

DESHAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

August 2018 Newsletter

We hope you have enjoyed a lovely long summer holiday and are feeling rested and refreshed for the term ahead. A warm welcome to our three new Primary 1 pupils, Aaron, Harry and Maisie, looking very smart in their new school uniforms.



A huge thanks to Andrew McEwan for making us a new picnic bench for our playground. Andrew has kindly donated this to the school and we thank him for his incredible generosity.

PRIMARY 1

Primary 1 children will attend school from **9.00am-12.30pm** during their first week.

During their second week they will attend from **9.00am-1.20pm**, allowing them to stay for school lunch. Children are entitled to a free school meal and these can be ordered daily from Elaine, our Cook.

From Week three children will attend school from **9.00am-2.55pm** on Monday–Thursday and from **9.00am-12.40pm** on Fridays.

These hours are planned to support children in a staged transition from nursery to primary school. Parents and Carers are welcome to come in to school with children in the first few weeks to help them settle in to their new routines. Thereafter, we encourage children to come in to school themselves and to line up with their class. We thank you for your support with this.

NURSERY

Our nursery is now full to capacity but we are hoping to have work completed in school by January to allow for more places. In the longer term, Highland Council are working closely with the community group, 'All aboard for Deshar Nursery' who are fundraising for a new building to meet the future needs of families in Boat of Garten. This represents a huge commitment to Deshar Primary and we are very grateful for their vision and support. More information will be issued about this in due course. In the meantime, Smartie Tubes of 20p can be handed in to the school, Post Office or to Jo Calder on 831 202.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY

We'd like to remind parents about the change to school hours this session. The new school day will be from **9.00am–2.55pm for Primary 1-3** and **9.00am–3.30pm for Primary 4–7** from Monday to Thursday. Fridays will be **from 9.00am–12.40pm for Primary 1–7**, allowing all children to finish at the same time. Lunch will still be available for children on Fridays, and children should order from Elaine as normal.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Can we remind parents that clothing grants and free school meals applications should be made online via the Highland Council website.

A reminder also to write children's names clearly on clothing labels and on the inside of shoes. Many thanks.

YEAR OF THE OSPREY

Deshar Primary has been invited to take part in the Boat of Garten Year of the Osprey event organised by Louise Wyllie on behalf of the Community Company. This is an exciting opportunity for our pupils to take part in a community event which complements our weekly forest school activities. In preparation we will be taking part in story writing, poetry, singing, art and dance workshops with visiting artists. The event will take place on Saturday 15th September and it would be great to have as many children take part as possible. More details will follow with permission slips to confirm whether your child can participate.

SWIMMING

Primary 4 and 5 will have swimming lessons at the Craig Maclean Centre every week beginning Tuesday 28th August. They will have 6 sessions this term which will be followed up later in the year.

LAGGANLIA

Primary 6 pupils will join pupils from Abernethy and Carrbridge for a residential trip to Lagganlia Outdoor Centre from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st September. More details will be issued shortly.

PUPIL PROFILES

Following consultation with parents last term we will be piloting our new pupil profiles this session. These will be shared initially at our next parents' evening in October where parents will be invited to add their comments/voice.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

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| Term Dates: | Tuesday 21 st August – Friday 12 th October 2018 |
| In-service days: | Monday 17 th and Tuesday 18 th September |
| School Assembly: | Friday 28 th September at 9am |
| Parents' Evening and new Pupil profiles: | Tuesday 2nd October |

A full calendar of all Highland Council School Term Dates is available at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school_term_dates

SCHOOL AIMS

We have recently reviewed our school aims to more accurately reflect our school's core values. Please take time to read our vision statements. As always, your feedback is welcome.

School Vision, Values and Aims:

Vision: Exploring and Learning Together



Values: Explore, Discover, Respect, Enjoy.

At Deshar Primary School we aim:

To be a happy, safe, secure and nurturing school.

To provide a broad, balanced, challenging and creative curriculum.

To encourage collaborative learning and provide opportunities for discovery and exploration through active participation.

To continue to build relationships with parents and the wider community and to develop a culture that respects inclusion and equality.

To respect and celebrate differences, giving children ownership of their life-long learning and skills.

Comments/Feedback

Thank you for your continuing support