

ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

April 2018 Newsletter

A warm welcome back to school. We hope you had a good holiday and feel rested and energised for another busy term ahead.

LITTER PICK

Thanks to Ross Watson and his team of helpers for organising another successful Sponsored Litter Pick around the village. Nethybridge now looks a lot tidier and the school will benefit enormously from funds raised from sponsors. We would also like to thank Balliefurth Farm Shop and Spar for the burgers and bread rolls for the barbecue and for their on-going support to the school.

GARDEN PROJECT

The nursery children have been enjoying their time outdoors with their muddy kitchen in the school garden. Thanks to JC for volunteering his time and skills and to parents and teachers for making a great start to tidying the school garden at the weekend. If anyone has a few hours to spare, there's a lot more to be done in preparation for planting this season's produce. Offers of help are most appreciated.



Learning early gardening skills. Thanks Maxwell!

SCHOOL CLUBS

Rona Smith joined us for our first assembly. She spoke to pupils about plans for her **Art and Craft Club** and inspired everyone with her creative ideas and examples of previous participants' work. Rona's class is open to Primary 4-7 pupils and runs from 3.15pm to 5.00pm every Wednesday afternoon. A weekly charge of £2 covers all materials.

Rona will also be offering **Golf lessons** to Primary 3-7 children at Abernethy Golf Club on Fridays from 3.45pm to 5.00pm. Lessons cost £2 per session.

Liz and Eric Smith continue with **football** sessions this term. Primary 4-7 pupils can join them at the Nethybridge Pitch at 6pm on Monday evenings.

Saranne Bish, our local Countryside Ranger is keen to revive our monthly **Nature Club**. To register interest, please speak initially to class teachers.

Our new Active School's Co-ordinator, Kerrie Dickson has organised a block of four **Fit Kids** sessions for Primary 4-7 pupils. Clay Chisholm, a Health and Fitness student at UHI will be joined by Mrs Gibson in the playground on Fridays from 1.00pm-1.30pm. Sessions will include some aerobic workouts and fitness testing. Permission slips have been sent home for those children wishing to take part.

In addition, Mrs Gibson, Mrs Tucker and Mrs Dale continue to offer **Leggo**, **Chess/Board games** and **Football** clubs at lunchtimes.

ACTIVE PLAY

Steve Holmes, PE Support Development Officer will join Primary 1-3 and Primary 4-5 every Tuesday morning this term for Active Outdoor Play. Steve will be introducing some new games to children and encouraging independent and creative play.



Fun, active and inclusive play

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council kindly organised and funded the recent drumming workshops with Bruce Ncube. These were lively and entertaining sessions, enjoyed by everyone. Whilst introducing new rhythms Bruce also provided a fascinating insight into life in Zimbabwe.



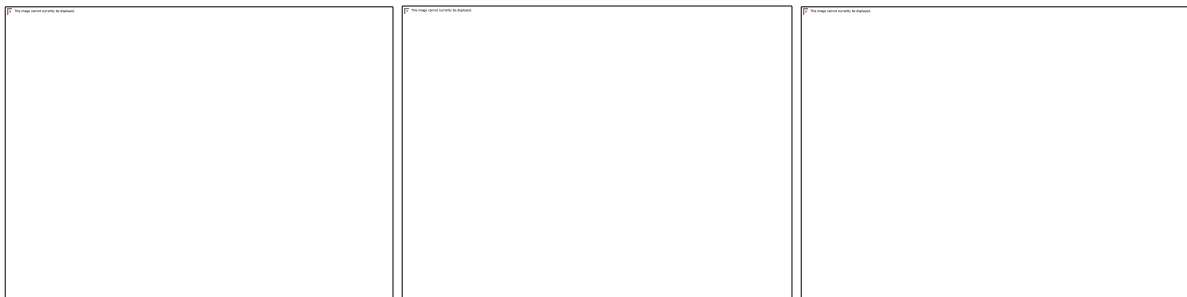
Following the earlier success of the 80's night, The Parent Council are currently organising a 60's night in the village hall on Saturday 16th June. Tickets are now on sale for £10 and can be purchased from Lindsay Coleman, the Spar Shop, Nethybridge or Highland Hospice in Aviemore and Grantown. Look out your costumes, invite your friends and prepare yourselves for another great night out. ☺

The annual Spring Gathering takes place on Sunday 6th May. There will be various stalls and activities catering for every age. All are welcome to join in the fun whilst raising money for the school and local groups.

PUPIL COUNCIL

Congratulations to all who participated in the School Talent Show. This was an entertaining morning and a great celebration to end the term. There was a wide variety of acts from singing, dancing, and performances on fiddle, chanter and piano to baking and dog training. After careful deliberation and mounting tension, the judges announced the winners in reverse order. Third prize was awarded to Reuben Timms for his lively dance routine and Eathan Munro was also acknowledged for stepping up to support Reuben on stage at the last minute. In second place was Alasdair Kearton for his talented performance of the Star Wars theme tune on piano. Emily Watson took First Prize for a very original entry. Emily showed an artistic flair and promising talent for baking with her delicious chocolate cake. Special thanks must also go to the Pupil Council for organising this successful event.

The Mural Project is almost complete. A few finishing touches are to be added before the work is unveiled and mounted in the corridor. It has been a rewarding piece of work and we hope you like it. We are looking forward to your feedback.



Creative work in progress

PROFILING AND REPORTING

After our recent information evening on pupil Profiling and Reporting, we would like to offer a further opportunity for parents to have their say. Please find attached a simple audit to gauge your views to help us shape our future system of reporting and profiling. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

This year's Pupil Reports will be issued to parents on Monday 18th June. Parents are invited to an open evening with children on Monday 25th June from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

CLASS ALLOCATIONS

Unfortunately due to increased numbers at the younger stages we will have to split the Primary 3 class next session. In line with Highland Council Policy, the younger children will remain with Mrs Convery, whilst the older pupils in Primary 3 will join Mrs Law in a composite P3-5 class. I will contact those who will be directly affected but will also be available to discuss others' concerns. In the meantime, I can now confirm classes for next session will be as follows:

Primary 1-3	Mrs Convery
Primary 3-5	Mrs Law
Primary 6-7	Mr Cain

TRANSITION WEEK

Plans are now in place for enhanced transitions to new classes. Primary 7 will attend Grantown Grammar School from **Monday 18th to Friday 22nd June 2018**. Further details will be issued soon. Other children will join their respective classes every day that week for part of the mornings.

4.5 DAY WEEK

Following the recent consultation on the 4.5 day week, we found 79% of parental responses were in favour of the proposal, whilst 18% voted against with 3% remaining neutral. A survey of pupils found 70% of pupils in favour and 30% against. At the last meeting with the Parent Council, it was unanimously agreed to stand by the majority decision, therefore I can now confirm we will be implementing the 4.5 day week next session. More details will follow shortly regarding the proposed length of days.

CLASS BLOGS AND NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

Remember more information including regular Class Blogs can now be found on our new school website: www.abernethyprimary.com

Please find a list of important dates for your diaries:

Bank Holiday:	Monday 7 th May
Spring Gathering:	Sunday 6 th May
Edinburgh Trip:	Tuesday 8 th to Friday 11 th May
Parent Assembly:	Friday 1 st June at 9am
School Reports Issued:	Monday 18 th June
Sports Day:	Monday 11 th June at 1.30pm
Parent Council 60's Night:	Saturday 16 th June
Transition Week:	Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd June
Parent Council Meeting:	Tuesday 19 th June at 6pm
Parents' Open Evening:	Monday 25 th June from 6-8pm
End of term Show:	Thursday 28 th June at 6.30pm
Church Service:	Friday 29 th June at 11.45am
End of Term:	Friday 29 th June at 12.30pm

Many thanks for your continuing support