

# Newbigging Primary School Newsletter

September 2013

It is hard to believe we have less than two weeks left before the holidays – how time has flown!

## *School Improvement*

When the children return after the October break, they should see a difference in the exterior of the school. The main school building is to be painted and there are to be new windows installed in the nursery building and hall. The work is to start week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September and to finish no later than Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. The biggest disruption will be for our nursery youngsters who will have to be decanted elsewhere. I am still waiting confirmation from the Care Inspectorate for the pre-schoolers to join their peers at Monikie until the work is finished. They will also be joining the P1-3 class and Miss Duffus for transition during this time. I am confident they will find it all a big adventure and take it in their stride! I will inform you of arrangements as soon as I know them.

We are also to have a new netball court painted on the school playground. There may also be a possibility of getting a basketball court painted too. Emma Thomas, Active Schools Co-ordinator, has on our behalf applied for funding to help us with playground improvements. Fingers crossed we are lucky!



## *Open Afternoon*

We would very much like to invite you to our first open afternoon of this session. It will take place on Thursday 3rd October 2013 from 2 – 3pm. It is an opportunity for your child/ren to share the learning they have been doing the first few weeks back focusing on Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Formative Feedback and Setting Targets. These are priorities on our School Improvement Plan. Please note it is to be a relaxed and informal afternoon where you can have a look around the school and have a coffee/tea afterwards. It is **not** a forum to discuss your child's progress with any member of staff – that can be done on our parent's evenings or at a separate time arranged by yourselves with the staff member concerned.



## *Class News*

P1-3

Living and non-living has been the topic in the P1-3 class for the first 4 weeks of the term. In maths, we have been looking at different ways to record data. We have been able to use some of these methods in our topic for various sorting activities. The P1's are settling in well into the class and school routines. They are busy learning initial sounds using the "Jolly Phonic" programme. All of us are looking at how stories are constructed and beginning to create our own texts using some of the characters from the books.

P4-7

P4-7 are learning about France. We have been looking at how to use a map and features of maps. We have spent some time carrying out independent research using books from ERS and the internet. We have been thinking about skills for learning, life and work and applied what we learned to create posters about France.

In Art, with Miss Sharp we have been looking at how to use lines to create pictures of faces. We have enjoyed playing different games in PE. In Maths we are very busy practising our times tables and in Language we have been enjoying Active Spelling.

## *Beyond the Panda*

Beyond the Panda is a three part outreach programme from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) : 1 – The Panda, Learning about the giant panda, 2 – China, Discovering China past and present & 3 – Our World, taking action into our world.

The P5-7's class will participate in this event at Burnside P.S. on Wednesday 30th October.



## *HT's timetable*

I thought it might be useful for you to be aware of my timetable for being at Monikie and Newbigging. This, of course, is subject to change on the odd occasion due to meetings, staff absences etc.

|           |                    |               |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| Monday    | Monikie am         | Newbigging pm |
| Tuesday   | Newbigging am      | Monikie pm    |
| Wednesday | Monikie am         | Newbigging pm |
| Thursday  | All day Monikie    |               |
| Friday    | All day Newbigging |               |

## Consultation Exercise

Thanks to all of you who took the time to fill in the consultation paper I distributed last month. It gave me an excellent insight to the feelings and perceptions pupils, staff and parents have about our school. Altogether there were 11 returns, representing 46% of families.

### The positives included:

Supportive and helpful staff to the children and parents  
Carefully tailored curriculum to suit children's needs  
Good transition – between nursery & mainstream, also within the cluster  
Good interaction between children of all ages  
Good community spirit  
Friendly and approachable staff

### Areas we need to improve include:

Extending links with Monikie P.S.  
Publicise our achievements more  
More charity/fundraising events  
An under-utilised playground  
Keeping our staff and children at Newbigging!

I hope throughout the next few months you will notice our efforts to improve our school and to keep up the good work already being done.

## Spree Books...

Thank you very much for your support selling Spree Books, and well done to the 2 families who sold enough books to qualify for a free one. We raised a total of £90 which will go into our school funds to help pay for trips etc for the whole school. Thanks again.

## Parent Council News...

### **AGM & MEET THE STAFF**

Well, we had a great turn out for our AGM and meet the new staff evening on Sept 12th. Huge thanks to you all for coming out on such a horrible, wet night! Hopefully you all enjoyed the opportunity to meet some new faces, chat with the new staff and each other and hear about what the PC has done and plans to do. Big thanks also to Lorna Rogers for generously supplying us all with her delicious homemade cupcakes.

The main committee seats have remained the same this year. Chair -Kathryn Foot, Co-chair-Paul Donaldson, Secretary-Anne Bruce and Treasurer-Diane Melvin. Sorry if any of you are fed up with our faces but, fear not, we have had a few more lovely parents join our ranks and we look forward to getting to know you all! Minutes are included with this newsletter. If you couldn't attend but have ideas or time to spare, please feel free to contact us via Anne at the school.

## COOKBOOK

This will be the last opportunity for any families to submit recipes for our cookbook as we have to get it ready for printing. We had lots of healthy recipes submitted during Health week so some naughty treats would be a lovely addition! They can be handed into the school or emailed until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. This appeal especially goes out to the nursery families as their children obviously didn't get the health week homework!

## HALLOWEEN

We are joining forces with the school staff this year to organise a Halloween party/disco on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 6.30-8pm in the school hall. Fancy dress costumes are a must for children AND adults, with prizes for the best ones.

Thanks again for all your ongoing support!  
Kathryn, NPPC chair.

## *Dates for your Diaries...*

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Stay and Play Day at Nursery  
Monikie 5-a-side Football Tournament – coach to accompany – venue to be decided  
Rag Bag Collection  
Nursery decanted  
French Food Tasting in P4-7  
Monikie Park Event for some P5-7's  
4/4.30 – 6.30pm  
Clubs Festival for P5's at Carnoustie  
Leisure Centre, P.E. kit needed, 10 – 12 noon  
P7 Transition Event at Carnoustie High  
School, P.E. kit needed, 10 – 12 noon.  
Autumn holiday starts at 3.20pm

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Back to school  
Netball Tournament at Mattocks P.S.  
P4-7 1 – 3pm  
Rural Football Festival P4-7 at  
Arbroath High School  
Hallowe'en Disco 6.30 – 8  
P5-7's to visit Burnside P.S. for  
Beyond the Panda event pm  
Tri-Golf Festival 10 – 12 noon  
Fun in Athletics Festival for P6/7's at  
Carnoustie Leisure Centre  
Parent Council Meeting  
Parents Evening 4 – 8pm  
In-Service Day 2  
In-Service Day 3

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

St Andrew's Holiday  
Christmas Concert 6.30pm  
Christmas Party afternoon  
On holiday 12 noon

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Back to school  
Open Afternoon 2-3pm  
Valentine's Disco 6.30 – 8pm  
Mid-term holiday  
Mid-term holiday  
In-Service Day 4  
Basketball Festival for P6/7 at  
Carnoustie Leisure Centre 10 – 12 noon  
Cross-Country Event at Forfar for P6/7  
Open Afternoon 2 – 3pm  
Scottish Country Dance Festival  
For P4-7 at Carnoustie Leisure Centre  
Parents Evening 4 – 8pm  
Easter Service 1.30pm  
Easter holidays start at 3.20pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Holiday for Easter Monday  
Back to School  
Rural Swimming Gala P5-7  
May Day Holiday  
Rural Football Festival for P4-7 at  
Arbroath High School from 1 – 3pm  
Rural Netball Festival at Mattocks P.S.  
for P4-7's from 10 – 12 noon  
Health Week  
Primary School Relays at Arbroath H.S.  
for P6/7's  
Rural Commonwealth Games for P1-3  
at Monikie Park from 10 – 12 noon  
In-Service Day 5  
Sports Day, BBQ & Fun Afternoon  
End of Term Prizegiving and Service  
1.30  
On holiday 12 noon ...until 11/8/14

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 22 May

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June