








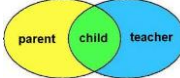



Dear Families

Term 2 is upon us – a few wee updates for you below.

	<p>Winter Disco – The Parent Council invite all children to join us in the School Building on Friday 17 November for a fundraising disco. This is always a popular event. This year, by holding it in the school, we can keep even more of the cash raised to spend on our children (there is no cost for using the school building by/for school events). The Nursery – P3 disco starts at 6.30pm – 7.30pm. We ask that Nursery parents remain in the building to support them. P4-7 disco starts at 7.45pm – 9.00pm. All children must be collected by an adult (over 16 years) as it makes us feel better about children’s safety on the way home. Adults can get together to share this duty and collect as many as they like! Don’t bring lots of money....sweeties/glowsticks/tattoos/drinks are kept at low prices. Tickets for this event are priced at £3 per child or £5 per family. Parent Council members will have their fancy payment device at the door for you to pay electronically on entry, if that helps. Cash also gratefully accepted. Once again, thanks to all the Parent Council volunteers who are giving their time, skills and resources to make it fun.</p>
	<p>Parent Council – the Team met last week, in school, for our termly meeting. Thanks to the Parent Team, we have had our name added to Coop members fundraising. If you shop at the Coop, you can be raising funds for our School/Nursery. For more details, see here https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/80990 Please tell your family and friends to switch over to us! The Parent Council minutes from the last meeting will tell you more.</p>
	<p>Staff Update – we welcomed back Miss Rachael Wann to our Nursery last week. She wasn’t long on the supply list before we snapped her up to work the 2 day job-share position with Miss Brown. Unfortunately, we have had to go back to advert for our Senior ECP position. Whilst we do that, the Early Years Team at the Council have supported us with additional ECP time in the shape of Miss Wann....who’ll pick up an extra 3 days until Christmas. It’s great to have Miss Wann back on our team. We also welcomed Mrs Mai Ellis into the school office for 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Fridays). Mrs Ellis comes to us with school experience and she’s now getting her feet under the table with the help of our Office Team.</p>
	<p>House Bingo – don’t forget this time around it’s the P1-7 children NETHY House Bingo event. Date for Nethian diaries being Thursday 16 November. From 1.30 to 3pm you can join us in the gym hall for some social fun. There will be an art gallery of Nethy pieces, a swap-shop of games/toys that Nethy children have cleared from their bedrooms...also drinks and cakes for all who play. Donations of home-baking and anything for the raffle will be much appreciated. If your child has eating/health requirements, please can you bring something for them to eat (as we can’t guarantee this when relying on donations). BALLO House will have their Bingo event in Term 3.</p>
	<p>Sport Breakfast – this time around Mrs Hepburn and the Sports Ambassadors are hosting a P4-7 Ball Breakfast. They are inviting any children from P4-7 to bring in a ball which they will pump up, whilst everyone enjoys a healthy breakfast, courtesy of funding from our friends at Branstons. Date for this Thursday 30 November, doors open at 8am. There will be a Nursery/P1-3 event planned for in the next few weeks – we’ll give you plenty of notice.</p>
	<p>Inservice Day and Staff training – this Friday is an in-service day and we’ll be closed to pupils. However, staff will be very busy. Nursery staff will be keeping up to date with their knowledge and understanding of the early level Maths and Numeracy curriculum as well as putting together resources to promote this at home. They’ll also be looking at digital curriculum and how to best deliver this for our youngest learners. Support Staff will be going to another school for a day of training led by PKC, along with colleagues</p>

	<p>from around Perth. Teachers will be doing the next leg of training in the teaching of writing with Australian researcher Stephen Graham (this is PKC-led training) and we'll also be engaging in some relationship webinars, created by the PKC Education Psychology service. I told children at last week's assembly, that cakes will be consumed – so it's not all hard work from 9 to 3!</p>
	<p>Vision, Values, Aims In our last newsletter, we asked you to give us your views on the School's Vision, Values and Aims. I'm afraid we only got 4 responses. We'll try again and send out the survey this week – please help if you can, by taking a few minutes to give us your views. https://forms.office.com/e/X6bCntWKLH</p>
	<p>Head Lice and nits are doing the rounds. They are remarkable little things with the tenacity to 'hang in there' despite your best efforts. Please check your child's head regularly. NHS advice says: There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. But...You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Do not use medicated lotions and sprays to prevent head lice. They can irritate the scalp. There's no need for children to stay off school or to wash laundry on a hot wash. Please take a look at the NHS site for more information. While some parents helpfully tell us their child has head-lice...it may be misguided to just think they're present in some classes! Our best advice is that ALL PARENTS check their child's hair this week!</p>
	<p>Spelling...How to help with this at home. As we shared in the last newsletter, school is focussing on spelling every morning this term. As teachers we know that spelling is taught – not caught. Hence a deliberate attempt to improve spelling results over the next few months. While we always 'do spelling' this is a real effort to put the mantra into operation: practice makes perfect. You can help. In the early years of Nursery, your child will be starting to hear the first sounds at the start of words. Auditory discrimination is vital for good spelling and writing in the early years. Our ECPs know which children are 'ready' for sound learning and that will feature on their individual targets. All children in Nursery will be playing games to develop rhyme and rhythm in sounds they hear and make. Want to help at home? Look out for ideas on Seesaw over the next few weeks. As children get older, and certainly from P1 and beyond, children should listen for the syllables in words, and learn to break these down into sounds they know. For example, hospital has 3 syllables – hos-pit-al. P1-2 years encourage reading/writing individual sounds and digraphs (2 letters that go together such as (ai-th-ee). Once these are really secure the teaching of spelling can be easier from P3 and beyond – breaking down words into the sounds we know. But English is not always predictable! That's why we just have to 'memorise' some tricky words. Look out for a leaflet coming home soon, with ideas to promote spelling support at home. We'll let you know some results from our little pilot project come December.</p>
	<p>Nursery Parent Contact sessions – start up again this week. Nursery parents have the chance to book their slot with their child's Key Worker through the week. They'll hear how younger children are getting on with new routines, their early skills in learning and next steps for progress. For our returning children (4 years old +) you'll hear more about how your child is developing with the Early Level Curriculum through achievement of the Developmental Milestones. There are 8 of these: Gross Motor skills, Fine Motor skills, Numeracy skills, Speech & Language skills, Attention, Social & Emotional and the final 2 are Hearing & Sight.</p>
	<p>P1-7 Parent Contact sessions – are this Monday (6 Nov) and Wednesday (8 Nov). Your timings went home last week. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher about their learning and development. We will share with you information about being 'on track' for age and stage as well as skills in the core aspects of the curriculum: Literacy (reading, writing, listening & talking), Numeracy and Maths and Health & Wellbeing. There are 5</p>

	<p>other aspects to the curriculum in our Broad General Education (BGE) Social Subjects, Expressive Arts, Technologies, RME and Science. You'll also hear how your child is developing their skills within the ethos and life of our school, and how they are taking forward opportunities for personal achievement. We'll suggest 'next steps' – things we'll be focusing on in class but also thing you can support your child with at home. We appreciate the importance of a shared responsibility for the developing child and you are their first teacher. There will be a survey to complete at the end of parent contacts, asking for your views on how the meeting went. This can be accessed via your phone.</p>
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Kind regards

Mrs Whittet and the School Team