

Mattocks Primary School

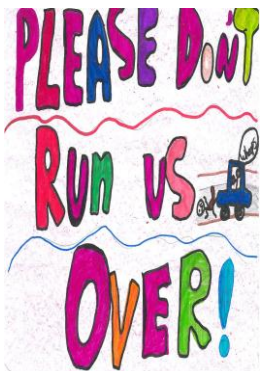
Newsletter

February 2014

An Important Message from our Pupil Council



At our last pupil council meeting the issue of road safety around the school was discussed. It has been brought to our attention that the area between the school gates and School Road is becoming quite hazardous, especially at 3.20 as all the children are leaving. In a bid to reduce the risks, taxis collecting children now wait at the back gate however, there are still a number of parents who are driving up the narrow lane to the front gate and then reversing or turning as pupils are walking by. Our Pupil Council are asking parents **not** to do this but to park on School Road or Mattocks Road. They



have made some posters to illustrate their concerns which will be displayed around the school. Please take heed of their request.

On 31st January, in the week of the Holocaust Memorial Day we were visited by Jade Kettles and Hannah Matthew who are S6 pupils at Monifieth High School. The girls shared



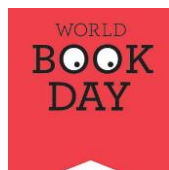
with us experiences of their recent visit to Poland and Auschwitz as part of their Advanced Higher History course. Both girls did an excellent job, showing photographs and telling their story at a level appropriate for primary aged children. The questions asked by Mattocks pupils were very sensible and insightful - they had listened and understood very well. It was a very interesting and moving afternoon.

New Home Learning Policy

By now you will have all received (and hopefully be working through) our new style homework activities. As explained in the accompanying leaflet, it is hoped that this development will be more manageable and meaningful. Pupils certainly seemed to be fairly positive and enthusiastic about the new format. We would welcome feedback as to how you are finding it works to

allow us to make any adjustments necessary before next time.

World Book Day



World Book Day is on March 6th and is a great opportunity to celebrate reading books, authors and illustrators. Building on the successful activities of last year, we aim to make this year's event bigger and better! Pupils are asked to come dressed as their favourite story character (I suspect the staff will be dressing up too!!) We will also repeat the successful Book Swap whereby pupils can bring in any books they have outgrown or no longer need and exchange them for a 'new' one. More details nearer the time. In the afternoon we would like as many parents as possible to come along and join in our literary activities. Each class will have different activities going on and we would like to share our learning with you. We will ask you nearer the time if you are coming to allow us to plan appropriately. We look forward to seeing you there - you can even dress up too if you like!!

Medicines



Can I remind parents that if your child requires medication of any kind (even non-prescription such as Calpol or E45 cream) you must come into the school office and complete the required 'Administration of Medicines' form. School staff are not permitted to give out or supervise the taking of medicine unless we have this signed and dated by a parent. This is a strictly enforced

Angus Council policy which we must adhere to.

Supported School Review

On 24th and 25th March, Mattocks will undertake a Supported School Review (SSR). This is a process similar to an inspection but carried out by Angus Council. Its aim is to support the school in evaluating our capacity to improve and to ensure our pupils are learning and achieving appropriately. A small team comprising of a Quality Improvement Officer, a Head Teacher Mentor and other key staff will observe lessons, speak with parents and pupils and evaluate our overall performance. The findings of the SSR will be shared with parents and will be in the public domain. I consider this to be a positive and valuable process which will help shape future developments and improvements for our school.

Dates for your diary:

- 14th / 17th Feb - Mid Term Holiday
- 18th Feb - Inset Day ~ school closed to pupils
- 5th March - P7 NEC photos at MHS
- 6th March - World Book Day
- 12 March - Angus Cross Country
 - Choir to Arbroath Music Festival
- 13th March - Parent Council Meeting at 7.30 pm
- 24th / 25th March - Supported School Review
- 26th March Maths Enterprising Day
- 3rd April - Easter Service at 11am
- 4th April - End of Term