

# CATTERLINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER NO 2



October, 2010

Dear Parents,

It doesn't seem so long ago since the last newsletter, but so much has happened since then that I felt I should write to you all again!

### **Highland Games – Lathallan School**

Great news.....On Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, our pupils performed brilliantly at the Lathallan Highland Games, making a clean sweep across the board, winning both the Junior and Senior sections. I'm delighted to be able to tell you of these wins, but am equally pleased to be able to tell you of the wonderful team spirit shown by the children, who behaved graciously throughout. Well done to:

*Craig Elwood, Eileen Hall, Rosie Hall, Ben Irving, Hester Irving, Elise Kemp, Lewis King, John MacGregor, Becky Plummer, Katherine Robertson, Tom Robertson, James Swan, Amy Tench, Eoin Vaughan and Bruce Walker.*

Mrs Martin and I were also very impressed at the team spirit amongst the children's parents, especially while they all shouted encouragement to the children during a hard fought Tug of War contest! I'm sure I wasn't the only one to go home a little hoarse that afternoon!

### **Senior Pupils' Cross - Country Event**

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, our team will be competing at Mineralwell Park, Stonehaven. We wish our children every success on the day. Family and friends are most welcome to come along to the park to spectate. The event commences at 1:30 pm.

### **Catterline School's Treasure Trails**

As many of you will already know, last session's Primary 5 / 6 / 7 class devised their very own Catterline Treasure Trail. These are now published and are available to buy from the School Office, at a cost of £3:50 each. I had good fun trying out the trail, before it was printed, and so can recommend it as a fun activity for the October holidays. Thank you to those of you who booked a trail at the Catterline Gala. We are presently in the process of sending these out to you. Thank you also to our pupils and staff who worked so very hard on producing these super leaflets.

### **Tree Planting**

You may also remember that last year's Primary 3 / 4 children potted thirty trees. This year's Primary 3 / 4 and the Gardening Club have taken on the care of these trees and have succeeded in helping them to survive! We are now at the stage of wanting to plant them, and so Amber Milne, Primary 4 and Lewis King, Primary 5, attended the Community Council meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September to share our plans to plant the trees alongside the edge of the park. Those attending the Community Council meeting all thought that this would be a good idea, agreeing that the trees would attract more wildlife and would serve, in time, as a much needed wind break! The Council also praised Lewis and Amber for putting forward the school's intention so well. Well done, you two!

Thank you again to everyone who very kindly sponsored a tree at the Catterline Gala. You will shortly see the trees planted in the park, assuming the frost holds off for a little while longer! I am very pleased that we have been promised help from the Council's gardeners in digging holes that are deep enough!

### **Eco Event – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Today, our Eco and Health Committee took part in a morning of Eco activities at Lathallan School. The children had the opportunity to find out more about:

- reducing, re-using and recycling materials through Aberdeenshire Council's Eco Exhibition Bus
- the nine areas of the Eco School Curriculum - Litter, Waste Minimisation, Energy, Water, Health & Wellbeing, Transport, Biodiversity, School Grounds & Sustaining our World, through an exhibition organised by different organisations
- ecosystems through activities organised by Aberdeenshire's Forest Rangers.

The children have returned to school eager to tell us all about the visit and you will be able to read about the trip in our Eco Newsletter, which is presently being put together by the pupils.

### **Bring and Buy Sale**

Please remember about Primary 1 / 2's Bring and Buy Sale on Friday. The children have all been working very hard to set up their shop – making price tags, designing posters advertising the sale, baking cakes to sell and practising using real money! No toy will cost more than £ 1:00 and cakes will sell for 10 pence each. In the words of some of our pupils, "Wow that's a bargain!"

Any profit made will go towards purchasing a recycling bin they have picked. The children have chosen to buy this, after noticing we have nowhere to recycle plastic milk cartons – they don't miss a thing when they're in the Staffroom, passing on messages to Mrs Smith! We are aiming to raise twenty five pounds, (the cost of the bin), so fingers crossed!

### **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 send in the Box Top Tokens to school from now on. The next collection date, as set by Nestlé is fast approaching, so if you could please send in any tokens you have already saved for us by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, this would be very much appreciated. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### **Tesco for Schools Vouchers – More Free Resources**

Of course I do use the term, 'Free,' loosely. We do realise there's probably been hundreds of pounds in groceries been spent! Therefore, a huge thank you to everyone who donated their Tesco vouchers to the school. Thanks to your support, we were able to exchange our vouchers for the following resources:

- Cube for reading Comprehension
- Solar Powered Vehicle
- Folding Hurdle
- Time Talk Ball

These resources will help to enhance the curriculum we provide and we are very grateful for your support in this. Please keep on collecting those tokens – each voucher collected makes a big difference to us! Thank you.

## **A Visit from the Vet**

Our guinea pigs, Toffee and Fudge, have settled back into school life well and are going to be treated from a visit from the vet this Thursday! Our thanks go to Mr Allan Annat from Kirkton Veterinary Practice, Stonehaven, for giving so generously of his time to give the guinea pigs a free check-up and for also taking the time to talk to the pupils in Primary 3 / 4 about his job.

Primary 1 / 2 are going to look after the guinea pigs next term and Primary 3 / 4 are presently preparing to 'train up' the younger pupils, Mrs Gronneberg and myself in guinea pig husbandary.

## **In-Service Day 3 – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

As you know, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September was an additional In-Service Day, granted to every Scottish School by the Scottish Government. This day, as requested by the Government was used to support staff in looking at the implications for learning, teaching and assessment. We spent the day looking at how we assess and record the achievements and progress of our pupils in relation to the principles of, 'Curriculum for Excellence'. In order to do this effectively staff from the rural primaries in the Stonehaven network, Catterline, Gourdon, Glenbervie, Kinneff and Lairhillock schools met together at Lairhillock Primary to further develop our approaches to this. Having audited our practice in this aspect, we have found our pupils' Achievements' Folders to be invaluable as a tool for encouraging and focussing dialogue between teacher and pupil. Indeed we find them extremely useful when talking with our pupils about what they have learned and in having a conversation together about what the next steps in learning should be. We really hope you and your children find them to be useful too. Next term you will have the opportunity to let us know your thoughts on them through a questionnaire for yourselves and for your children.

We are still eager to improve our Achievements' Folders further. Therefore we spent time during the In-Service Day thinking of ways in which the folders could better reflect the planning which we do with our pupils about their future learning. Planning is linked very closely to assessment – After all, you can't plan your next steps until you know where you are in your learning and until you know what else there is to be learned! As a staff, we are busy working out the skills and the knowledge and understanding within the experiences and outcomes of each level. This is presently a work in progress! This will enable us to help the children better understand what the levels within 'Curriculum for Excellence' are about and what there is to be learned next.

Should you wish any further information about, 'Curriculum for Excellence,' please do not hesitate to contact me. You may also like to have a look at the following websites:

- <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone/curriculum/index.asp>
- <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/learningteachingandassessment/assessment/about/principles/supportinglearning.asp>

## **Religious & Moral Education**

We are fortunate to be supported by Mrs Elaine McKibben, and by Mrs Ann Geldart, in the curricular area, Religious and Moral Education. During assemblies, Mrs McKibben is going to be helping the children develop an understanding of the different books the Bible is made up of, through sharing stories from them, discussing the stories' key characters and events, and through singing related songs. Mrs Geldart, also during assemblies, is going to help the children develop an insight into Sikhism. This is in keeping with the strand, 'Other World Religions,' within 'Curriculum for Excellence' through talking about the associated customs and traditions of this religion.

## **Visit to St Phillip's Church**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October we are all going to visit the newly refurbished St Phillips' Church in the afternoon. We are really looking forward to holding this week's assembly in the lovely new surroundings. It will be a good opportunity to practise the songs we are going to sing at our Harvest/Thanksgiving Assembly in November.

### **Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal**

We have decided to support this worthy cause again this year. For those of you unfamiliar with this project, the idea is to fill a shoebox with basic goods, i.e. pencils, gloves, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste. These are things that we probably take for granted, but are for many luxuries that they cannot afford to buy. The boxes are then sent as Christmas gifts to many Eastern European countries, Pakistan and India. (Further details will come home before we go on holiday on Friday 8th October). Our Harvest/Thanksgiving assembly will take place on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010**, and the boxes will also be collected on that day.

### **UNICEF's Emergency Appeal for the Children of Pakistan**

Following suggestions from our pupils we have decided to support UNICEF in raising funds for the children of Pakistan. We have decided to call this the SWAP project –

#### **Sanitised Water Aids Pakistan**

Our Pupil Council met and came up with super ideas about what we could do as activities on that day, which involved swapping something about the usual school day for something slightly different. Indeed they had so many ideas they found it difficult to choose which ones to settle on! However they have decided that we will all swap classrooms for part of the day and swap school uniform for, 'come as you please' clothes. However there is a twist to this – the clothes have to be swapped around so that they are worn back to front!

### **Stamps for CLAN**

We are also collecting used stamps in support of this charity. Please send any stamps you have into the School Office and we will ensure they are passed on. I'm told you have to take care not to tear the perforation around the stamp or they are worthless. Many thanks for your support.

### **News from the Parent Group – Christmas Coffee, Saturday, 27th November, 2010**

At their last time of writing to you the Parent Group let you know they were waiting for further information regarding the possibility of holding a Wine Tasting Evening. However due to rising costs, it has been decided not to go ahead with this event. However the Parent Group are holding a Christmas Coffee, in the school, to which you are all invited. Please bring along friends and other family members too. Everyone is very welcome! The children will be running stalls, selling their handmade crafts and of course our Treasure Trails will be on sale too! This event will be used as The Treasure Trail's official launch event into the wider public! Further details to follow shortly from the Parent Group, including the time!

### **Primary 5 / 6 / 7 Trip to Tech Fest**

I thought you would like to hear about Primary 5 / 6 / 7's trip to Tech Fest, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen. Here are some of their thoughts on the event:

"I learned that there are different gasses on the Earth. We learned about methane, oxygen and helium." (Craig Elwood, Primary 7)

"At the Remotely Operated Vehicles there was little robots you had to control to do different challenges and that was quite hard. In this section we learned about the different jobs people do offshore." (Ben Irving, Primary 7)

"We did a windmill activity. We made a windmill out of paper and this helped us to learn about wind power." (Hester Irving, Primary 5)

"The day was fun, we learned a lot and we'd like to go back!" (Bruce walker, Primary 6)

## **Parents' Afternoons / Evenings – Tonight!**

We are very much looking forward to meeting with you this afternoon or evening. Please remember that after today's appointments you don't need to wait for the next Parent/Teacher consultations in May to have any questions you may have answered – We're only a phone call away, so please do not hesitate to get in touch. We'll be delighted to help you.

### **Dates for your Diaries**

Parents' Afternoons / Evenings	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2010 – for P2 and up only Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2011 (opt-in)
Assembly at St Phillips' Church	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
End of term	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
Back to school	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
Parent Group Meeting	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2010, at 7 p.m.
Harvest/Thanksgiving Assembly & Blythswood Shoobox Collection Day	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2010
In-Service Day 4	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
In-Service Day 5	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
Christmas Coffee	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2010

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Fowler,  
Head Teacher.

