

DESHAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2018 Newsletter

Welcome back to a very busy term. With Christmas fast approaching, it would be wise to put the party, lunch, pantomime and show dates in diaries. Please take a note of important dates at the end of this newsletter.

BONFIRE NIGHT



The beginning of term started with a **BANG** with our annual Bonfire and Fireworks night. Thanks to all parents and members of the community who helped to make this such a great success. Special thanks go to the new Parent Council who stepped in at short notice to make all the necessary arrangements. Despite the weather, there was a fantastic turnout, raising approximately £1600 for school funds.

HALLOWEEN FUN



There was some spooky goings on at school on Halloween. Children came dressed in their costumes for a day's creativity, experiments and fun.

CARE INSPECTION

Following a visit from the Care Inspectorate in September, the quality of care and support in nursery was found to be Good and the quality of management and leadership Very Good. The report recognised the welcoming and nurturing ethos in the nursery where children were cared for by nursery staff who knew them well. Outdoor play was highlighted as a strength as was our forest school experience which allows children to work alongside their older peers, siblings and teaching staff. It was recommended that the structure of the nursery day should be reviewed to allow for longer periods of uninterrupted play and we were advised to make snack time a seamless part of the nursery session to allow for this. The Care Inspectorate is confident in the ability of the staff and management team to meet the areas of improvement outlined. A copy of the full report is on display in school for your information.

NURSERY UPDATE

Unfortunately the nursery upgrade did not go ahead during the October holidays. Plans for improvement are continuing and it is hoped work will commence soon.

BOOK BUG EVENT AND ASSEMBLY: **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE**

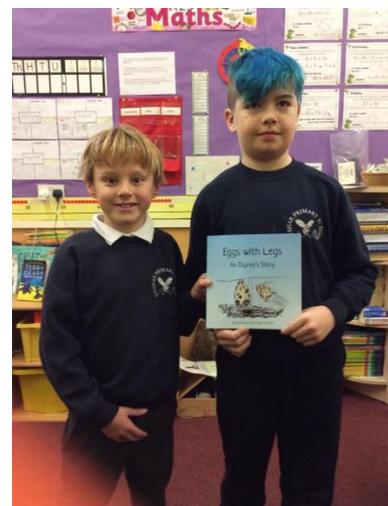
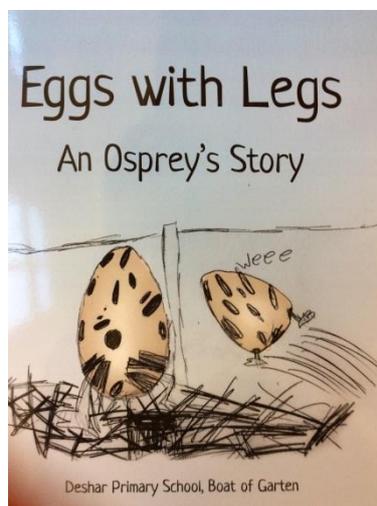
Our next parent assembly will be held on **Friday 30th November at 9.15am**. Our assembly will have a literacy focus and afterwards parents are invited into classrooms to observe literacy activities and to look at learning journals. We hope this will give you a fuller understanding of how we teach literacy at different stages of the school. Primary 4-7 will offer refreshments in the canteen following assembly.

FOREST SCHOOLS

To make the most of support staff for literacy and numeracy, we have made the decision to change our Forest Schools programme to Friday mornings. Please ensure children come equipped with warm clothing for outdoor activities.

OUR OSPREY STORY

Our book, Eggs with Legs, An Osprey's Story has now been published and is a cause for great excitement. The story was written and illustrated by Deshar Primary 4-7 pupils as part of the Year of the Osprey event. They are available in local shops or can be purchased from school at a cost of £5.00.



Congratulations to Dylan McFadyen who won a pair of binoculars for his design for the cover of our book. Mr Marshall presented Dylan with his prize on behalf of the RSPB.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, our local schools joined together to create a beautiful cascade of poppies to display at Inverallan Church, Grantown. The poppies included poignant messages of hope and remembrance from all our children.



Thank you to Tilly Finlayson, Josie O’Kane and Emma Stephenson who represented the school at Boat of Garten Church and Memorial Service.

PARENT COUNCIL

There was a good turnout at our last Parent Council meeting and a new committee was established. Harriet Bettoli was elected as Chairperson, Morgan Hutchison as Secretary and Nick March retained the role of Treasurer. We thank them for taking on the office bearers roles at short notice. Thanks to all parents for their hard work which meant our bonfire and fireworks night was able to go ahead as planned.

PUPIL COUNCIL

The Pupil Council will soon meet to order their new playground equipment. Thanks to the Parent Council for their kind support and generosity.

PANTOMIME

We have booked the pantomime, Aladdin for Monday 3rd December. The whole school and nursery will travel by bus to the Macdonald Centre, Aviemore in the morning, returning to school at 1pm. **Nursery parents**, please note the later pick up time that day. More information and permission slips will be issued in due course.

MR WALKER

Rev Donald Walker is retiring on Friday 16th November. We thank him for his friendship and involvement with our school over the years and wish him all the very best in his retirement. Abernethy and Deshar Schools will present him with a joint gift of thanks.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Initial consultations with regard to **Grab and Go** lunch bags or a **School Meal** are showing a preference for hot school meals. Comments are still welcome before a final decision is made.

We'd like to draw your attention to the change in menu over the winter months. Children still have the option of a two course lunch. They can choose soup and a main course or a main course and pudding. Puddings consist of a choice of fruit and yoghurts.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

An order form with prices for school photographs and accessories was recently sent home. Nancy Chambers will now be available in school on the morning of Friday 16th and Monday 19th November to allow parents to look at digital copies before placing orders. Please contact the school should you wish to book a time with Nancy. We thank Nancy for her support and her generous offer to donate profits to school funds.

SICKNESS BUGS

Please note: following a sickness bug children should not return to school for at least 48 hours. This is to avoid the bug spreading further. Many thanks for your support with this.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Parent Assembly:	Friday 30 th November
Parents' open morning:	Friday 30 th November
Sharing Learning Journals:	Friday 30 th November
Christmas Pantomime:	Monday 3 rd December
Christmas Show:	Wednesday 19 th December at 6.30pm
Christmas Party and Lunch:	Thursday 20 th December
Last day of term:	Friday 21st December
First day of new term:	Mon 7 th January

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