

CATTERLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 1



September, 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. Every year I think the summer holiday goes by quicker than ever before. However it would seem that the same can now be said for term time! The weeks are really flying by, and here we are already in the fourth week of term. We're pleased to be able to tell you the children are all settled, happy and working hard – It's like we've never been away!

Welcome to Catterline School

We are delighted to report our six Primary One pupils have settled in really well and are already in full days. Welcome to Daisy Buchannan, Sammie Evans, Hector Stephenson Murray, Jack Milne, Ailsa Thomson and Ailsa Walker. We have also been joined this session by sisters, Arwen and Amelia Hamilton. Arwen is in Primary Three and Amelia in Primary Seven. Both girls have settled in well too and tell me they are enjoying being at Catterline School. Welcome to you both!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our pupils for the lovely welcome they have shown to the Primary One pupils, and to Arwen and Amellia. Your kindness, I am sure has really helped them to feel happy at school. A special mention must go to our Primary 7 pupils for being such diligent buddies to our Primary One pupils. Well done Primary Seven – you're doing a great job!

We are also joined by some new members of staff this session. Welcome to Miss Joanne Meiklejohn who will be joining Mr McCormick in providing Additional Support for Learning to our pupils. Mr McCormick teaches on a Tuesday morning whilst Miss Meiklejohn teaches at Catterline on a Friday. Following the retirement of Mrs Cabrelli, Mrs Karin Mowat is cleaning for us until a new cleaner is appointed. As you will know, Nicol Coaches has been allocated the school bus contract by the Council, and so Ally is our new driver.

We are also joined by some new Visiting Specialist teachers this term. Welcome to Mr Bruce Burnett, (P.E.), Mrs Claire Gomez, (P.E.) and Mrs Metelski, (Music/Core). Mr Arthur Pearson continues to be our janitor, until Mr Steve Hart returns to us. Mr Hart is presently covering a school in Portlerrhen.

Our Staff

Mrs Melanie Fowler	Head Teacher & Class Teacher of P. 1/2, (Mondays & Tuesdays)
Mrs Judith Grönneberg	Class Teacher of P. 1/2, (Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays)
Mrs Christine Martin	Class Teacher of P. 3/4
Mrs Moira Reith	Class Teacher of P. 5/6/7, (Mondays & Tuesdays)
Mrs Janet Carmichael	Class Teacher of P. 5/6/7, (Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays)
Mrs Fiona Duff	Classroom Assistant
Mrs Susan Yeoman	Support for Learners' Auxiliary
Mrs Norma Smith	Children's Playground Supervisor and Clerical Assistant
Mrs Val Mowat	School Administrator
Mrs Catherine Morrison	Clerical Assistant
Mrs Mary Strachan	School Cook
Ms Ann Bain	Assistant Cook
Mrs Karin Mowat	School Cleaner
Mr Arthur Pearson /Mr Steve Hart	Janitor
Mr Ally Glen	Bus Driver, Nicol's Coaches

Our Visiting Specialists

On Mondays Mrs Campbell visits to teach violin to some of our pupils, whilst on Thursdays Mrs Matthews teaches cello.

On Tuesday afternoons Mr Drahoney teaches Art to Primary 3/4 and Primary 5/6/7.

Mr Burnett teaches PE skills to all three classes on Thursday mornings, whilst Mrs Gomez teaches the children on Friday mornings. The children will also be taking part in P.E. lessons with their class teachers on other days of the week, so please do ensure your child bring his/her kit to school on Monday mornings and leaves it in the cloakroom until home-time on Friday afternoons. Thank you.

On Monday afternoons and Friday mornings, Mrs Metelski visits us. She is a qualified primary school teacher and is allocated to us a 'Core Teacher'. This means she can be used to teach any curricular area. As she has a flair for music, (and also has a music degree), we have opted to make use of her expertise and have opted to use her to teach Music to all three classes. As well as this she will support the delivery of other curricular areas, in consultation with the class teachers. 'Core Teachers' have been appointed by Aberdeenshire Council to help schools give teachers their legal entitlement to non-class contact time. There has been a need for additional teachers to cover this, this year, due to the longer day for infant children. (Teachers of Infant classes used to get their non-class contact time, once their classes had gone home at half past 2). These specialist teachers will be with us until the October break, at the least. The allocations have not yet been made for the rest of the session, but I will update you when I hear.

We have not been allocated a French Specialist teacher this term, and so Mrs Martin, who has her French teaching qualification, and who has had previous experience in teaching French, has been teaching the language to her own class and also to the children in Primary 5/6/7 on a Wednesday after playtime. Mrs Carmichael has been swapping classes with Mrs Martin and teaching the Primary 3/4 children at this time.

The Pupil Voice at Catterline School

Our Eco/Health Committee

Last week saw many elections taking place throughout the school. I am pleased to be able to tell you that the following children have been elected by their peers to represent their class on the Eco & Health Committee.

Eve Robertson, Primary 2
Primary 4, Rachel Talbert
James Swan, Primary 6

Rachel Dunbar, Primary 3
Lewis King, Primary 5
Katie Steel, Primary 7

Our Pupil Council

I am also pleased to announce the class representatives on the Pupil Council. The council members were also elected by their peers.

Katie Taylor, Primary 2
Hudson Gill, Primary 4
Katherine Robertson, Primary 6

Rowan Nilssen, Primary 3
Elise Kemp, Primary 5
Jessie McLean, Primary 7

Junior Road Safety Officers

As you know, Ben Irving and Craig Elwood were appointed to these posts last session. Their first big assignment is about to take place, on the 15th September – 'The Hands Up Scotland Travel Survey'. This survey brings information from across Scotland to generate the largest annually recorded set of data of its kind about how children travel to school. Last year 4117,000 children participated! Ben and Craig will be busy asking the pupils about their means of transport to school on the 15th and recording the findings for each class at Catterline. This will be great evidence to show our Green Flag assessors when they arrive. By taking part in the survey we are able to use it as a stimulus for learning about healthy and sustainable modes of travel. for The survey will also provide us with the opportunity to develop information handling skills in our pupils, such as creating bar charts/graphs.

Press Officer

This session, we have decided to appoint a press officer to help keep you updated on the activities of our pupil groups. Rosie Hall, Primary 7 has been appointed to this new post. Well done Rosie!

Words of Thanks

Mr Muir and Mrs Cabrelli have both asked me to pass on their thanks to you and to the children for the generous gifts they received upon leaving Catterline School in July. This week the children received a thank you card for Mrs Cabrelli, which read:

"To the Parents and Children of Catterline School,

Thank you very much for the beautiful bouquet and John Lewis vouchers given to me on my retirement. It was a most generous gesture and I was really touched that you thought of me. I will miss the children of Catterline very much, but am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas concert

School Photographer - Wednesday 9th September

As you already know, Moira Sherret, of Tempest Photography will be in school to take individual, sibling and class photographs on Wednesday 9th September from 9.15 am onwards. If your child has a younger sibling, not yet at school, Mrs Smith will have been in touch with you to let you know when to arrive, should you wish a photograph to be taken of your children together. These *photographs will be available* to you in time for Christmas, and so will make super presents for loved ones.



Term Dates

A copy of the term dates for this session is attached at the back of this newsletter. May I remind everyone that **Friday 24th September, 2010** is to be an In-Service day. This additional staff development day has been put in place by the Scottish Executive in order to support school's in effectively implementing, 'Curriculum for Excellence'. You will also find in your child's bag tonight a leaflet outlining the main aspects of Curriculum for Excellence which was sent to our Parent Group. We hope you find this information useful, but should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Further information can be accessed at: www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone

Curriculum for Excellence

In line with Curriculum for Excellence, myself and the other teachers have been very busy devising new formats on which to plan experiences and activities for our pupils. We want our curriculum to build on pupils' prior learning, meet their needs and motivate them through appealing to their interests. With this in mind, we have been planning exciting themes to study, along with the children. This term the themes being studied are as follows:

- Primary 1/2, 'The Mister Men'
- Primary 3/4, 'Guinea Pigs'
- Primary 5/6/7, 'Dinosaurs' & also 'Europe'.

In the past themes were driven by what used to be known as Environmental Studies – History, Geography and Modern Studies for those looking further back a little further, to your own school days! However themes may now cover all eight curricular areas – Numeracy & Maths, Languages, Health & Wellbeing, Expressive Arts, Religious & Moral Education, Sciences, Social Studies and Technologies. Therefore themes will be of a cross-curricular nature, with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.

Recorders

Mrs Reith will be teaching Primary 5/6/7 pupils how to play the recorder again this year. Once again, Mr King has very kindly agreed to work alongside her and work with a group.

ALEC, (Aberdeenshire's Life Education Centres), Health Caravan

We are looking forward to the arrival of Harold the Giraffe and his colleague, Mrs Kim Dodds, on Wednesday 22nd September, 2010. The visit aims to give children an awareness of how their bodies work, how unique and special they are, and how a person's health is influenced by the choices he/she makes. Not only knowledge but also skills and attitudes are developed using an interactive and multi-sensory teaching style. Harold's trailer has a range of exciting audio-visual equipment, including TAM, an anatomically correct life-sized body model which lights up, a talking brain, special effect lighting, music, and of course Harold, a singing giraffe who is a huge hit particularly with the younger children!



Mental health as well as physical health and personal and social education is included, with issues such as peer influence tackled through a range of drama activities. Self esteem building and assertiveness skills are important elements too, giving children not only information, but also the confidence needed to make their own decisions and take increasing responsibility for their health.

Parents are the single biggest influence on a child's life and so we would like to invite you all to an information session, so as to give you the opportunity to find out more about the programmes of study, and also about how you can support this learning at home. This meeting is planned for Wednesday 22nd September at 2:30 p.m. at the school. A slip will come home about this next week.

Healthy Eating



Our Healthy Tuck shop opens for business on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. The children are able to choose from a range of healthy, home-made and delicious healthy snacks. Tray bakes, Cheese and biscuits and fruit all cost twenty pence, whilst juice can be bought for twenty-five pence. The pupils are able to visit Mrs Strachan in the kitchen to make their purchases.

The pupils in Primary 1/2 receive free fruit/vegetables on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, so they will not need a play-piece from home on these days. They may bring a snack, or money to spend at the Healthy Tuck Shop, on Mondays and Fridays.

The pupils are encouraged to drink water at regular intervals throughout the day, so please provide your child with a leak-proof water bottle, labelled with your child's name. There is also a chilled water fountain in school that the children are welcome to use.



Dinner Tickets

The cost of a two course primary school meal is £1.80, with books of ten tickets costing £18:00. Sorry, there are no discounts from the Council for bulk buying! Cheques should be made payable to "Aberdeenshire Council" and children can purchase tickets from Mrs Strachan in the morning. Please also feel free to pop in to the school office to purchase a book.

10-Journey Bus Tickets

The price of these tickets has risen to £3:00 since last year. Cheques again should be made payable to "Aberdeenshire Council". Thank you.

Out of School Clubs – Football, Gardening and Badminton

We are very fortunate to be able to run these clubs thanks to the support of our pupils' parents. As a small school, the fact we have three clubs – Football, Gardening and Badminton, is something to be very proud of and staff and pupils alike very much appreciate the contribution of those running the clubs. If you would like to find out more about these clubs, please contact the School Office.

Good News from the Gardening Club



The Gardening Club have started up this session and are meeting on Wednesday afternoons. They have already been very busy this year and we are delighted to report that they contributed eagerly to the Stonehaven and District Horticultural Society show with beautiful floral arrangements and decorated flower pots too. We are also delighted to report to you that the club had several successful exhibits at the show. Our, 'Box of Four Kinds of Vegetables' exhibit received third prize, whilst our vase of wildflowers was awarded second prize in its section. We are so proud of the floral arrangement that we've still got it displayed in school!

Congratulations to Bruce Walker and Elspeth Walker who also won sections at the flower show. Well done to Bruce for cunningly disguising a flowerpot as a sheep and for making a monster out of fruit and vegetables! Congratulations Elspeth, for your winning entry – an owl made out of pine cones!

Netball

Our pupils remain keen to play netball. Should anyone be interested in running this club at the school, please get in touch.

Free Books for your School - Nestlé Box Top Tokens

As most of you will be aware, Nestlé Cereals work in conjunction with Dorling Kindersley publishers to offer free books to schools for as little as 10 tokens per book. Once again, if you happen to purchase Nestlé Cereals, please remember to send in the token from off the box to school from now on. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Tesco Vouchers

We are also collecting Tesco vouchers again this year. Thanks to your efforts last session we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of some lovely equipment.

Instant Neighbour, Aberdeen – A Food Collection Project

We will continue to support, Instant Neighbour, a community project, this session. This charity aims to tackle poverty, reduce waste and recycle goods.

Under this project, pupils are invited to donate non-perishable food items, such as tinned foods, packets of pasta and sauces. The most useful items are those which are simple to cook. Baby food and disposable nappies are also required. There are many people on very low incomes in the Aberdeen area which means there is a huge need, so please do remember this opportunity to make a difference. The children may bring their donations to school on any day. However these are the weeks will be delivering them into Aberdeen and when we will take a look at what we have collected during our assemblies. Thank you in anticipation for your support of this very worthwhile cause.



Food Collection Weeks

Weeks beginning:

Monday 13th September
Monday 27th September, 2010
Monday 4th October, 2010
Monday 25th October, 2010



Parent Group

At Catterline School we are very well supported by our Parent Group. Please feel free to come along to any of the meetings. You do not need to be a committee member to do so, as all parents of pupils at the school are most welcome. These evenings are extremely informal and are even enjoyable to be part of - Yes, I really am getting old and clearly need to get out more! Joking aside, please do come along if you can manage. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 2nd, 2010, and these meetings really are a pleasant evening out!

Parental Involvement Conference – Saturday 25th September, Meldrum Academy

This conference, organised by Aberdeenshire Council, is being held on Saturday, 25th September, at Meldrum Academy. The event is free and offers complementary refreshments and lunch. The day will include presentations from Heather Hamilton, Head of Service, Education, Learning and Leisure, Councillor Stroud, Chairman, Education, Learning and Leisure, as well as other presenters, for example from Learning and Teaching Scotland. Attendees can also choose to participate in a number of workshops. We have copied the summary outline of the workshops for your information. You will find this at the back of the newsletter. If you would like to attend or would like further information please contact the school.

And Finally...



May I remind you if you have any concerns, please contact me at the school either before school or after 3.15 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays. I am non-teaching on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so can be contacted during class times. In addition, you can also contact the school by email using the school address:

catterline.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

or by contacting myself directly:

melanie.fowler@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Dates for your Diary

School Photographs	Wednesday 8 th September
Primary 1 Curriculum Evening	Thursday 9th September 2010, 7 pm
ALEC Health Caravan Visits	Wednesday 22 nd September 2010
In-Service Day 3	Friday 24 th September
Aberdeenshire's Parental Involvement Conference	Saturday 25th September 2010
Lathallan Mini-Highland Games	Saturday 25th September 2010, (more details to follow shortly)
Parent/Teacher Consultations	Tuesday 5th October 2010 (appointment details to follow)
Last Day of Term 1	Friday 8th October 2010
First Day of Term 2	Monday 25th October 2010
Parent Group meeting	Tuesday 2 nd November 2010, 7 pm, Room 2

We hope this information is helpful. Any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Best wishes,

Melanie Fowler
Head Teacher