



### Dates for your diary

26.11.11	Christmas Craft Fundraiser
28 & 29 11.11	Inservice Days
30.11.11	St Andrews Day Holiday
26.11.11	Christmas Craft Fundraiser 11-1pm
07& 08.12.11	Pre-School Stay and Play 12.45pm onwards
09.12. 11	P1-4 Christmas Party
13.12.11	Christmas Lunch
14.12.11	Christmas Nativity 2pm and 7pm
15.12.11	Pre-school nativity
16.12.11	Pre-school/P1/2 Christmas party 2.30pm
19.12.11	P5-6 Christmas Party
19.12.11	Christmas Disco 6.30-8pm
20.12.11	M&M Theatre visit 9.15am
21.12.11	End of term 12noon.

# NEWTYLE SCHOOL

*Work together to be the best we can be.*



## Newsletter November 11

Dear Parents/Carers,

*I can hardly believe we are mid-way through the Christmas term. As always Christmas is an exciting and busy time in school. We have planned several events to celebrate the festivities and I hope this newsletter will keep you informed.*

### **INFORMATION SHARING**

#### ***Emergency Weather Arrangements***

In the event of snow, decisions to close or keep Newtyle School open prior to the school day will be posted to the Angus Council web site ([www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)) on the "School Status" page.

If a decision has been taken the previous day, information will also be available on Tay Connect (0844 855 1724) and/or Angus Council's ACCESSline (08452 777 778) and will also be broadcast on Radio Tay (Tay AM MW 1161/1584 KHz or Tay FM 102.8/96.4 MHz) when available.

If a decision is made to close school during the course of the day we will inform parents by text message to the main contacts mobile phone, where possible to collect children. **Please ensure all emergency contacts and mobile numbers are up to date.**

#### ***Clothing For Winter***

At this time of year the children love to get outside in the playground and play in the snow, if we get any!! Can you therefore please ensure children come suitably dressed in cosy clothes, a waterproof jacket with hood, hat, gloves, and waterproof footwear. As the children may get wet please send a spare pair of socks and trousers or jogging trousers that the children can change into if they do get wet and cold. I would also like to remind parents that we do not allow snowball throwing in the playground due to health and safety reasons.

#### ***P1 Enrolment***

Letters will no longer be sent from Angus Council Headquarters to inform you of entry to P1. There will now be a **1 week only registration period in school between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012**. Please drop into the office during this week and Mrs Sherriff will provide you with the registration forms.

# Christmas Fayre

Sat. 26th November.

11-1pm in



Newtyle School hall.



Christmas crafts, Stained glass,

Cards, Toys, Candles,  
Jewellery, Star Rock Shop.

Bodyshop, Country Clothing,  
raffle, lucky dip and lots, more.

*Entry £2. for adults and 50p for children.*

*Including refreshments.*

Come along and enjoy Christmas shopping on your  
doorstep!



### **Christmas Pantomime**

M and M theatre company are visiting school on the morning off Tuesday 20th December to perform Jack and the beanstalk. This will be for P1-7 pupils.

The Parent Council are subsidising the cost of this Christmas treat and therefore there will only be a cost of £3 per pupil.

School will provide a choc ice for the children during the pantomime. The children thoroughly enjoyed this last year and I am sure they will do again!

### **P5-7 Class Assembly Postponed**

Please note that we have decided to postpone the P5-7 class assembly due to take place on Monday 5th December until next term. This is due to all the Christmas festivities. I hope this doesn't cause you any inconvenience and we will notify you of the date decided soon.

## **SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### ***Sponsored Dance***

We managed to raise a grand total of £ 608. This has allowed us to purchase Education City to support learning and teaching. Thank you to all who contributed to this. We presented prizes at a recent Get Together to the 'Fantastic Fundraisers' in each class as follows:

P1/2: Fearne Crighton managed to raise £ 31.00

P3/4: Carly Cameron managed to raise £ 50.00

P5-7: Jack Forrester managed to raise £ 103.00

### ***Cycling Proficiency***

Last term, children in P7 were practicing weekly for their Cycling Training with Mrs Sherriff. PC Gove and Mrs Sherriff tested them on Wednesday 28th September and all the P7s who sat the practical and theory test have passed. PC Grove commended the children and said it was the highest standard she had seen at Newtyle.

Well done to everyone and thanks to Mrs Sherriff for all her effort in teaching the children.

P7 children are now allowed to cycle to school but they must complete a permit for this. Mrs Sherriff will provide the form. Children should also dismount their bikes at the gates at the top of Dunarn Street and walk their bikes up the path to school. Similarly on the way home the children may only mount their bikes once they are on Dunarn Street.

### ***P5-7 Trip to Forfar Mart***

P5-7 visited Forfar Mart on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. They learned about food, farming and machinery in our local area and where our food comes from. The children enthusiastically participated in all activities including a mock auction, and milking a mock cow!! However I think the favourite activity was getting to explore the machinery. Thank you to Mrs Hayter for supporting on this day.

### ***CLUB Festival - Friday 11th November***

Mrs Greenhill accompanied P4 and P5 children to the Club Festival event at Lochside Leisure Centre in Forfar. The children took part in a variety of team based games with cluster schools. A fun morning was had by all!

### ***Children in Need Day. Friday 18th November***

Today we had a special themed day of spots and/or stripes, and bad hair to raise funds for Children in Need. Thank you to all children for participating so enthusiastically.

## Parents Evening

Many thanks to all parents who attended parent contact meetings. The turn out was 98% which is very encouraging and thank you for taking time to view our workshops on Curriculum for Excellence, homework and community engagement audit. We had 15 responses out of a possible 42. The results of the audit and follow up actions are as follows:

### STRENGTHS

#### Links with/supporting our community:

- Encouraging visitors into school e.g. Zoolab, Police etc
- Fundraising – Summer and Christmas Fayre
- All children participating in flower show
- The Christmas play is always fantastic
- Encouraging sports and after school activities
- Encouraging children to take part in village activities (e.g. Autumn Fayre – children enjoyed this)

#### Communication and involving parents/carers in children's learning:

- Communicate well with parents
- Communicate accidents with parents
- Keep parents up to date with changes/events within the school x 2
- Letters and correspondence
- Dealing with any problems that arise promptly and efficiently x 2
- Communicate well with parents regarding their child's progress
- Informing parents/carers of what children are participating in whilst in class and giving ideas of how we can assist at home

#### Ethos and environment:

- Children all enjoy school so that's a plus
- Provide a stimulating learning environment
- Provide a positive atmosphere for the pupils and parents
- Praise and reward the children for good efforts and behaviour
- The school lunches are great

#### Learning and teaching:

- Encourage the children to do well
- Helping the children grow as individuals
- Take the time to understand each child's needs
- Encourage children in areas they do particularly well

## P3-7 Christmas Show

P3-7 have started learning lines and songs for their Christmas Show – Countdown to Christmas. This is taking place on the afternoon of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and again at 7pm. A letter will be sent out nearer the time regarding tickets. We will be having a raffle during both performances and any donations would be most welcome.

As we are having an early lunch, home lunches will be home at 12noon and return to school for 1pm

### *Pre-school and P1/2 Nativity*

Pre-school and P1/2 have started learning songs for their Christmas Nativity. This is taking place on the afternoon of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30 pm. A letter will be sent out nearer the time regarding tickets.

### *Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 13th December 12noon*

Our Christmas Lunch is always a very festive occasion. We hope all children will join in on Tuesday 13th December as we pull crackers, eat lots of Christmas goodies and listen to Christmas songs. Parents are reminded that if your children are home lunches they will be home at 12noon instead of the usual time.

### *Christmas Parties*

Pre-school Christmas party will be on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at 1.15pm.

P1 - 4 Christmas party will be on **Friday 9th December** in the afternoon. Children can bring party clothes to change into at lunch time. There will be a charge of 50p to cover the cost of party food.

P5 - 7 Christmas party will be on **Monday 19th December** and again children can bring their clothes to change into at lunchtime — although I know many children like to go home to change for these events.

### *Christmas Disco*

Our Parent Council have planned a Christmas Disco for P1– 7 pupils to help raise funds for school. The disco will take place on Monday 19th December at 6.30pm in the school hall. Children should enter using the Community Education door. (not the main school door).

The disco will cost £2 and children can bring spending money as snacks and drinks will be available to buy.

The disco will end at 8.00pm and children should be collected by an adult. It will be a fun night with lots of dancing games and prizes!

## **NURSERY NEWS**

### ***Dark Event***

The pre-school took part in an event with four other early years settings.

The Fun Dark Event on 4th November focused on Life in the Dark. One station had the fire fighters with an opportunity to examine the fire engine. The fire fighters spoke about keeping safe especially on Bonfire night. Another station included the JRSO's who helped us understand more about road safety and how we should wear reflective clothing in the dark. Carolyn and Susanne from Co-operative (funeral care) Dundee provided reflective jackets for us to keep. The fourth station provided us with experiences of listening to the story of the owl babies and exploring their habitat.

A busy fun filled morning was enjoyed by all!

### ***Nativity***

The children will soon be preparing for a Nativity play with the iP1/2class. The date of this event is Thursday 15th December. Look out for the song words coming home. Please help and encourage your child to learn them.

### ***Stay and Play***

The next Stay and Play day is on Wednesday 7th or Thursday 8th December. We will be busy decorating the class for Christmas. We hope to see you there.

## **Up and Coming Events**

### ***Christmas Fayre***

Our Christmas Fayre fundraiser is **taking place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November between 11am and 1 pm**. An advertisement for this is included in this newsletter, indicating the products that will be on offer. We would greatly appreciate any raffle donations and donations of old toys that we can sell on the day. You may hand these into school now and we will store them. Some of our Parent Council members are helping to support us on the day but if you are able to also support us by helping sell raffles, serve teas etc please contact Mrs Sherriff as any volunteers are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there and hope to get a really good turn out

### ***Inservice Training Days and St Andrew's Holiday***

The school will be closed to children on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. The staff will be taking part in First Steps in Number and Moving Image Education training to help us continue to improve learning and teaching in Numeracy, maths and literacy. The school will be closed to staff and children on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November for Saint Andrew's Day.

## **WISHES**

### **Communication more widely in local community:**

Advertise events in church magazine and shop  
When events are on e.g. Fayres, perhaps more advertising to attempt for better turnout e.g. flyers through doors  
Advertise community clubs etc in school newsletter to encourage children to take part, if the school supports them then they in turn support the school  
Ask them if they would like to volunteer in helping out at things

### **Extra Curricular:**

More social events for the children outside of school  
More physical activities with the children after school  
More activities like Fairs and sports days

### **Community involvement/links/support:**

You could organise an open evening or a fund raising play open to the community  
Keep going with the flower show  
Help or encourage children to help the elderly in snowy weather  
Involve children in community planning activities  
None x 4

## **Follow up Actions**

- Advertise events more widely by putting posters in local shops and getting the children to post flyers through letter boxes – November 2011, ongoing
- Find out more information regarding clubs in the community and advertise these in our school newsletter – January 2012, ongoing
- Continue to seek parental and community volunteers to help with after school activities (our Active Schools Coordinator, Gavin Forrester tried to gather interest for this at our Meet the Teacher event but only managed to get 1 volunteer, however we will keep trying) – Ongoing
- Continue to take part in the annual Newtyle Flower Show – August 2012
- Discuss helpfulness in the community at a Get Together and come up with a list of ways in which children can help in the community e.g. clearing snow, and celebrate these good deeds in school and in the wider/outside achievement section of home/school learning journals – December 2011
- Organise a joint fundraiser between the Church and school e.g. Beetle Drive or Bingo Tea

*Thank you for taking time to give us your feedback. Your views really help shape and improve our school.*

## **Successes and Achievements**

### **P7 Responsibilities**

Our P7 children are supporting and taking on a range of responsibilities from recording the lunches during smart start and leading parents evening workshops. They are doing these tasks competently and are gaining life skills such as communication in doing so. At our recent Dark Event P7 supported the pre-school and P1 children at a range of workshops. An Auchterhouse parent made special mention of Kane Alison and Arran McFadyen and wanted us to commend the boys for how well they engaged and supported the children. We are proud of their efforts and they are good role models for our younger children. Keep up the good work P7!!

### **Pupil Council**

The Pupil Council had a visit from Mrs Balfour (Tayside Contracts) and Mrs Hunter, our school cook to discuss school lunches. The ladies shared information on how they make up menus based on the Eatwell plate to ensure all children are getting a balanced and healthy lunch. The children also provided feedback on what they like and don't like to help shape future menus.

This term the Pupil Council are continuing to collate a Successes and Achievements book to share success from outside school. If your child has received recognition, a medal or certificate for anything out with school please sent this in so we can get a photograph for our book.

### **Eco Committee**

The Eco group has come up with three different areas to help improve the school. They are water, litter and waste minimisation. They will spend time learning about and improving these areas in our school.

### **Health Committee**

The health group have been very busy this term preparing for the health Accreditation visit on 23/11/11. The children have been creating a book highlighting the Success and Achievements of the Health group during 2010/2011. We have also prepared a powerpoint which the children will present to the visitors on 23rd November.

The classes have been making posters to remind all the children some of the key health messages. E.g. Eat five fruit and vegetables a day, drink plenty of water and always wash your hands before eating. These will be displayed around the school.

### **Literacy Committee**

We have been tidying up the Library and have been researching authors on the Scottish Book trust website in the hope an author can visit school during book week.

## **Head Teacher Good News Postcards**

As part of our revised positive behaviour management policy we have included Head Teacher Good News postcards that are posted to parents/carers to share exceptional successes or consistently good behaviour, attitude and manners with parents. To date the following children have received a postcard:

Katie Hutchison, P2 – Working well in class and helpful towards staff and children

Rachel Coupar, P4 – Working very well on all tasks and exceptional behaviour

Kieran Hay, P5 – Working very well on all tasks in class

Rebecca Quirie, P7 – Very helpful in the playground and caring towards younger children

Shannon Fraser, P7 – Working very well in class and helpful towards all staff and children

We have made a 'Golden Board' display of these children in school to celebrate their achievements and I look forward to sending out more postcards for children's successes and achievements.

### **Parent/Carer Comment**

If you have any comments you wish to make, issues you would like to raise or success you would like to celebrate please do so below and return the slip to school.

*We value your feed back*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_