

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Mon 16th April
Mon 23rd April
We 25th April
Fri 27th April
Mon 30th April
Wed 2nd & Thurs 3rd May
Fri 4th May

Mon 7th May
Wed 9th May

Tue 15th May
Tue 15th May
Fri 18th May
Fri 18th May
Sat 19th May
Mon 28th May
Tues 29th May
Thurs 31st May
Fri 1st June
Mon 4th June
Tues 5th June
Wed 6th June
Wed 6th June
Fri 8th June
Wed 13th June
Wed 13th & Thurs 14th June
Thurs 14th
Fri 15th June
Mon 18th June
Thurs 21st June
Fri 22nd June
Fri 22nd June
Mon 25th June
Tues 26th June
Wed 27th June
Thurs 28th June
Coureen Peters

Summer term begins
Homework Grids to go out
Cluster Football festival (WHS) 3-5pm
Home/School Learning Journal out
Parent Council Meeting 6pm
Pre-school stay and play /Open afternoon
P5s buddies to visit pre-school to meet their pre-school buddy
May Day Holiday
Pre school meeting buddies and having guided tour of school
P3 Sports Festival 10- 12noon
P3/4 class assembly 2.30—parents invited
Homework grids due in
P1 parents info meeting 2-3pm
Newtyle Summer Fair
In-service day 5
P7 rural schools induction day
Sports Afternoon 1-3.20pm
Pre-school visit to P1
Homework grids to go home
Diamond Jubilee day holiday
Curriculum afternoon
Garden Tour
Reports home
Move up afternoon
P7 induction days at Webster's
P7 parents night at Webster's
Home school learning Journals sent home
Health week (Olympic Theme)
Pre school visit to P1 class
Homework grid due in today
Pre school graduation 2.40pm
End of term Disco 7-8.30pm
P7 leavers assembly 2.15pm
Celebration assembly 2pm
END OF TERM 12noon

NEWTYLE SCHOOL and Pre-school



March 2012 Newsletter

Work together to be the best we can be.

Dear Parents/ Carers

Here we are at the end of what has been a very quick and busy term. We have been very lucky weather wise compared to this time last year and long may it continue, especially for holiday time!

Successes and Achievements

Scottish Country Dance Festival

Our Scottish Country dancers visited the Reid Hall in Forfar to take part in a morning of dancing. All schools showcased a dance this year and our given dance was Strip the Willow, which they all danced beautifully. Our dancers were all very enthusiastic and a fun morning was had by all.

Thanks to Mrs. Greenhill, Mrs. Sherriff and Mrs. Murray for coaching the children and thanks also to Mrs. Sherriff and Mrs. Sherriff (senior) who helped to transport the children.

Basketball Festival

Our basketball team attended the Angus Schools finals on Wednesday at Lochside Leisure Centre. They played very well but did not gain a place in the Tayside finals, however they were 4th equal overall in Angus, which is a great achievement. We are all very proud of their efforts! Thank you to Mrs Sherriff, Mrs McFadyen, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Christie who helped transport the children.

P7 Health Transition Days

P7 pupils attended two health transition days at Southmuir School and Websters High school. This was to support the transition process.

The pupils worked in mixed school groupings and as well as learning new skills, they made many new friends. Mrs Boath was impressed with how the children mixed with other children and reported that behaviour of the children was very good. An enjoyable day was had by all!

PRE SCHOOL NEWS

Pre school children have continued to experience shared learning with the P1 children in the shared class environment.

The topic has moved on to space and the children are exploring the many planets.

After the Easter holiday we will welcome Isaac into pre-school, bringing our number of children to 15. With many names being added to the waiting list the pre school looks forward to welcoming many new children in the summer term.

During the last week of term the children will be looking at the Easter story and how we celebrate Easter today.

In April we will be hoping to have parents/carers in to help their child choose a library book.

Our library day will remain a Friday and this experience will be offered at the beginning and end of the session.

Parent /Carers Comments

If you have any comments you wish to make, issues you would like to raise or success you would like to share please do so below and return the slip to school. We always value your feedback and suggestions.

Name _____ date _____

VIP (Very Important People) Committee Updates Pupil Council

The Pupil council decided that they would like to change the name 'Vertical groups' as they didn't think it was very exciting. We had a whole school vote at our 'Get Together' and the most popular choice was VIP Committees. This is because the children feel they have a very important role and help to improve our school.

The Pupil Council are continuing to update the successes and achievements book so please send in any success from home that you would like included in our journal.

ECO Committee

The Rag Bag is being collected on the 19th of April 2012. If you have any unwanted clothes, hats, bags, shoes, towels, curtains, etc., please send them to school in a black bag by the 19th April 2012. Thank you for your help and support.

Health Committee

The Health Committee have made up a timetable for Health Week, which begins on Monday 18th June. We have also been busy making posters to advertise the events which will take place that week. Our JRSOs are to be having a competition centred round road safety.

Literacy Leaders

The literacy group have recently organised a very successful book week. Authors Linda Strachan and James Robertson were very enthusiastically received by all children. We are now using strategies for imaginative writing that Linda worked on with P4-7 and have some very good results.

Gavin Hunter, librarian at Kirriemuir Library, entertained all classes with new books and again, some super pieces of writing have been produced by pupils following this.

The children also enjoyed watching Francesca Simon, author of Horrid Henry books, in a live web chat on World Book Day.

The book challenges are beginning to come in now and the literacy leaders on duty in the library are awarding stars to the children who have completed a challenge. The pupils who have completed four challenges by the end of term will receive a prize. These challenges will also begin again next term.

Curriculum Open Afternoon

On Wednesday 29th February we held a very successful open afternoon for parents, carers, family, friends and community members. The focus of this afternoon was to share the progress we are making with our School Improvement priorities. All classes demonstrated a aspect of Moving Image Education.(MIE) MIE is a motivating and enjoyable way of teaching literacy skills. It involves using aspects of film and ICT to enhance children's understanding of plot, setting and characters.

We also showcased our successes and achievements

- Mrs Marchant and the ICT club launched our school website. This contains useful school, curriculum and class information, and some of the children's successes and achievements. It can be accessed at www.newtyle.angus.sch.uk

Please have a look!

- We shared our Successes and Achievements journals
- All classes displayed homework grid activities and there was an opportunity for you to give us feedback regarding the changes we have made to homework.

We are so pleased with the excellent turnout we received. 80% of children were represented and we hope you all enjoyed finding out more about how Moving Image Education can support learning. It was lovely to hear parents requesting how they could access Kar2ouche at home. If you are interested then please go to www.immersiveeducation.eu/index.php/kar2oucpegp

Click on the parents tab, to download the form.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the audits to support our review of our homework policy which will be entitled 'Learning Out Of School' The results and follow up actions are as follows:

Pre-School

We had 4 responses out of a possible 13. The results of the audit and follow up actions are as follows:

Stars

- Inform us of child's behaviour
- Keep parents up to date
- Look after the kids well
- Make them happy
- Weekly library books
- Tyler Bear
- Occasional weekend homework/activities linked to learning topics in the class
- Providing variety for the children
- Communication is very good. It is nice to know what the children are doing so you can introduce conversation about it.

Wishes – Next steps for improvements:

- Help pick library books (parents to come in and help pick library books)
- Some school stuff home
- Show and tell sessions linked to classroom topics
- Excessive use of paper overwhelming – might be more economical and eco friendly to consider: improved layout of info sheet, email for people who are happy to get things in this way, avoid duplication when a sibling is in school and same letter is produced twice, return the info sheets so they can be reused again on the other side or return them for recycling

Action	When
Review homework (learning out of school) policy with all staff, the Pupil Council and a focus group of parents to recognise and celebrate learning out of school	End of March 2012
Invite parents into pre-school during library visit times so they can help their child pick a book	April 2012 Ongoing
Introduce show and tell sessions so children can bring things in from home related to the learning in pre-school	April 2012 - ongoing
Improve layout of weekly learning sheet to save paper – reduce this to A5	April 2012 - ongoing
Mrs Sherriff only to issue letters to eldest and only (this is standard practice so it might have just been an error that two copies of the same letter were received, however we will check this)	March 2012 - ongoing

Thank you for taking time to give us your feedback. Your views really help shape and improve our school and they will be used to inform our policy update.

UP AND COMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

School Lunch Increase from April 16th

The cost of school lunches is to increase to **£1.85 daily** from the start of the summer term. Lunches for the school week will now cost £9.25. There is also a new menu which has been sent home in the lunch wallets. If you did not receive one please get in touch with the school office.

Tesco Vouchers

We are again collecting Tesco vouchers for school. Please continue to collect these vouchers. Last year we managed to collect enough vouchers to buy new resources for every classroom.

Head Teacher Treat Morning

As part of our positive behaviour management policy the children work together to earn a head teacher treat morning by achieving a set amount of house points. The target set for this term was 2500 points and so far the children have achieved 2775 points therefore they will be taking part in a variety of fun activities in their house groups. This will take place on Friday 30th March and I am sure the children will enjoy this.

END OF TERM SERVICE

Our end of term service will be held in Newtyle Parish Church at 9.30am on Friday 30th March. We will be delighted to see parents, carers, family and friends from the community, so please join us.

School finishes at the normal time in the afternoon for our Spring Holiday. School resumes again on Monday 16th April.

Our Golden Board is filling up with children that have received a Head Teacher Good news Postcard. The most recent recipient are as follows:

Arran McFadyen P7 For being an all round excellent pupil.
Putting full effort into everything and behaviour and manners are impeccable

Aaron Barnett P6 For trying hard and putting full effort into all tasks

Lennox McHugh P4 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Carly Cameron P4 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Samuel Fisher P4 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Michaela Taylor P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Sarah Dallas P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Lewis Hackney P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Sophie Easton P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Elise Crighton P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Kristian Allison P3 For putting full effort into homework grid activities and presenting this confidently to the class

Sky Hayter P2 For trying hard with handwriting and letter formations

Primary

We had 9 responses out of a possible 34. The results of the audit and follow up actions are as follows:

Stars -Strengths of homework grids:

- Seeing her enjoy doing the projects
- Really enjoying them
- I like the variety and choice
- Good choice between activities and research work
- Makes learning fun
- Good to get parents involved
- She liked me seeing her homework grid
- Knowing what they have to do for homework weekly and monthly
- Having time to do their homework with the grid
- It encourages parents and children to work together
- There is a good variety of activities and tasks – most of which are fun as well as educational
- I think that the work produced is excellent
- The learning is fun and exciting
- There is good communication between the school and the parent
- The children receive a wide variety of tasks both within school and for homework
- I like the homework grid so you can do things with your child
- Variety of homework and a choice

Wishes – Next steps for improvements:

- More creativity for home
- No feedback on work handed in – perhaps they could be given an overall mark for their achievements depending on the amount of work put into it etc
- Keep it up

Action	When
Review homework policy with all staff, the Pupil Council and a focus group of parents to incorporate homework grids and recognise and celebrate learning out of school	End of March 2012
Ensure all children get the opportunity to showcase their work to the class. Work to be displayed on homework board and worktops (models etc) in the classroom. Homework boards to be updated for each new homework grid.	March 2012 Ongoing
Children to receive verbal feedback from their teacher and star and a wish formative feedback from the children.	April 2012 - ongoing
Teachers to award house points to recognise effort. HT postcards to be sent home to recognise exceptional effort.	February 2012 - Ongoing

Thank you for taking time to give us your feedback. Your views really help shape and improve our school and they will be used to inform our policy update.

Pre School and P1 Sport Event with Eassie

On Friday 2nd March our Pre-school and P1 children took part in a fun afternoon of games with Gavin Forrester our Active Schools Co-ordinator. To support transition the children from Eassie School joined our school. Our P7 children helped to lead workshops confidently and enthusiastically. Thank you to P7 and well done to everyone who took part.

Newtyle Hockey Team

Our hockey team invited Glamis hockey team to take part in a friendly match in our school hall. The event was very successful and our team played really well. It was a super opportunity for our children to make friends with Glamis children which supports a positive transition to High School. Well done everyone and thank you to Mrs Mappin for organising this and coaching our team.

Parent/Carers Evening

Many thanks to all parents/carers who attended parent / carers contact meetings. The turnout was 96% which is very encouraging. If any could not manage to attend at the allotted time then please give the office a ring to arrange an alternative appointment. Thank you to Ryan Coupar, Rebecca Quirie, Jamie Douglas, Beth Christie and Shannon Fraser for coming back to welcome parents and carers, and sharing our successes and achievements.

P1/2 and P5/7 Class Assemblies

This term P1/2 led a very successful assembly for our whole school community to showcase their learning of time, months and seasons. The children performed confidently and enjoyed the experience.

P5/7 also led a very successful assembly for our school community to showcase their learning of WW2. It was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

Homework Policy Review

On Friday 9th March a group of parents including representatives from all stages (pre-school to P7) worked with myself and Mrs Mappin to review and discuss a draft version of our new homework policy. This will now be called 'Learning Out Of School' to support the link between learning in and out of school, and celebrate wider achievements. It was very useful receiving comments and suggestions from the group and this helped shape our final policy. Our policy was on display at Parents/Carer meetings, a copy is also in the folder in our reception area and a copy will be placed on the website shortly. However if you wish a paper copy then please just fill in the comments slip on this newsletter and return it to school and we will get one sent out to you.

Thank you to Mrs Steel, Mr Coupar, Mrs Hackney, Mrs Crighton, Miss Cameron, Mrs Ip and Miss Lynch for being part of this group. We really appreciate your views and feedback, working together helps us be the best we can be.

Book Week prize winners

All children participated enthusiastically in our Book Week Competitions.

The winners are as follows:

Designing a Bookmark—Aaron Barnett, Amanda-Leigh Hay, Andrew Ross, Fearn Crighton and Steven Ip.

Fancy Dress—Beth Christie, Kane Alison, Kristian Allison, Frankie Kennedy, Carly Cameron, Lucy Hackney, Helen Steel and Cameron Taylor.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!!!

Earth Hour

Today between 2 and 3pm we switched off all electrical equipment in the school to save energy in support of Earth Hour. Mrs Sherriff and the children struggled without access to computers, however we have discovered that paper and pencils do the same job!!!!