

DESHAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

January/February 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As always at the beginning of the New Year we take time to reflect on resolutions and this year has been no exception. The Pupil Council have been seeking views from pupils and have now prioritised areas of work for this term. They would like to move forward with planned improvements to the playground although they believe more care should be taken over equipment before new games and resources are purchased. The children are to be congratulated for their responsible attitude.

As a result of discussions, we agreed to look at the Positive Behaviour Policy and to conduct a survey of pupils on perceived attitudes and behaviour in school. This is at the early stages, but results will be shared in due course.

PUPIL SAFETY

As always, children's safety is paramount at Deshar. With this in mind, we welcomed Constable Neil Mclver to classes to reinforce important safety messages. Neil will be returning to deliver other safety workshops throughout the session.

In the meantime, can we remind parents and children to take special care at the beginning and end of the day in the school's car park.

STUDENT PLACEMENT

Student Teacher, Rachel Edwards joins us at Deshar for a 5 week placement, working with Primary 4-7 whilst Primary 1-3 are enjoying a weekly visit from a High School pupil who is completing work experience at Deshar.

STAFFING

We have been very fortunate to acquire additional Pupil Support hours this session and have been using these to focus on raising attainment in numeracy and literacy. Mrs Thurlbeck has been joining P1-3 for these lessons and her support is greatly valued. This means a change in manned office hours with cover now in the morning from 9.00-9.30am and in the afternoons. Friday morning will be manned until lunchtime. We thank you for your support with these changes. A message can be left on the phone or with staff out-with these hours.

NURSERY

The nursery children are enjoying the additional space following the approval of work by the Care Inspectorate. We now have the capacity for 16 children which came just in time for our January intake!



READY STEADY COOK

Children have been busy working on developing skills for lifelong learning. Children from the Nursery to P7 enjoyed working collaboratively to prepare, cook and eat some delicious Chinese vegetable noodles.



ESAFETY INFORMATION EVENING

An information evening for parents on internet safety was held recently at Grantown Grammar School. With the rollout of chrome books for all P4-7 children it is important to reinforce important online safety messages. We ask parents to support us with this by ensuring parental controls are in place and checking games for children are age appropriate. The school has adopted Highland Council's Digital E-safety Policy and are following the Footsteps Digital Citizenship programme. More information is available on request. Meanwhile please take time to read the Digital Parenting Booklet issued with this newsletter.

SKIING

Primary 6/7 will take part in the Snow Sports Programme this term where they will have the choice of instruction in snowboarding or skiing. Lessons begin on Wednesday 6th March for 4 consecutive weeks. Thanks to BSSSA for organising these lessons and to the Parent Council for their support with funding.

SWIMMING

Swimming lessons resume this term for P4/5. Children are reminded to bring their swimming costumes to school every Tuesday.

FEIS SPE

We enjoyed a performance this week from Sandra, Charlie and Calum from Feis Spe. They are encouraging children to join them at their music day which is being held in the Aviemore Community Centre on Saturday 23rd February. Feis Spe also provide weekly guitar and fiddle tuition in Aviemore. More information can be found on www.feisspe.org.uk

BOREALIS

Lorraine Hemmings from Borealis Theatre Arts has been working with the nursery children exploring drama and creative arts through storytelling. Thanks again to the Parent Council for funding this series of workshops.

CITIZENSHIP

Mairi Brown from **Voluntary Action in Badenoch and Strathspey** is returning to Deshar to introduce the Young Volunteers Awards to the Primary 7 pupils. We will be encouraging the children to volunteer at home and in the community to build up the hours required to earn these awards.

ROTARY QUIZ

Deshar Primary will be entering a team in the annual Rotary Club Quiz. This will take place at the MacDonald Resort in Aviemore on Tuesday 26th February at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Pupils and parents are invited along to support our school team.

EDINBURGH TRIP

The Primary 7 annual trip to Edinburgh has been booked for Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th May. Carrbridge will be joining Abernethy and Deshar for the first time and Mrs Bootle, Ms Carol MacDonald and Mrs Lake look forward to accompanying the children for 3 nights at the Central Youth Hostel.

ASSEMBLIES

Parents are most welcome to join us as we celebrate numeracy at our whole school assembly on Thursday 7th March at 2.15pm. We look forward to meeting parents, family and friends and invite you to stay for refreshments at the end.

NUMERACY INFORMATION EVENING

Parents are invited to respective classes for drop-in sessions between 6.00pm-8.00pm on Tuesday 12th March. The focus will be on how we teach numeracy and maths and information will be shared with regard to experiences and outcomes at various levels. Parents will have the opportunity to look at children's work and to ask questions.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Following a survey of parents the overwhelming desire was to continue with school lunches on Fridays. Thank you for your responses and thanks to Elaine for providing such lovely school lunches.

HOUSEKEEPING

- A quick reminder to parents to check children's hair on a regular basis. A leaflet is enclosed for more information.
- Can we kindly request that children arrive promptly in the morning for a 9.00am start. Thank you for your support with this.
- To support parents we are investigating the possibility of cover for children from 2.55pm-3.30pm. More details will follow in due course.

COMMUNICATION

Our new school website is now available at desharprimary.com Special thanks to Nancy Chambers for the photographs and to Roseannagh McEwan for setting up and managing our new facebook account, Deshar Primary School, Parent Council. **Class Blogs** can now be accessed on the school website and we will endeavour to update these weekly.

CALENDAR DATES

Nursery enrolment:	Week beginning Monday 25 th February
February mid-term holiday:	Monday 18 th and Tuesday 19 th February
February Inset (staff training):	Wednesday 20 th February
Rotary Quiz:	Tuesday 26 th February at 6.30pm
Assembly dates:	Thursday 7 th March at 2.15pm
Numeracy Information Evening:	Tuesday 12 th March from 6.00pm-8.00pm
P6/7 Skiing:	4 sessions starting from Wednesday 6 th March
Last day of term:	Friday 5 th April
First day of summer term:	Tuesday 23 rd April

A full calendar of all Highland Council School Term Dates is available at <http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/32/school-term-dates>

