



◆ Respect ◆ Enthusiasm ◆
◆ Achievement ◆ Pride ◆



Mintlaw Primary

September 2017

A Warm Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday, we certainly appreciated the 7 weeks! The children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms, please make sure all clothing, gym shoes and belongings are **clearly labelled**. The book bags and gym bags continue to be very popular; all reading books **must** travel to and from school in a protective folder or book bag. It is lovely to see the children all prepared to engage in their learning with their own pencils, rubbers, colouring pens etc, it is important that the children come to school prepared with these items. Water bottles for classroom use should only have water in them, juice can be available for lunch only, a reminder that fizzy water or juice is not permitted in school.

At Mintlaw Primary School we aim to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all pupils, staff, parents and the wider community where we can learn together and achieve our full potential. We operate an open door policy, where you can come in to discuss any queries or concerns with the class teacher, please check in with reception first, as they can pass on appointment messages etc and also they need to check with staff when an appropriate time would be to meet. We encourage an environment of respect, pride, enthusiasm and achievement; these are the 4 key words from our Vision, Values and Aims that we discuss regularly in school with the children. We look forward to continuing this ethos this session with your support in demonstrating these values. .

Health and Safety

Every year I put a reminder to all parents and carers, in regards to the staff car park and every year we have near miss situations with children nearly being hit by a vehicle. For the safety of your child, please do not access the car park by foot or in your vehicle; staff members are working different patterns and deliveries are regularly entering the car park. **It is not safe for your child to cut through the car park.** Please use the path at the rear of the playground or use the new entrance at the front of the school to take you and your child safely to and from the back playground. We encourage all families to walk to school if you live in the village, our layby is not designed for every parent to take their car – **help your child to develop a healthy lifestyle by walking to school.** Please help us to keep your children safe!

Also we have children and members of staff with **shellfish and nut allergies**, a reminder that children can't have anything in their packed lunches or snacks containing any form of shellfish. Thank you for your continued co-operation with this sensitive matter.

Eco-School

For many years we have been involved in re-cycling ink cartridges from printers, however the company we had been dealing with no longer provide this facility. Unfortunately, we will need to stop collecting ink cartridges for re-cycling.

Parent Helpers

We are very fortunate at Mintlaw Primary to have parents keen to help in all aspects of the school and we would like to continue to encourage this. If you don't have a PVG Disclosure Check these forms are available from the office. We are keen to have parent helpers in school, type of activities range from helping in class, gardening, photocopying, to making games, organising resources, mounting artwork etc these are all areas which can make a great difference in our school. My sincere thanks to the team of helpers who have worked effectively in recent years to support this area.

Diary Dates – See separate sheet with this year's dates.

Parent Council AGM – Wednesday 13th September 2017 6.30pm, all welcome.

School Communication

We continue to try to improve ways of communicating with Parents. There is a School Facebook page – Search **Mintlaw Primary School**, click like to follow us. The purpose of this page will be for sharing information and achievements with parents and the wider community who are not on our school mailing list. It will be used as reminders for events that have already been in the Newsletter/ diary Dates, or sharing success that will appear in the next newsletter. Aberdeenshire Council have a very clear policy on acceptable use of Social media and if any users are found to be abusing this system they will be removed from the page. We want this to be a positive engagement for the school and the community and look forward to your continued positive support.

Staffing

A warm welcome to Mrs Ann Falconer who has joined our team on a permanent basis and is teaching Primary 2. We welcome Mr Conor McAteer and Mr Adam Mitchell into P6 and P7 respectively, who will be with us for their year probationary period, also Miss Clair Anderson who joins our Early Years Team in the nursery.

A message from Mrs Patience: I am overwhelmed by the generosity of staff, parents and pupils in regards to my retirement cards, gift, flowers and good luck messages. They are greatly appreciated and I have many fond memories of working here in Mintlaw with great staff, children and parents.

A reminder - in the office Mrs Hyman and Mrs Fraser are here to help with your enquiries. In the morning if you are phoning to advise that your child is not attending that day please leave a message on the answer machine before 8.45am and it will be dealt with. Each day there will be a member of staff in the office between **9am and 3.30pm** (except for their breaks). Also, if you phone the school after 3.30pm please leave a message on the machine, because if I am in another part of the school I can return your call later or the following day. Thank you for your support in this matter.

School Photos

Tempest will be in school twice a year, once for individual/family school photos and they will return to take Primary 1, 4 and 7 class photos in the new style. Traditional class photos of P1 and P7 will be taken by the press in term 1 and 4 respectively. Also the fundraising committee organise Catchlites Photography who will be in the end of September for your casual family photos.

Celebrating Achievements

At the end of term we had a highly successful P7 leaver's assembly and a Prize Giving Assembly. The following children were our prize winners:

We have new prizes for literacy, numeracy and technologies.

- ❖ P1-3 Numeracy - Kellen Bream
- ❖ P1-3 Literacy - Archie Burnett
- ❖ P4-7 Numeracy - Aidan Barron and Che Trahearn
- ❖ P4-7 Literacy - Leah Findlay
- ❖ Technologies - Megan Davidson-Gall

Scottish Mathematical Challenge: Participation –

Sutherland Trophy (for Sporting Success/Sportsmanship) Brooke Willox and Aidan Barron
Mintlaw Primary Outstanding Citizenship Award – Emma Johnston
Donaldson Trophy for Expressive Arts and Creativity – Chloe Forman

P1-3 Medal Winners

- ❖ Aden: Piper Mayhew and Codi Summers
- ❖ Mormord: Megan Smith and Danny Graham
- ❖ Pitfour: Casey Finnie and Ruben Dodunski
- ❖ Ugie: Kian Leith and Maisie Dalgarno (2nd year in succession)

P4-7 Medal Winners

- ❖ Aden: Ross Davidson and Taylor Irvine (2nd Year in succession)
- ❖ Mormond: Holly Dingwall and Finn Rennie (2nd Year in succession) and Logan Forbes
- ❖ Pitfour: Isla Anderson (2nd Year in succession) and Finlay Elphinstone
- ❖ Ugie: Brooke Willox and Aidan Barron (2nd Year in succession)

P1-3 Sports Champions: Piper Mayhew and Codi Summers

P4-7 Sports Champions: Brook Willox and Aidan Barron

Sports Day Shield was won by PITFOUR

House Cup was won by MORMOND

We are kindly supported by the Parent Council and Fundraising Committee for the purchase and engraving of our trophies, which is greatly appreciated. We continually look to improve our Prize Giving and if you have any suggestions for future prizes please do get in contact.

Further Success...House Captains 2017/18

I was extremely pleased with the high number of Primary 7 children who put themselves forward as potential House Captains, as is the case every year it is a closely fought contest with some disappointed and some delighted children. Congratulations to...

Aden: Taylor Irvine and Taylor McGruther

Mormond: Finn Rennie and Holly Dingwall

Pitfour: Kirsty Reid and Kyle Reid

Ugie: Diesel McQueen and Leah Findlay

Finally...

All the staff at Mintlaw Primary work extremely hard to ensure they are providing a stimulating and supportive learning environment. However, this is in partnership with parents, other agencies and the wider community and we continue to appreciate the support and positive impact this has on the children and Mintlaw Primary.

Kind regards

Sarah Forrest
Head Teacher