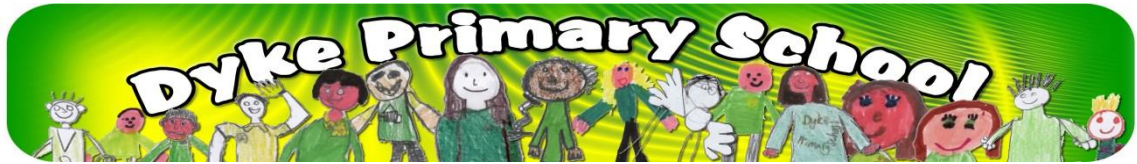


# HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

## JANUARY 2020

Each week we email out an update of what is going on and reminders for parents/carers.

Please look out for these each Friday



## HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

Welcome back to everyone to the start of another year and a very special welcome to Mrs Travis who will be helping us out this term teaching in P3/4/5.

This newsletter, along with the website, weekly Friday emails, class plans, Learning Logs, Strategy group minutes and Parent Council minutes should keep you all informed about what is happening in school and across the whole of Scottish education. I urge you all to support us with this by reading the information sent home and on the website.



### Absence

If your child is not able to attend school due to illness you should contact the school by 9.30 am on the first day of absence to advise us of the reason for the absence and the likely date of return to school.

The office is manned each day between 8.45 and 12.30pm.

Please also advise the school office of any appointments etc. as soon as possible after they have been made.



### Open Afternoons for Parents

This term we have a series of open afternoons where we invite you as parents to join your child in their class to see what they have been learning and to find out how things are taught in school today.

Please join your child in their class if you can from 2pm on the following dates:

- P3/4/5 - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February
- P1/2 - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- P6/7 - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- P4/5 - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

### Guitar lessons

Lessons will continue this term with Ewan for any P4-7 children from Friday January 24<sup>th</sup>. Lessons are 30mins long and cost £4.50 per week. There will be 8 lessons this term. If your child would like a place please contact the school office. We have a spare guitar if your child would like to try out a new instrument.

### Parent Council

The Parent Council is made up of every parent/carer of a child in the school and everyone is encouraged to come along to meetings and events when you can.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 7pm. EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

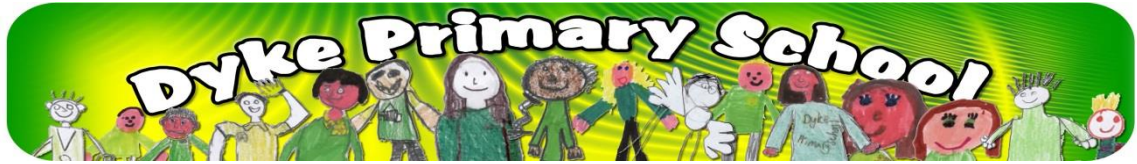
### Nut Allergies

A reminder that we have a number of children in school this year with allergies which require medical intervention if triggered.

In order to try to minimise any issues we would ask you not to send any snacks for break or lunch containing nuts and stress to your child not to share their snacks as some children have dairy and gluten intolerances as well.

### Picking-up after school

To ensure children's safety we require you as parents/carers to inform us of any changes to travel arrangements or who is picking up your child each day. We cannot take a child's word for this or a relative. The information **must** come from you as their main carer.



## HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

### School Improvement Plan

As you are aware we have set up a school strategy group to lead the changes and improvements we agreed in the improvement plan.

The strategy group is made up of our 3 House captains, the Chair and both Vice Chairs of the Parent Council, a support assistant, a teacher and myself.

Our improvement priorities for this term are:

- Continue to review the school values.
- Support parental engagement in reading through a Book Day Event on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue to develop the school's strategy for tackling poverty

The next meeting of the group will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

### Parent Helpers

Every Wednesday afternoon from 1.50 - 3.05pm children are involved in a variety of skills groups to help them develop skills and knowledge in a number of different areas.

Teachers lead the groups but need support to help the children undertake the tasks. If you can spare the time on a Wednesday afternoon we would be very grateful for your help. This session we are running groups in; Art and Design, Science, Wellbeing, Cooking, Technology, Drama and sewing.

We also welcome adult helpers into classes to support children with their class work or help with classroom tasks such as wall displays, filing children's work or clearing up paint etc.

If you are able to offer an hour or two of your time each week please let us know. We would be delighted to have your help.

### Medication

If your child is required to take prescribed medicines in school for any reason it is important that the following is adhered to:

- Medicines must be prescribed by a doctor and have a doctors label with the child's name and dosage on them
- The Moray Council 'administering of medication' forms must be completed and handed in with the medicine. (Form available on the Moray Council website or from the school office)
- Medicine and form should then be handed in to the school office (not to the class teacher) where either Mrs Innes (admin) or myself can agree and authorise an appropriate member of staff to administer the medication to your child.

### First Minister's Reading Challenge

This session all classes are involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> Minister's Reading Challenge which encourages children to read and enjoy reading a variety of different types of writing and genre. It is not a competition to see who reads the most but an incentive for all children to get involved with reading both in school and, more importantly, at home. All children will bring home a challenge passport and I would ask you to support them to keep it up to date.

### School Website

The website is now up and running and we are populating it with information we think will be relevant to both you as parents and to those across the world who are interested in what we are doing.

The website address is [www.dyke.moray.sch.uk](http://www.dyke.moray.sch.uk)

If there is something you think would be helpful to have on the website which is not already there please just let Karen or Lisa in the office know.



## HEAD TEACHER'S NEWS

Please ensure your child is in the playground each morning in time for the bell at 9.10am.

### Billionaire Boy!

P6/7 will be attending a production of David Walliams Billionaire Boy at Eden Court on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February as part of their reading curriculum work.

### Residential Ski Trip

10 children from P5 to P7 will attend this year's ski week at Abernethy Outdoor Centre from Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be accompanied by Miss Barton and myself and will be sharing the centre with children from Anderson's Primary in Forres.

### Felix is the Winner!

Felix in P5 has won a science competition following a visit by the class to RAF Lossiemouth earlier this session. His prize is a day out at the base meeting the base commander, lunch with the other 5 Moray winners (all girls!) and a session in the new flight simulator.

Well done Felix!

### Young Leaders of Learning (YLL)

The YLL project supports schools to develop pupil voice and gives children in Primary schools the opportunity to 'inspect' their own and other schools from a child's perspective.

This session our YLL's are Romimi, Eva, Owen, Emelia, Luke, Charlie and Keira.

The next training session with the other Moray schools involved will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Elgin. This session will offer the children further support in what to look for and how to put their views across.

### Inter House Competition

The House and Vice Captains have arranged a talent competition for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January as part of their duties to encourage their House members to work together and support each other.

There will be 3 acts from each House competing for extra House points.

We look forward to experiencing the wonderful array of talent children at Dyke have to offer.

### Burns Supper



P6/7 will be inviting you to join them for a celebration of Robert Burns at a supper on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

Please put this date in your diary and look out for further details from them next week.

### Dates to Remember

The school will be closed for the mid-term long weekend this year on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.

### Questionnaires

Many thanks to all those who returned their questionnaires (parents, staff and children) on the work of the school before the Christmas holidays.

I will collate the answers and report the findings to the strategy group in January.

*We look to the universe and reach for the skies  
We think of others and together aim high*

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY 2020**