



◆ Respect ◆ Enthusiasm ◆
◆ Achievement ◆ Pride ◆
Mintlaw Primary



November 2017

School Uniform: It is always lovely to see our children turned out very smartly in their school uniform. A reminder please that it is an expectation that all children wear school uniform and please **label** all your children's clothes. Our school colours are red or navy sweatshirts/cardigans and dark trousers/skirt. Jeans including black jeans are not school uniform, some of our senior pupils are wearing jeans and this needs to change. Also a wee reminder that if spare clothes are borrowed, please can they be returned asap as we only have a small supply.

Adverse Weather: All parents/carers should check Aberdeenshire Website - <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/> or phone the school information line, please note the new phone number **0370 054 4999** and our PIN number is **02 2260**. After I have updated these I will then put an update on the school Facebook page. Snow packs for the children will be issued next week.

Scottish National Standardisation Assessments (SNSA)

The Scottish Government has introduced a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments, designed to reflect the way we deliver education in Scotland, through Curriculum for Excellence. These assessments are expected to replace the variety of existing standardised assessments that local authorities and schools use at the moment. Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be, a central part of everyday assessment. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them, when considering children's progress and planning the next steps in their learning.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments focus on aspects of reading, writing and numeracy. All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will be assessed. The assessments are administered to each child once within the relevant school year. As a school we have discussed this with our cluster colleagues and are looking at term 3 or 4 for these assessments to take place. For more information see attached leaflet and <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>

Fundraising Committee: Halloween Disco was a great success with fantastic costumes and pumpkin designs.

Costume winners:

P1: Hayden Reid and Jessica Taylor
P2: Deacon Milton and Kensi O'Hara
P3: Archie Burnett and Isabella Whitelaw
P4: Jamie Nelson and Piper Mayhew
P5: Isaac Reid and Olivia Hunter
P6: Max Taylor and Zoe Hastie
P7: Hayden Finnie and Libby Reid

Pumpkin winners:

P1 Jacob Mayhew
P2 AJ Pert
P3 Jamie Lytham
P4 Jayden Adams
P5 Finlay Elphinstone
P6 Jackson Rennie
P7 Leah Findlay



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Thank you to our parent helpers at the disco without whom these events can't run. Many thanks to Jennifer Marshall from Dubby Paws Dog Walking & Pet Sitting for her generous and kind donation of our prizes for the Pumpkin competition.

Fundraising Committee: Christmas Cards

Thanks for your prompt return of the Christmas cards design orders today – please can they all be in school by Wednesday 15th November so we can get the order away and returned in time for Christmas.

Date of Next meeting: Wednesday 15th November at 6.30pm – all welcome!

Parent Council : A very purposeful and positive Parent Council meeting was held on Wednesday night. A huge well done to Callum Cook and Kieran McLeman our Pupil Council representatives who spoke to the Parent Council about an aspect of the School Improvement Plan. This aspect is Mental Wellbeing and the work they have been involved in. The two boys were confident, presented clearly and a real credit to the school and their parents. If you are interested in being involved in our school improvements or the Parent Council, please do get in touch and we would be delighted to work with you.

Reporting to Parents: On the school website is a copy of our reporting to parent's calendar. A reminder for new parents that we share your child's learning in a wide variety of ways, from target setting, achievement books, parent meetings, class assemblies, open afternoons etc However, the best person is your child, on the school website there is useful 'Reporting to Parents leaflet' about the conversations you can have with your child.
<http://www.mintlaw-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/page87.html>

Evening Express P1 Photo: Information from the paper: I am delighted to inform you that the photographs recently taken of Primary 1 class will feature in the Evening Express in special daily pull-outs on Saturday 11th November.

Photographs can only be ordered after they have appeared in the paper. Details of how to place your order will also appear in each supplement. Look out for them!

To purchase the photographs please do so by visiting the website or by calling one of the Evening Express' friendly photo-sales operators, details below.

Online – www.photoshopscotland.co.uk

Call – 0800 318 846 (Mon-Friday 8am-6pm and Sat 9am-5pm)

Celebrating Achievements: Well done to our Netball teams on their first week of entering the Mintlaw and the Garioch leagues. Both games were played with team spirit and sportsmanship. Mintlaw league player of match was shared between Kayla Adams and Taylor McGruther. Garioch league player of the match was Natalie Nelson. Well done teams – keep up the great work! Many thanks to Mary Hay and her parent helpers who are making sure this is a success.

House Colours: Our house system is an essential part of our school ethos, we have 4 school houses: Aden Yellow; Mormond Blue; Pitfour Red and Ugie Green. For information.

P4 Swimming: Annually the P4 class are offered swimming for a block of 4-6 weeks, we receive the lessons for free and just pay for transport. We have been trying to secure a booking, however, it is proving very tricky as all the pools are fully booked. We will continue to try to get swimming and the P4 parents will be notified.

HMT Panto – Aladdin: Oh yes we are... returning to HMT for our traditional bi-annual whole school trip on Thursday 7th December! We are having an early lunch that day at 11.15am. Buses are leaving at 12.15pm. Our ETA back in Mintlaw is 5.15pm. We are returning to **MINTLAW ACADEMY** – logistically there is more parking for parents and a bus park too. The Fundraising Committee are paying for the majority of this trip however, the approximate cost per child is £14. We would like a contribution of **£5 per child**, if you have two children in your family £7 and three children £9. This is a whole school trip P1-7 for all children to attend. I am giving this info just now, however, a payment slip will come out in a few weeks as I am very aware that there is a lot going on at the moment eg photos, Christmas cards and mugs! It is more important that the children have this experience than us getting the money this side of Christmas.

Extra Curricular Activities at Mintlaw Primary

- Mini rugby for P1-3 is run on a Monday 3.15-4.15pm by Mr Pennington.
- Netball for P4/5 is on Monday lunch times and for P6/7 on a Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm. run by Mrs Donnelly and Mary Hay.
- Choir for P4-7 is on a Thursday lunchtime run by Mrs Falconer and Mrs Donnelly.
- J-Rock for P4-7 is on a Thursday 3.15-5pm run by Debbie Willox, Mrs Forrest and Mrs Donnelly.
- Badminton for P7 is on a Friday lunchtime and run by Malcolm Whyte.
- Eco- Committee meets regularly and is run by Miss Garden and Mr Mitchell
- Pupil Council meets fortnightly and is run by Mrs Donnelly and Diane Burnett is our Parent Council link on this group
- RRSA (Rights Respecting Schools Award) meets weekly and is run by Mrs Morrison, Miss Robertson and our parent rep is Jill Cook.

RRSA: We are running the ShoeShare appeal in association with UNICEF and Clarks shoes. We would like you to gather old and unwanted shoes from around the house, and bring them into school. Please ensure that:

- The shoes are paired with a rubber band to make it easier to sort and pack.
- The shoes are in relatively good condition – so no holes or broken soles!

We will arrange for the shoes to be delivered to Clarks. For every tonne of shoes collected, a donation is made to Unicef. So, the more shoes you bring in, the more money you raise so that Clarks can continue to help Unicef provide basic educational resources to the 59 million primary school children around the world who are still not in education. Hosting the ShoeShare collection supports our RRSA accreditation, contributing towards criteria 18 in Standard D: Children and young people are empowered to become active citizens and learners.

Health and Safety: A reminder that dogs are not allowed on school property, at any time. There is no public right of way through the school for public and/or dog walkers. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Please spread the word.

Kind regards

Sarah Forrest, Head Teacher