



# Mattocks Primary School

## Newsletter

### August 2014

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer holiday and are now ready for the busy year ahead. An especially warm welcome to our 12 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 8<sup>th</sup> September** when their full days begin. We also welcome Cameron who has joined P5. We hope all our new starts will be very happy at Mattocks.

#### Staffing this Session

We said farewell to Miss Allan and Mrs Fyffe at the end of last term. Miss Allan is now settling in to her new post in Cyprus and Mrs Fyffe is enjoying her well-earned retirement.

Joining us this year, we welcome Mrs Jack and Mrs Rankin to Mattocks. Our staffing is as follows:

Mrs G Kettles - pre-school am/pm

Mrs L Rankin - pre-school /part time

Mrs J Shepherd (peripatetic Senior EYP) - pre-school each Fri

Mrs E Johnston - P1/2

Mrs K Macdonald P3/4/5

Mrs D Jack - P5/6/7

Mrs P Cumming - Support for Learning Assistant

Mrs S Donnachie - Clerical/PSA

Mrs C McLeish - Cleaner/Dinner Lady

Our visiting specialists remain the same as last session:

Mrs O'Rourke - Additional Support Needs

Mrs Martin - PE

Miss Whaite - Active Schools Coordinator

Miss McEwan - Art

Mrs Grier - Music

Mrs Linn - Pre-school Kodaly

Mr Tribble - instrumental string tuition

#### 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 aims is to improve Health and Wellbeing outcomes - particularly PE - for our pupils. To this end, it would be very much appreciated if you could ensure your child always has suitable gym kit in school and also be aware that when appropriate, we will go outdoors for gym.

It is also our aim to improve the way in which progress is reported to you and develop advice to help you support your child's learning. I shall be looking to enlist the help of parents to do this and hope that as many of you who are able will feed into the process. More details will follow later.

#### Pupil Voice

Again this year we are building upon opportunities 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.

#### Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have undertaken a consultation exercise with pupils to find out what sorts of clubs they would like to see in school. As you can imagine, the responses were varied and interesting! Although we will not be able to meet all these

requests, the staff are keen to continue the good work established last session. It is hoped we can offer a variety of after school and lunchtime activities such as choir, art, dance, netball and a loom bands group at various times throughout the year. Individual teachers will send out permission slips at the appropriate time which children must return for clubs which are out with school hours. Jo Whaite - our Active Schools Coordinator is also arranging some sports clubs and taster sessions for pupils

### **Website and Emails**

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

As a school we prefer to share newsletters and other information via email because it greatly reduces copying costs for the school, is more environmentally friendly and ensures information arrives in your home. Please remember to notify Mrs Donnachie in the school office of any changes to your email address so that we can keep our mailing list up to date.

### **Meet the Teacher - Mattocks Open Evening**

On 24<sup>th</sup> 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. It will run from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

At 7pm I intend to run an information workshop on children's reading. This will cover aspects of how children learn to read from the very early stages right through to higher order reading skills. I would hope that as many parents as possible will stay on to attend this event.

The Travelling 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.

### **Rag-Bag Collection**

Having a clear out? Remember the school can make money from your unwanted textile items. There will be a collection on 22<sup>nd</sup> October so please bring your bags of old textiles along to the school week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Supporting Charities**

As 'responsible citizens' we always aim to assist those in need. We hope to support the Macmillan Cancer charity by hosting a coffee morning on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. This can only happen with your support - either in the form of attending, providing biscuits and baking or to help serve on the day. More details of this will follow shortly once our venue is confirmed.

As we did in 2012, we hope to combine our literacy work this term with raising funds for the Roald Dahl Children's Charity by holding a "Dahlicious Dress Up Day". This is also on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Pupils can come dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character and raise funds for this worthy cause. More information to follow but you can start thinking of ideas for costumes now!

### **Dates for your Diary**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sept** - P1s begin full days

**10<sup>th</sup> Sept** - P1 parents invited to school dinner

**16<sup>th</sup> Sept** - P7s to Glenshee with Mrs Mallie

**18<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Travelling Book Fair arrives in school for 1 week.

**24<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Mattocks Open Evening and 'Meet the Teachers' 6.00 - 7.30 pm

**25<sup>th</sup> Sept** - Parent Council AGM 7.30 pm (change of date!)

**26<sup>th</sup> Sept** - 'Dahlicious Dress-Up Day' & Coffee Morning for Macmillan.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Oct** - End of Term at 3.20 pm

Harvest Assembly 1.30 pm (all welcome)

**20<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Start of Term

**22<sup>nd</sup> Oct** - RagBag Collection

**7<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Flu vaccinations for participating pupils

**11<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Parent's Evenings

**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Inset Days 3&4 - school closed to pupils.

### **Change to End of Term Arrangements**

You may already be aware from local press releases that Angus schools will no longer close at 12 noon at Christmas and Summer time and will now close at **3 pm** on these dates instead.

