0870 0541999

Enter Pin Number: 011200

Press "1" to hear if there is a Severe Weather Message

2. Twitter

School closure alerts will also be available on twitter @SchoolBroomhill

And @aberdeenCC

3. Aberdeen City Council Website

Information regarding any closure/partial closure will be available at:

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closures

4. Radio

Information will also be updated via Northsound Radio (96.9FM)

5. Groupcall

Information will only be sent via Groupcall if this system can be accessed by school staff in school or remotely.

We ask that parents do not call the school directly, but use the media sources above to gain information, avoiding tying up our phone lines.

Late Opening

It is anticipated that in most circumstances it should be possible for school to remain open during adverse weather conditions. However sometimes a later school opening is an effective way to ensure our service can operate rather than closing altogether. We have a number of staff living in outlying areas and in order to allow our staff to reach school safely in the event of adverse weather the decision may be made to open the school slightly later eg 9.30am or 10am. This will be communicated to parents in the same manner.

A member of the School Management Team will also liaise with Great Western After School Care Club who run our breakfast club. The club have their own procedures for adverse weather which parents will be aware of.



STOP PRESS! Class Dojo

As many of you will be aware, some of our classes use the Class Dojo system within their rooms as a rewards-based system. As of next week, we are required to stop using Class Dojo. This follows a comprehensive internal ACC review including a full Data Protection Impact Assessment and consultation with other local authorities.

We are currently looking into the feasibility of another system which could take the place of Class Dojo and will offer a more consistent approach for our school. We will share further details with you in due course.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 17 th February	Mid-term holiday
Tuesday 18 th February	School Closed - In Service Day
Wednesday 19 th February	School Closed - In Service Day
Thursday 20 th February	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 3 rd March	Book Fair arrives in school
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Saturday 7 th March	Parent Council Quiz Night 6pm – 10pm
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th March	Sport Relief Week
Tuesday 24 th March	Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm (all welcome)
Week beg 30 th March	Reports sent home to parents
Friday 3 rd April	Easter Church Service at South Holburn Church (9.45am)
Friday 3 rd April at 3.10pm	Easter Holidays begin
Term 4	
Tuesday 21 st April	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 28 th April Thursday 30 th April	Parents Evenings
Thursday 7 th May	School Closed - In Service
Friday 8 th May	School Closed – May Day Holiday
Monday 11 th May	P7 Residential Trip to Dalguise
Wednesday 27 th May	Musical Evening
Saturday 30 th May	Spring Fair 12pm – 2pm
Tuesday 9 th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th June	Scottish Opera working with pupils in school
Tuesday 23 rd June – Thursday 25 th June	P7 Transition Days at Harlaw
Week beg 22 nd June	School Discos
Thursday 25 th June	P7 Party/Prom
Friday 3 rd July	Term Ends