

New Deer School Newsletter

February 2017



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will start again on Wednesday, 22 February - we would love to see anyone keen to have breakfast, or anyone wishing to have a wee relaxed time before school coming along at 8.40ish! Parents are welcome to join us – and maybe help out a little! Thank you to Jodie Dawson and the staff who give up their time to make it possible!



Johnston Cottage Lane

Again I have to ask that parents do not use this lane to pick up and drop off children. This also applies to nursery parents. Again we have a complaint about a speeding parent. The lane is narrow, with no pavements and many parents and children use this lane to walk to school. We are regularly crossing children from the school to the gym hall and cars using the lane or parking in that area are compromising the safety of our children.

New Deer School Online!

Thanks to John Kinmond, we are in the process of updating our school website. The website is primarily a tool for us to sell our great school to any prospective parents. There are, however, lots of school documents which you can access there, so please do have a wee look! If there is anything else you would like to see on there – do let us know!

<http://www.newdeer.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>



is the Scottish intranet for education and is a safe online environment to share ideas and learning.

Reminder of how to log into GLOW

1. The easiest way to find the login page is to Google 'GLOW', ensure the background of the page is purple – if it is grey it is a different version and login won't work.
2. Type in your username and password. Please contact the school if you do not have a note of these. Older pupils should be capable of logging in for you unaided.
3. On the launch pad, select the home icon. From here you can access the school site (usually the first tile). Within the school site if you scroll down there is a link for the Pupil Area. From here, links along the top of the page will take you to each teacher's page where you can find class newsletters and class PowerPoints.

IN addition each class having a page, the school now has a video site on GLOW. On this site you can find videos of what different classes have been up to. To access this ask your child to login to GLOW using their username and password. Select the home icon on the left and look for the Video tile (blue). Click on this and then select channels. Our channel is called New Deer Primary School. When a new document or video is uploaded to GLOW a sticker will be stuck into your child's homework diary to bring it to your attention.

We now will start to look at other ways of communicating with parents. Many schools have Twitter accounts, a few have Facebook, a new app is about to be introduced by Aberdeenshire Council. The Parent Council plan to gather your views to help us decide the route we are going down – please support them in doing so!

Robert Burns Celebrations

Well done to everyone who learned poems for our Burns Competition. Our judges, Mr Ritchie and Mrs Swanson, say the standard gets higher every year, so well done to everyone involved! Congratulations too, to our children who entered the singing competition.

We did 'signpost' the learning that takes place and this was on show at the PTA Burns Supper. If anyone would like to see this, do please get in touch.






If any children are interested in going along to the Burns Federation Competition on **Saturday 4 March 2017** at **Portlethen Academy**, please get in touch with the school office.



A picture from the National Performance Championships. Murray was swimming amongst some well known para-swimmers including paralympians! The lovely Scott Quin took time to speak to Murray and let him hold his Silver medal from Rio.

School Improvement Plan Update

Our improvement plan is what we are working on in school - where we feel we need to make improvements and where we are taking local and national initiatives on board at New Deer. We are always delighted to get input and feedback from parents.

-  Not quite there yet!
-  Working on it.
-  Good progress made.

Revamp **Planning / Assessment** to make use of Aberdeenshire Frameworks, ensuring staff engagement and enhanced progression in teaching.

Moderation / Assessment

Greater use made of data to inform planning

IDL

Use of the IDL Curricular Framework Document to further develop knowledge and understanding

Digital Learning

Standardise the use of technologies over the classes

Dyslexia and ADHD

Raised staff awareness of identifying and supporting pupils

Outdoor Learning

Development of workable policy

Modern Languages

Implement 1 + 2 in accordance with local strategic policy and working group recommendations

Nursery

Develop paperless planning board

Profile books further developed

Code of Practice developed

More flexibility in Stay and Play sessions

Focus on numeracy – using benchmarks

Scrap Play

Thank you to James Oates' mum and dad who helped us get our scrap play started in the playground. The children have had great fun and feedback has also been positive from the playground staff.

Have a look on "glow" for more photos. To keep it fresh and the children motivated, please help us add more equipment – check out this short YouTube film so see the kind of 'stuff' we need.
<https://youtu.be/nqi1KyJJeKg>



Nursery

We would like to put a couple of wall cupboards up in nursery for food storage. If anyone is fitting a new kitchen, and would be willing to donate their old ones – please get in touch. Thank you



Remember the 3cs – they are always welcome!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 10 February 2017	Occasional Holiday
Monday 13 February 2017	Authority Holiday
Tuesday 14 February 2017	In-Service Day
Wednesday 15 February 2017	In-Service Day
Wednesday 22 February	Breakfast Club Restarts
Friday 24 February	Sharing the Learning – 2.15pm
Monday 20 March	Sharing the Learning – 2.15pm
Friday 31 March 2017	End of Term
Tuesday 18 April 2017	Start of Term 4