

## September 2018 Newsletter – 3<sup>rd</sup> September



### **WELCOME BACK!**

We have now been back a couple of weeks, and the children have settled into their new classes and our Nursery and Primary 1 Pupils start their full sessions at school this week. I look forward to working with the children, parents and staff at Drumoak for another exciting and productive year. We have 119 pupils and welcome 22 pupils into Primary 1. Our Primary 1 pupils are: Daniel, Arianna, Ross, Megan, Andrew, Oli, Archie, Devon, Jay, Aidan, Euan, Josh, Billy, Nicole, Taylor, Jorge, Jessica, Archie, Ruby, Kitty, Nathaira and Lucy.

We welcome our new Nursery pupils: Lewis McP, Lachlan, Lewis W, Alfie, Roddy, Ella, Merida, Ava and Ethan – and we hope to enjoy working with these children and your families.

We also welcome a couple of new families: the Nicolson family with Ethan joining in Primary 6 and the Dufton family with Aedan joining our Primary 7 stage.

**School website** – We are updating our school website and ensuring it is kept up-to-date with relevant information including newsletters, curriculum booklets, minutes of school council meetings and other relevant information. Please have a look at it and use it as an access point for information.

<http://drumoak.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

### **Staff**

Mrs Claire Stutter and Miss Bethany Smith have joined our teaching staff this session. Mrs Stutter will be job sharing with Mrs Greive. She will teach Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Smith will have our Primary 3 class for four days a week with Mrs Thomas teaching the class on a Wednesday.

Our Specialists this term are Madame Canessa on Mondays for French, Mrs Jardine for Drama on Tuesdays and Mr Witt for P.E. on Thursdays.

We welcome Andrea Paterson, a Post Grad student to start her teaching training with our Primary 7 class on **Monday 17 September**. She will be with us for two weeks and then return later in the year.

### **Additional Support Needs**

At our school we try to maximise the resources that we have to support children who have require more individual time. This session we have Mrs McNay every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We have a scheduled timetable.


The Scottish Government has given us an additional source of money called the PEF (Pupil Equity Fund). This will be used to provide a number of children with small group support in building confidence. Also Mrs Bradley will be working an extra couple of hours a week to provide small group support in Literacy and Numeracy.

We want to make sure that you are aware of the additional support that your child is getting so we are issuing letters to inform you of our intentions. If you receive a letter this week please return and if you require any further information please contact the School Office.

## **Events:**

### **Primary One Curriculum Evening**

On **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September** we will hold our Primary one curriculum evening at **6pm** in the school. All primary one parents are invited.



**DRUMOAK SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!**

**Drumoak School Council invites all parents to the AGM on Tuesday 11th September, 7.00pm in the GP Room. There will be a presentation about the year ahead. Refreshments will be served.**

The School Council is looking for new members this year to assist in the running of our council. Your contribution is appreciated.

The Council meet six/seven times a year. Meetings tend to last between 60 to 90 minutes. It is a useful forum to find out and provide input about the whole school. Every year, amongst its other activities, the Council raises much-needed funds that are used to subsidise your children's educational trips and school experiences.

### **Friday 14 September – Sharing the Learning (celebrating Maths week)**

You are invited to visit the school at 2.30 pm to participate in a number of maths activities with your child. It will be also an opportunity to visit classes and find out about the maths curriculum.

### **Nursery Curriculum meeting**

A meeting about the nursery will be held on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm**. This meeting will provide information about the activities and curriculum. All nursery families are invited to attend.

### **School Photographs**

Logan from Deeside Photographics will be taking photographs of the main school pupils and families on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. There is an accompanying letter for you to complete. Nursery photos and group photos will be taken in May.

## **Residential Trip meeting**

We thought it would be a good idea to bring forward the residential trip meeting to provide information about the trip before paying a deposit. We will be hosting this meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm. Our residential trip will be at the Compass Centre from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and we invite Primary 6 and 7 pupils to participate. The cost is likely to be £250.

## **Some October dates:**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Careers morning for Primary 6 and 7 pupils.  
Harvest Assembly 2pm

Thursday 11 October – Nursery Stay and play session.

Friday 12 October – End of term

## **School Uniforms**

The majority of the school uniform orders have now arrived and been disbursed. The school office continues to have a small stock of uniform available in the office, if you would like to order the new house coloured PE t-shirts, please complete and return the attached form to the school office. These are **not** kept in stock and need to be specifically ordered. The office needs a minimum order of 10 items in order to place the order with the suppliers.

## **Parent Teacher consultations**

We will be hosting our autumn consultations on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. An accompanying letter provides further information. The Nursery will be hosting an Open Evening from 5 pm – 7 pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. This will be an opportunity to visit the Nursery and chat with staff.

## **Parent helpers**

We always benefit from adult support in a variety of ways. We, currently, have a lot of clubs organised by parents and if you want to get involved I am sure that you will be welcomed. We have football, swimming and Junior Jog.

We are looking for support with our Tuesday after school badminton club (3.15pm to 4.15pm) and our Tuesday lunchtime library club (1pm to 1.30pm). These clubs run from September through to the end of March.

Also we are looking for helpers with our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities. Mr Paul Slater (Dad of Angus, Hamish and Lachlan) will be presenting a number of STEM workshops throughout the year and we are hoping that other parents would like to assist him. If you are keen, please contact Paul or the school office. I am sure he will be delighted if we have a group of volunteers who would like to promote the STEM subjects.

We also benefit from adult support with our Primary 1 class. This tends to be help with play activities - I am sure Mrs McTaggart will be in touch.

If you can help support activities that would be great. You will need to complete a PVG Disclosure but if you have the time and enthusiasm we would like your help. Please contact the school office or let me know.

### **iPayimpact and School Meals**

**Reminder: All Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils are entitled to free school meals.**

Primary 4 – Primary 7 pay £2.30 daily for a school meal.

P1 pupils will shortly receive their explanatory letter about the iPayimpact system. Although they do not pay for school meals at the moment, it is a good idea to register at this stage.

### **Paper returns and email attachments**

Paper returns:

School photos

Parent/Teacher consultation

Recorders – **P4 – P7 only**

Email confirmation form – please confirm **by return**.

SCOTXED for our new families only. Please return as soon as possible.

Class Curriculum newsletters will be issued later this week.

**Rangers Service – see email**

**School Uniform order form – see email**

### **Maths assessments and Maths week**

We will be celebrating Maths throughout the year, in particular Maths week, which runs from September 10<sup>th</sup>. As part of the school's Improvement plan we will be aiming to improve Maths achievements and attainment. Therefore we are introducing a number of new aspects to our Maths, one of which is to introduce a maths assessment at the beginning of the year as a baseline and then at the end of the year the same assessment will be used to measure progress in the year.

The children will be completing their maths assessments shortly; this will provide us with information about your child and then we will support your child to make progress throughout the year. In May they will complete the same assessment and we hope this will provide significant information about the progress your child has made.

National Maths Week is September 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> and we invite you to visit the school from 2.15pm to participate in activities and find out what has been going on throughout the week. We encourage you to use Sumdog during this week. I will be providing the maths homework for this week.