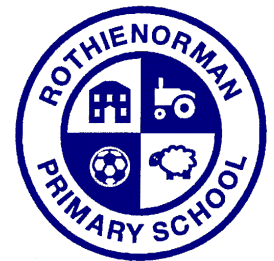




Rothienorman Primary School



Bulletin: Tuesday 16th August 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a lovely summer and are ready for the new session. We are welcoming 22 new pupils into our morning nursery and 12 younger children into our new afternoon sessions, 24 new pupils into P1, Olivia and Cody into P3, Aiden to P4 and Ben and Chloe into P5. Morning nursery pupils may arrive anytime between 8.40 and 9am and should be collected between 11.30 and 11.50am. Afternoon nursery pupils may arrive anytime from 12.20pm and be collected by 3.30pm. Please be aware of the very quick half hour turnaround between these sessions and staff will need to tidy, clean and set up as well as get lunch - we would therefore really appreciate it if you arrive earlier so that you have collected your child and their belongings, had a chance to speak to staff and be ready to leave by 11.50am. Thank you.

P1 pupils will be in school from 9am - 12.30 for the first week, drop off and collection from the main entrance. From Tuesday 23rd August P1 pupils will be in school from 9.00am until just after 1.35pm, if they want to stay for lunch and time in the playground. Children will now use the pupil entrance at the rear of the school at 9am and then meet their parents at the main entrance once they have collected their belongings, just after 1.35pm. Parents may have arranged to join their child for a trial school lunch on one of these days; following their lunch they will be able to have a cuppa in the GP room while their child has a play in the playground before joining them to go home after the bell at 1.35pm. From Monday 29th August they will be in school 9am - 3.15pm the same as the other children and will use the pupil entranceway unless they are going home for lunch, are late or are being collected for some reason by their parent. P1s may continue to swap learning packs at the main office during this first 2 weeks of term.

Communication for parents

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website - if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered. *myaccount* is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

Staffing

Mrs Anne Gray is going down to 2 days per week as part of her phased retirement, she will be in school on Thursdays and Fridays covering P1, P2/3 and P3 classes. Mrs Gail McWalter, early year's practitioner has had to finish at Rothienorman due to a change in her personal circumstances. We are fortunate that Pat will generally be able to cover these hours until we fill the vacancy on a more long term basis. Congratulations to Kylie who got married over the summer and is now Mrs Kylie Chalmers.

Mrs Linda Raffan is currently off long term sick, we wish her a speedy recovery and in the meantime Mrs Michelle Barrow will cover where possible.

Mrs Kirsten Knaack, Support for Learning teacher, will be at Rothienorman on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays this term. Many pupils will receive support from her, either one to one, in small groups or in the class situation. Many children may receive regular sessions with her while for others it may be a one off as they have missed something or have found a particular concept tricky. Mrs Jane McGaw, Intervention and Prevention teacher will also be in school working with individuals or sometimes with small groups or in the class situation. We also have a few pupils receiving music instruction from Mr Fabrizio Oddo for brass and Ms Cat Gilles for cello. We will no longer have Mrs Wilma Geddes teaching piano in school and are looking into other possibilities.

Mrs Angela Allan, Mrs Katrina Murray and Mrs Elizabeth Soulsby from Hearing Support services will continue to be in school to provide support as required.

Dress them for the Weather Please

Children will be outside at breaks in pretty much all weathers so please ensure they are dressed appropriately (**everything named**); wellies and waterproofs for rainy days and sun hats and sun cream (please ensure they know how to put it on) if we are likely to see the sun! We are also aiming to do a lot more outdoor education this session, particularly with the early stages classes.

PE Kits, Art Shirt, Etc.

Could all pupils please ensure that they have PE kits (shorts, t-shirt and non-marking gym shoes) in school every day. If your child wears tights then spare socks are also required. Children with long hair are expected to have a bobble to tie their hair back and if they have earrings that cannot be removed for PE then they should have medical tape to put over them in order to try to avoid injury. Classes may have outdoor PE so pupils may want to have jogging bottoms available too.

Pupils should bring a painting overall to school for arts and crafts activities, this may just be an adult's old shirt with the sleeves cut off, as long as it protects their clothes. A cooking apron is also required on occasion.

Please ensure everything is clearly labelled with your child's name so that it doesn't become lost property! Lost property box is situated in the main entranceway and can be accessed at any time.

Annual Update

You will be receiving the Annual Update forms, it is extremely important that you check these over and return the completed forms to school as soon as possible to ensure we have up to date contact details for you.

Painting and Building Works

Much of the school has been painted over the holidays and is looking lovely and fresh. Some areas have also had the carpet or linoleum, replaced. Markings have been painted on the staff car park indicating where it is not possible to park as this area is needed for the school bus and for deliveries. This car park is however only for staff and those needing access to the disabled parking spaces.

Parking

It can get very busy in our car parks and around the school at 9am and 3.15pm and at lunchtime. Could parents please try to walk or cycle with their children to school, or car share, in order to cut back on the traffic at the school. There are a worrying number of road traffic accidents which occur in the vicinity of schools and we want to ensure we don't have any accidents here. If you do have to drive to school please use the top car park where possible or even better 'park and stride' (park a short distance away and walk with your child from there). Over the summer holidays markings have been painted to indicate the no parking area of the service bay used by both the school bus and delivery drivers. A sign will also be erected to remind everyone that the bottom car park is for staff only during school hours.

School Lunches

P1-3 pupils will continue to get free school lunches. The Spring and Summer menu is still the one to refer to and it would be appreciated if you can go over your child's choices with them on a daily basis to try to ensure they know what they are going to have, this speeds things up in the mornings and helps ensure that everyone gets what they ordered for their lunch. We will have some of our P1 parents joining us for lunch between Tuesday 23rd and Friday 26th August. Please arrive at school at 12.25 to be taken through to have lunch with your child and their buddy. You may then have a cuppa in our GP room while they spend some time in the playground or if you wish you can take your child straight home after lunch if you organise with a member of staff to get their belongings.

Homework and Pupil Council

Although reading books may be sent home this week, most homework will start next week. Pupils will however be asked if they want to be considered for the Pupil Council. If they do they will be asked to prepare a short speech for Monday 22nd August to encourage their classmates to vote for them.

House Captains

Pupils will be voting on Monday 22nd August to decide on which P7 pupil they would like to be their house captain. Any P7s interested in being considered for captain should prepare their speech ready for Monday.

Extracurricular Activities

We have a number of activities which will be starting shortly, further information to follow. If your child is interested then please complete the relevant forms when supplied.

Primary 1 Photographs

The local papers often visit schools to photograph our new pupils in the first few weeks of term. If we get advance notice of them coming we will let you know; please keep an eye out for them in the paper!

Primary 1 Parents Literacy and Numeracy Evening

P1 parents are invited to join us on Monday 5th September, 6.00-7.00pm for a literacy and numeracy evening. We will share with you some of the resources and learning activities that your children will be involved in as well as information on how we are trying to improve the learning experience we provide and ensure a smoother transition from the nursery environment. We hope that as many of you as possible will join us.

PPG AGM and Cheese and Wine

The PPG (Parent Partner group) AGM will be held on Monday 5th September, 7.00-8.30pm, in the school hall. We will have photographs and children's work on display for parents to see what children have been doing in school as well as hearing about some of the brilliant things that the PPG help the school to provide for our children. It would be great if as many of you as possible can come along to this evening where there will also be cheese and wine.

PPG (Parent Partnership Group) Fun Day

We will be having a PPG meeting on Monday 22nd August at 7pm to organise for our Fun Day on Sunday 11th September at 12-2pm. We would be delighted to see as many people as possible (new faces welcome!) to help with this. Thank you to those that have volunteered so far but we still need more volunteers please, even if you can only volunteer for a 30 minute slot, the more helpers we have the more everyone can enjoy the day. Please see the attached sheet from the PPG (if you haven't returned it already) requesting volunteers to help with the different activities we have planned for the 11th. Also if we can have any raffle donations to school by Wednesday 7th September and home baking by Friday 9th or on the day by 11am. Thank you for your support, these events are really worthwhile fun events for all, as well as raising a significant amount of money for the school.

Staff Training

This summer Miss Carrie Palmer and Miss Amanda Maclean gave up a week of their summer to participate in an intensive French immersion course in Salignac; funded by Erasmus and organised by Le Francais en Ecosse. They had a brilliant time, improving their French, becoming familiar with new resources and getting lots of ideas for how we can improve language learning at Rothienorman.

Staff have also recently taken part in the following training:

- Child Protection
- Data Protection
- Equalities Awareness
- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

No Entry Signs on Gates

You may have noticed that we have put No Entry signs on all of the exits from the school playground. This is just to provide a visual reminder for the P1 pupils that they are not allowed to go beyond these points. They will be taken down again when we feel everyone is clear about our boundaries. All of the exits are still in use and can be used.

Bikeability

P7 pupils will be participating in Bikeability on Tuesday afternoons on the following dates: 30th August, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th September. We will require parent helpers in order to help supervise this activity, please complete the return slip if you are able to help. Please also be aware that there will be children cycling on the roads surrounding the school on these afternoons and to drive with extra care - thank you. P7 parents will be receiving additional information on this.

Topics this Term

Class topics this term are as follows:

P1: Bears

P2,3: Pets

P3: Pets

P4,5: James and the Giant Peach

P5,6,7: Spies, Detectives and Mysteries

P6,7: Film

The whole school will be focussing on Buddhism as well as Christianity this session. If you feel you have anything that you could contribute to any of these areas of study then please get in touch.

Volunteers

We could really do with more volunteers in school for a variety of activities and would really appreciate it if you could complete the return slip stating what you are able to help us with. We have brilliant support in the nursery for our outdoor learning at Fyvie and we are hoping to extend this into the school to support our P1, P2/3 and P3 classes who will now also be having regular outdoor experiences at either Fyvie or more locally. This will generally be on a Tuesday but may also happen at other times. We are also rather short on helpers for table tennis club on Mondays (12.35-1.35pm). If there are other things you are able to help out with, or would indeed like to speak to us about starting something different that would benefit the children then please provide details or contact the school.

I look forward to working with you this session to make Rothienorman an even better place to teach and learn.

Regards

Ms. Julie Symington,
Head Teacher.

Information for Adverse Weather Closures

Telephone Information Line: **0870 054 4999**

Rothienorman School Pin Number: 022530

ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures>

TWITTER <http://twitter.com/aberdeenshire>

(The web page is re-set at 4pm every day to be clear for next day's information)

Northsound 1	FM 96.9	Tel. 01224 337000
Northsound 2	MW 1035kHz	
BBC Radio Scotland	FM 92.4-94.7	MW 810kHz
Moray Firth Radio	FM 97.4	MW 1107kHz
North East Community Radio	FM 97.1-106.4	Tel. 01467 632878
Waves Radio	FM 101.2	Tel. 01779 491012
Original	FM 106	Tel. 01224 293800

DATES FOR THE DIARY 2016-2017

Tuesday 16 th August 2016	School starts
Monday 22 nd August 2016, 7pm	PPG meeting to organise Fun Day
Monday 29 th August 2016	P1s start full days
Monday 5 th September 2016, 6-7pm	P1 Literacy and Numeracy Evening
Monday 5 th September 2016, 7-8.30pm	PPG Cheese and Wine, AGM.
Sunday 11 th September 2016, 12-2pm	Rothienorman Fun Day
Friday 7 th October 2016	School closes for October holidays
Monday 24 th October 2016	School opens
Monday 14 th November 2016	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Tuesday 15 th November 2016	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	School closes for Christmas holidays
Thursday 29 th September - Wednesday 5 th October 2016	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 3 rd October, 3.30-6.30pm	Parent's Evening
Tuesday 4 th October, 3.30pm-5.30pm	Parent's Evening
Friday 6 th January 2017	School opens
Friday 10 th February 2017	School closed (occasional day)
Monday 13 th February 2017	Holiday
Tuesday 14 th February 2017	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Wednesday 15 th February 2017	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Friday 31 st March 2017	School closes for Easter holidays
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	School opens
Monday 1 st May 2017	Bank Holiday
Monday 29 th May - Friday 2 nd June 2017	P6,7 pupils to PGL, Dalguise residential trip
Monday 5 th June 2017	School closed (occasional day)
Friday 30 th June 2017	School closes for the summer holidays