



Mattocks Primary School

Newsletter

August 2013

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer holiday and are now ready for the busy year ahead. A special welcome to our 7 new pupils in P1 - who arrived looking extremely smart and full of excitement on their first day. They will be attending mornings only until **Monday 9th September** when their full days begin. We also welcome Aimee and Ella who join P2 and P4 respectively. We hope all our new starts will be very happy at Mattocks.

Staffing

Congratulations to Mrs Johnston on the birth of her beautiful baby boy Murray. He arrived on the 9th August weighing in at a very healthy 9lbs 15oz!!

With Mrs Johnston away on maternity leave for most of this session, our staffing is as follows:

Mrs Kettles - pre-school am/pm
Mrs C McDonald - pre-school Tue / Fri
Mrs Fyffe - P1/2/3
Mrs K Macdonald P3/4/5
Miss Allan - P6/7
Mrs Davidson - P6/7 (Wed)
Mrs Cumming - Support for Learning Assistant

Our visiting specialists remain the same as last session:

Mrs O'Rourke - Additional Support Needs
Mrs Martin - PE
Miss Waite - Active Schools Coordinator
Miss McEwan - Art
Mrs Grier - Music
Mr Grant - Kodaly
Mr Tribble - instrumental tuition
Mrs Bruce - voluntary classroom assistant.

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 which outlines our priorities for the coming session, are included with this newsletter for your information. You will see that one of our goals is to provide more extra-curricular activities for pupils throughout the year as this was a development need highlighted by parents and pupils in the end of year questionnaire. More information about this will follow soon.



School Dinners

Every day valuable teaching time is lost due to the administration around school dinners. We are exploring methods such as self registration on the interactive whiteboards in a bid to save time. It would help enormously if those pupils who know in advance that they will be having a school lunch could pay as far in advance as possible but certainly at the start of the week. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Pre-School Inspection

In June our Pre-school was visited by the Care Inspectorate and the report was published this week. I am delighted to say that the inspector awarded us a grade 5 (very good) in all areas of performance which were examined. A huge pat-on-the-back to Mrs Kettles for all her hard work and dedication which shines through this whole report. The report is available online or hard copies are available in the school should you wish to read them.



Pupil Voice

This year we are building upon the opportunities created last session for pupil responsibility and leadership in and around the school. Starting next week our P7 pupils will begin a 6 week training course to become Young Leaders which will equip them with skills in organisation, planning, communication and self evaluation. Senior pupils in P6 and P7 also have the opportunity to apply to become Prefects. Job descriptions and application forms are available from their teacher. Pupils from P1 - P7 will also have the opportunity to elect House Captains and representatives for our Eco and Pupil Councils.

Website and Emails

Our website is due to be updated at the end of this month. Please remember to access this to view the latest information as well as archived information and photos.

Parents and carers who are not yet receiving newsletters and other information via email are asked to consider signing up for this. It greatly reduces copying costs for the school, is more environmentally friendly and ensures information arrives in your home. Please give your email address to Mrs Donnachie in the school office so that you can be added to our mailing list.

Meet the Teacher - Mattocks Open Evening

On 24th September we invite you along to our Open Evening. This is an informal event whereby your child can show you around the school and you can chat with staff.

The Scholastic book Fair is also in school that week and will be open on the night should you wish to buy any books.

The Parent Council will be on hand too, to answer questions and provide information about how you can help support them to school. The Parent Council AGM will be held immediately following our open evening. We hope you will stay for this.

Rag-Bag Collection

Having a clear out? Remember the school can make money from your unwanted items. There will be a collection on 30th September so please bring your bags of old textiles along to the school on the 26th/27th.

Dates for your Diary

9th Sept - P1s begin full days Evening Tele photographer to take class photo.

10th Sept - P7s to 'Safe Angus' event

11th Sept - P1 parents school dinner

17th Sept - P7s to Glenshee

- SSPCA workshops P1-6

18th Sept - Scholastic Book Fair arrives in school for 1 week.

24th Sept - Mattocks Open Evening and 'Meet the Teachers' 6.00 - 7.30 pm

30th Sept - RagBag collection

2nd Oct - Harvest Assembly 9.30 (all welcome)

4th Oct - End of term at 3.20pm

