



## Newsletter – September 2017

*Vision - 'A Place Where We All Work Together To Be The Best We Can Be.'*

Dates for the Diary					
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> September	All P1 pupils start full time.	Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> September	MacMillan Coffee Morning 9:30-11am.
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the teacher 3:30-4:30pm. HT presentation at 3pm.			
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council AGM 6:30pm			

Dear Parents,

We welcome everyone back to school for the new session and hope that you all had an enjoyable Summer holiday! We thank you for the lovely cards and gifts received at the end of last term – your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. We look forward to a productive and positive school year with you all!

Our new P1 children are settling in well and we look forward to working with them and their families. Their buddies have been very helpful and are doing a super job in looking after them!

We also welcome new pupils to our school – Emily and Jamie Stewart who are in P7 and P4.

We also welcome our new teachers this session – Miss Buchan (P2/3) and Miss Blakemore (P6/7) who are a welcome addition to our staff team!

There will be an opportunity for all parents to meet the teachers at our 'Meet the Teacher' session on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. Please note that this will not be an opportunity to discuss individual work or progress, but will be an opportunity for your child's teacher and yourself to get to know each other.

I will give a parent presentation on our Vision, Values, Aims and School Improvement Priorities for the school year at 3pm in the hall. The first 'Meet the Teacher' session will start at 3:30pm and for parents with children in other classes, the session will be repeated at just after 4pm until 4:30pm (**not 5pm as stated in calendar, apologies**).

### **Parking**

We remind all parents and visitors to be considerate and not to park over neighbouring driveways. Many thanks for your co-operation.

### **Baby News!**

Many congratulations to Mrs McCue and her husband who welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Dexter, on 15<sup>th</sup> July, weighing just over 7lb. Both mum and baby are doing well! Mrs McCue is settling into motherhood and will pop in to visit soon!

### **Staffing**

Classes for the session are as follows:

P1/2 – Miss Portsmouth

P2/3 – Miss Buchan

P3/4 – Miss White

P5/6/7 – Mrs Moir

P6/7 – Miss Blakemore (4 days)

As Miss Blakemore is a new teacher, she is class committed for 4 days to allow 1 day for professional development. On Wednesdays, her class is currently being taken by Miss Hill. This will change in the next few weeks as interviews were recently held for a class teacher to fill this post for 1 day per week. Details will follow once the recruitment process is complete.

Pupils will continue to be supported by our Pupil Support Assistants, Mrs Dargie, Mrs Roger, Mrs McKay and Mr Donaldson. This session their focus will be to support groups/individuals in class and to supervise playtimes and lunchtimes. They are also our trained first aiders.

As part of our Pupil Equity fund plan, we are also in the process of recruiting a further PSA to work in our school one day per week. This person will work with children either in the class or within small groups who require support in being 'ready to learn'. This may involve work on emotions, how to deal with unwanted behaviours and developing a positive 'Growth mindset'. This in turn, should have a positive impact on attainment and achievement throughout the school.

You will be aware that Mrs McCarthy has been absent from work and thank you for your patience as we try to cover office duties too. Mrs McCallum has been working in our office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with Mrs Hyman on Wednesdays and Mrs Donaldson on Fridays. We also welcome Mrs Edwards who will be helping out on Mondays.

### **School Values**

Our shared school values are: **Happiness, Respect, Responsibility, Keeping Healthy, Being Safe, Friendship and Honesty.**

We have developed a 'Values Tree', in our hall, where we are promoting our school values and focusing on one per month. Each child will 'look for' our value of the month and write on a leaf if they think that they are demonstrating it, eg, I asked xxxxx to join in my game. The leaves will be displayed on the tree.

Our value for September is – **Friendship.**

We also ask that children and staff nominate others who they feel are promoting **any** of our school values. Nomination slips are available next to our tree. These will be celebrated at assembly at the beginning of each month.

### **Relax Kids**

This session, we also welcome Ms S Wilson who will be carrying out 'Relax Kids' sessions with all classes on a fortnightly basis. The aims of these sessions are to promote Health, Wellbeing, relaxation, resilience and mindfulness and to combat negative influences which in turn will help children in the classroom. Again, this is part of our Pupil Equity fund.

### **Personal Items**

We can't stress how important it is that all children's belongings are named. Please don't put initials on them! Already, we have a few items in our lost property box. These will be recycled at the end of term unless claimed.

We also remind parents that toys are not allowed at school. This includes items such as 'fidget spinners'.

### **Book bags**

Some parents have requested replacement book bags. Please note that we no longer keep a stock of these in school and they can be ordered directly from 'Buchan Embroidery' (also available on their website).

P1 and new children are given a book bag free of charge and we are currently waiting on these being delivered. Apologies for the administrative delay.

### **Homework**

Homework is currently under review following our parental questionnaire at the end of last session. Miss White is overseeing this and a working party will be formed soon. You will have received an email about this. In the meantime, any homework sent home should continue to be signed by a parent. This includes reading. Thank you.

### **Interdisciplinary Learning**

Our classes are starting this session with the following themes:

P1/2 – Kate Morag

P2/3 – UNICEF Rights of the Child

P3/4 – Health

P5/6/7 – Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

P6/7 – Citizenship

If you have any expertise in any of these areas and would like to help out, please let us know.

### **Specialist teachers**

Specialist teachers for this term are:

Mrs Potts-Violettes (Mrs PV) – Drama

Mr Ralph – Expressive Arts

Miss Hill – Expressive Arts (currently PE)

Mrs O'Sullivan-Lynch – French

Visiting Specialist teachers cover classes to allow class teachers their allocated 'non class contact time'. During these times, the specialists are in charge of the classes and follow the school's behaviour policy.

### **Lollipop Man**

Mr Simpson will shortly be taking up a post as relief janitor within the Mintlaw cluster. Sadly, as a result, he will no longer be able to continue being our 'lollipop man'. His post will be advertised by the Authority in due course but please be aware that there will be no one to cover in the meantime.

### **Fruity Friday**

Every Friday will continue to be 'Fruity Friday'. Please encourage your child to bring fruit for their snack. Fruit will also be available at tuck shop too!

### **School Lunches**

Please remember to go through the school lunch menu with your child.

School lunches have now increased to £2.20 (P4-7 children only). Please ensure that your school meal payment account has sufficient funds in it before meals are ordered. Please contact Mrs Steel if you have any difficulty with this.

All P1 parents will have received details of how to register for the Ipay impact system for lunches.

Please note that you still have to register for this even though your child does not pay for lunches.

### **Home lunches**

A reminder that P1-3 children must be collected by a parent/guardian if going home for lunch. They are not permitted to walk home themselves.

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

Our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning will be held in school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 9:30am until 11am and run by our P7 children. Please dig deep to support this worthy cause. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend due to an event that all Head Teachers must attend, however, am confident that the P7 children will do a fantastic job.

### **Bicycles**

For the safety of people in the playground, we ask that children cycling to school disembark at the gate and walk their bikes safely to the bike racks.

### **Recorder**

Recorder group will restart on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September (lunchtimes) and will continue to be run by Mrs Steel. A new beginner group will start on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and is open to P3-7 children only. Information will be issued separately regarding this.

### **Parent information**

We have started the school year by issuing you with a white envelope containing lots of information about the school year. This also contains information relating to medical needs and a 'blanket consent' form for trips/outings. You will always receive further information regarding trips before they happen but our 'blanket consent' form helps us as information is now sent to you by email. Please ensure that you send back all the necessary documentation in the envelope as soon as possible.

### **School Communications**

School communications will continue to be sent via Groupcall, so you will receive our info via text or email. Please respond accordingly if asked to either by return email or text. Parents can also download the 'Xpressions' app which will allow communications to be sent free of charge for both parents and the school.

### **Facebook**

The school has a closed Facebook page – Maud School. This is only for parents of children at the school. If requesting to join and your name is not familiar to us (ie, you have a different surname to your child), please pop us a message and let us know who you are. Thank you.

### **Pupil Doors**

Please remember that parents should not be entering the school via pupil doors. For Health and Safety reasons, please do so via the front door and school office.

### **Charter Champions**

Well done to our Charter Champions for the first two weeks of the new session! A brilliant start to the school year!

### **Week beginning 22th August 2017**

P1/2 – Mary

P2/3 – Olivia

P3/4 – Alana F

P5/6/7 – Oli

P6/7 – Emily H

**Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

P1/2 – Alexia

P2/3 – Isla M

P3/4 – Fergus

P5/6/7 – Dylan

P6/7 – Alana C

**Good News!**

Che – represented the Mintlaw network in the North Aberdeenshrie Primary Athletics 2017 during the Summer holidays. He received gold medals in the 100m and 200m races and bronze for long jump! Delighted that the Mintlaw network won the overall event!

Mary – Visited Score in Peterhead with the MASA club and took part in a challenge to build a tower using only marshmallows and spaghetti. Her team won!

Charli – Passed both her dancing exams with excellent results!

Morgan – Became a big sister to baby Alfie! Congratulations!

Phoebe – Passed her grade one ballet exam with merit! Also has finished swimming lessons!

Brooke – Received awards for horse-riding!

Erin and Natasha – Also received awards for horse-riding!

Kacey – Has received a gold award for the Active Schools Activity Challenge from June!

Gracey – Has moved up to level 6 in skiing!

Lewis – Went to soccer school in the holidays. Awarded ‘player of the week’ for his group with his prize being participation at half time in the European cup game!

Well done to all our pupils! It’s great to hear of so many outside achievements!

Please remember to let us know of any good news so we can display it on our ‘Good News’ wall! A good news slip needs to be completed and handed in to your child’s class teacher.

**Maud School Football**

Hope everyone had a great summer holiday, it was nice to see everyone back at training and great to see so many new P1s! Our training will be running at Maud Park every Tuesday night from 6:30 – 7:30pm for all age groups right up until the October holidays. Details of training after the October holidays will be e-mailed out to all the footballing parents nearer the time. As always, please make sure children have a soft drink with them and wear shin pads to all training and games.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Steel  
Head Teacher

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN**

I have received the school’s newsletter for September 2017 and noted its contents.

Name of child(ren): .....

P1: ..... P2: ..... P3: ..... P4: ..... P5: ..... P6: .....

Signature of Parent: .....

Comments/Compliments/Suggestions Box: