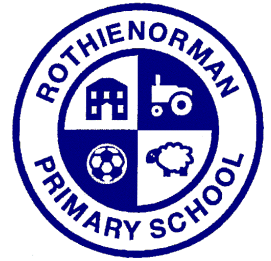




# Rothienorman Primary School



Bulletin No 5: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents

## Staff and Pupil Changes

It is great to be able to pass on the exciting news that Kylie Chalmers is expecting a baby in May 2017. Sarah Bergin is the new Early Year's Principal Teacher for the Meldrum Network and will be in regular contact with our nursery. Maja has just joined us in the nursery and we are also about to welcome Harrison to the nursery in January. We wish Blake and Kacey well as they move house and school in the new year.

## Skiing at Huntly

It was great to hear that some of our pupils used their new skills and participated in the Primary Schools Rollerski and Cross Country Ski Racing 2016 competition. Rachel got 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Rollerski Girls and Isla got 1<sup>st</sup> place in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  lap Rollerski.

## Junior Soccer 7s Tournament

Our football team played really well, coming third, in this tournament on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was great to hear how well they represented the school, working hard and playing fair!



## Registration Week for Primary 1 is 9<sup>th</sup> January to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admissions in August 2017.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services has a common starting date for all its school in the middle of August in any particular year. You will be informed of this year's starting date at the time of registration at school.

Parents are asked to visit the Primary school of their choice during Registration Week. If this is not possible, should try and visit the school by the end of February 2017. To register for Primary 1 the child's birth certificate is required as evidence of their date of birth.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services make no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported for Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery for playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

**Any families who would like a tour of the school should ideally come during the period 11.15-12.15 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 9.00-10.00 on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January or phone to organise an appointment.**

## **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE APPLICATIONS**

**2017/18**

Children who are three before 31 August 2017 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in August 2017; children who are three before 31 December 2017 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in January 2018 and children who are three before 28 February 2018 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in April 2018 either at a local authority provision or with a playgroup or private nursery (partner provider) commissioned by the authority. Parents should enrol by completing the relevant form in the application pack. Application packs for admission to local authority nurseries and to commissioned playgroups and private day nurseries will be available from **the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**. These can be obtained from all participating Early Learning and Childcare providers and online from <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learningand-childcare-information/>

All children are currently eligible to receive up to 600 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare per annum, or a pro rata amount, from the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Parents can choose whether these are accessed in a local authority nursery or within a playgroup or private day nursery, which has been commissioned by the local authority.

All Early Learning and Childcare settings which provide Early Learning and Childcare places are regulated by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, and are quality assured by Aberdeenshire Council. Parents should note there are separate approaches for applying for places in school nursery classes and applying for places in commissioned playgroups or private day nurseries. These are as follows:

### **For entry to a local authority school nursery class**

For parents of children who will become eligible to commence their Early Learning and Childcare place in **the 2017/2018** session, applications should be received between 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017. To apply for an Early Learning and Childcare place, please submit an application form to the provision of your choice from those listed in the Applying for Early Learning and Childcare application pack, available from schools or from the website

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/> .

Please also take evidence of your child's date of birth (original birth certificate) and evidence of your home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).

### **For entry to a commissioned playgroup or private day nursery**

Parents should apply directly to the provision of their choice from the **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**. There is no deadline for application forms to be received by Partner Providers, however, it should be noted your chances of securing a place will be increased the earlier you apply before your child is eligible to receive a funded place (the term following their third birthday).

### **Applications for eligible 2 Year Olds: 01.03.15 - 29.02.2016**

Eligible two year olds fall into two categories:

1. Those that are looked after and accommodated or are under a kinship or guardianship order - forms can be obtained through your Social Worker
2. Those whose families are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:
  - Income Support
  - Job Seekers allowance (income based)

- Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Any income related element of the Employment & Support Allowance
- Child tax credit but not working tax credit and your income is below £16,105
- Both maximum CTC & WTC with income Less than £6,420.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Universal credit (interim measure)
- Or any other qualifying benefit as stated by the Department for Work and Pensions

Application forms can be accessed at your local Department of Work and Pension Office. Applications will be managed centrally by the Early Years Team. Forms can also be accessed by contacting the Early Years Team at Woodhill House - Tel: 01224 664026.

### **Parents Survey**

Aberdeenshire Council is introducing a new school messaging service linked to SEEMiS, allowing schools to communicate by text, email (with attachments) and notifications to a smartphone app. The project is currently in the first phase of rolling out with all schools set to be able to use the new service by next summer. As part of the roll-out, parents are being asked about communications they wish to receive, method of delivery and how often they wish to receive these. A survey is available at the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AberdeenshireSchools> , with school-specific results to be provided in 2017.

### **Jazz for P4,5; P5,6,7 and P6,7 Classes**

Our older pupils have enjoyed their first few lessons in jazz with Sue Mckenzie. They will have 12 lessons throughout the course of this year.

### **French Foreign Language Assistant**

We have been fortunate to have the Meldrum Academy Foreign Language Assistant, Marion join P2,3 and P4,5 to help them learn more about French language and culture.

### **Reporting to Parent: Glow**

Please ask your child to log into Glow (Username and Password should be in their reading record) as this is one of the many ways that we report to parents: Glow website:

<https://glow.rmunify.com/>

### **Assemblies**

Our assembly on 22<sup>nd</sup> November focussed on engineers and the importance of engineering in our society. Many of the children were interested in the different job opportunities in this area. On 29<sup>th</sup> November we learnt more about St Andrew and why we celebrate St Andrew's Day. More information can be accessed via the video links and Powerpoints on Glow.

### **SSPCA**

We were joined on 6<sup>th</sup> December by a veterinary nurse from the SSPCA who spoke to us about the importance of taking care of animals, especially at this time of year and what we can do to support them. The children were delighted to receive a ruler with the SSPCA emergency phone number on.

### **Bible Alive**

Mr Smith led our assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> December to tell the Bible story of how Jesus healed a lame man and to encourage us to think of others and how we can support each other. He has now finished delivering the Bible Alive sessions on the Old Testament to P6 pupils. He commented on how well P6 pupils contributed to discussions. Pupils will learn more about the New Testament in January and February.

### **Children in Need**

The Pupil Council organised a dress down or dress in something spotty day for Children in Need on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November and raised £155.39

### **Planters**

Thank you to Sandy Simpson and friends who have supported the school in replacing some of our planters. P3 and P4,5 pupils have been planting bulbs as part of their EcoSchools remit in developing the school grounds.

### **Staff Training**

Staff have recently taken part in the following professional development:

- British Sign Language (BSL)
- Visible Learning
- Junior Librarian
- Bookbug
- How Good is Our School / Early Learning Centre
- Dyslexia: Digitising the Curriculum
- Green Fingers
- Early Years Federations
- Play at Home
- Cognitive Skills in the Early Years
- Using Epipens

### **PPG Coffee Morning**

P2,3 pupils entertained parents at our coffee morning on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December by singing and signing 'Donald Where's Your trousers?'

### **PPG Fundraising Events**

Our Christmas hampers were very well received for our Christmas raffle. Thank you to the PPG for organising this and to everyone who donated items and bought tickets. We raised an amazing £543.

### **Zoolab and K'Next Workshops**

Nursery, P1, P2,3 and P3 classes will all get Zoolab workshops on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and P4,5; P5,6,7 and P6,7 will get K'Next workshops on 20<sup>th</sup> February. This is being funded by the PPG.

### **Childsmile**

The Dental nurse was in nursery on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to varnish the children's teeth.

## **Christmas Parties**

Our parties have been going well with everyone having lots of Christmas fun. Thank you to the PPG and other volunteers for helping to make these events such a success.

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

We raised £114 on Christmas Jumper Day. This will be split between Save the Children and the PDSA.

## **Christmas Shows**

P4-7 pupils put on a brilliant performance of Aladdin. There was some excellent singing, acting and dancing. Pupils, staff and parent helpers all worked extremely hard on this and the scenery and costumes, and it all came together really well! Well done and thank you very much to everyone involved.



I am aiming to have some photographs uploaded onto Glow shortly. It was lovely that a few people from Badenscoth House Nursing Home were able to join us as well as lots of friends and relatives. Thank you to Nathan's family who worked together to film and record the show and we are hoping to have DVDs available early in the New Year; more information to follow. The children were delighted to raise £306 from donations on the door, for new construction materials and indoor playtime games.

Morning nursery pupils will be performing a show for their friends and family at 11.15am, and the afternoon session will perform their show at 3pm, both on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. I know that the children and staff have been working hard and having great fun preparing for this. Older siblings will get the opportunity to go through to see the performances.

## **Recycling Christmas Cards**

P1,2 and P5,6,7, as part of their EcoSchools Litter and Recycling remit, are planning to use old Christmas cards in craft activities so please bring these to school in January.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and wish you all the best for 2017.

Regards

Ms. Julie Symington,  
Head Teacher.

## Information for Adverse Weather Closures

Telephone Information Line: **0870 054 4999**

Rothienorman School Pin Number: 022530

ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-Closures/>

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

Northsound 1	FM 96.9	
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	
Waves Radio	FM 101.2	
Original	FM 106	

## DATES FOR THE DIARY 2016-2017

Wednesday 21st December 2016	School closes for Christmas holidays
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	School opens
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	School closed (occasional day)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Holiday
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	In Service Day (no pupils in school)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	School closes for Easter holidays
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	School opens
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	Bank Holiday
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	P6,7 pupils to PGL, Dalguise residential trip
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	School closed (occasional day)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	School closes for the summer holidays