



# Mattocks Primary School

## Newsletter

### August 2012

I hope everyone had a good holiday and that the children are refreshed and ready for another busy year at school. We say a warm welcome to our new pupils who have joined us this session and especially to our new P1 pupils who are all looking exceptionally smart and keen to get started. P1 pupils are attending mornings only at present until they begin full time on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September**.

#### Staffing

Prior to the summer holidays I was not in a position to confirm all our staffing arrangements for this session. I am delighted to say that Mrs Kettles has returned to our nursery. We also have some changes to our visiting teachers:

Mrs Martin - PE

Miss McEwan - Art

Mrs Grier - Music

Mr Grant - Kodaly

Mr Tribble - instrumental tuition

We will also benefit from a visiting Foreign Language Assistant who will help deliver French to P5-7

#### Dates for your Diary

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of this session's holiday and in-service training dates.

In addition to these please note:

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> September** - Parent Council AGM

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> September** - P1 parents invitation to school dinners

**Tue 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September** - P7 trip to Glenshee

**Tue 25<sup>th</sup> September** - Open Evening for parents and pupils

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> September** - "Dahlicious Dress Up Day". Pupils can come dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character and raise funds for his children's charity. More information to follow but you can start thinking of ideas for costumes now!

#### School Improvement Plan

A copy of the Standards and Quality report which evaluates the work of the school last session and a summary of the improvement plan for this session are included with this newsletter for your information.

#### Positive Behaviour

As you will see from our school improvement plan, one of our priorities is to ensure our system of rules, rewards and consequences is effective and robust. Since the start of term pupils and staff have been busy working on this and we now have a **draft policy** which we feel can work and as the ideas have come from the pupils themselves, they will understand and have ownership of it.

For this to really work well we need *your* support. **Please read our proposal and let us know your thoughts by returning the reply slip provided.** Your feedback is vital to ensuring we end up with a system which we all agree on and use consistently.

#### Time and Talents

We are currently looking to update our list of parents who are willing to give some time to helping out in school with occasional trips or activities. I would particularly ask anyone who is free on a Friday afternoon and could help with Golden Time activities such as baking, craft and games. Also, if anyone can help with our football and netball team coaching it would be greatly appreciated.

#### Pupil Representatives

Elections have been taking place in all classes and I am pleased to announce the following councils have been formed:

**Pupil Council:** Kieran MacDonald (P1), Eilidh Mutton (P2), Abi Nicoll (P3), Emily Webster (P4), Molly Spink (P5), Andrew Fraser (P5), Libby Fyall (P6), Particija Neniute (P7).



**Eco and Health Council:** Megan Russell (N), Lucy Warden (P1), Ethan Brady (P2), Tegan McPhee (P3), Arub Salam (P4), Cassidy Smith (P5), Abby Robbie (P5), Rachel Warden (P6), Ben Chadwick (P7).

Well done to those pupils elected who will now have an active role to play in decision making and planning for improvements in Mattocks.

### **House System**

We are now operating a House System within the school. There are 3 houses (red, green and blue). Pupils can earn house points for effort, behaviour, competitions etc. Pupils are currently being invited to put forward suggestions for more imaginative and appropriate names for their houses.

### **Road Safety**

Can I remind parents who bring their children to school by car **NOT** to stop on the zig-zag areas in School Road and also to be considerate of the residents who require access to their driveways. The school has received an official complaint regarding this issue.

### **Photographs**

Class photos should be returned or paid for by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The photographer will return for individual / sibling group photos on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Website and Emails**

We are still in the process of building our website. Once up and running it will provide a platform for us to share information with the whole school community and beyond.

It is also my intention to offer parents and carers the opportunity to receive newsletters and other information via email. This could greatly reduce copying costs for the school, is more environmentally friendly and would ensure information arrives in your home. To this end, a notice will be issued to all families next week asking for your details should you wish to sign up for this service.

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Having read our draft Positive Behaviour strategy, please use this space to share your thoughts and suggestions:

Please return to Mrs Mallie

Signed \_\_\_\_\_