



◆ Respect ◆ Enthusiasm ◆
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Mintlaw Primary Newsletter

September 2016

Olympic Athlete to visit Mintlaw Primary

We're very excited to be welcoming GB Hammer Thrower Chris Bennett to the school on **Thursday, 6th October**. Chris was born and bred in Glasgow and began focusing on hammer throw in 2005. Chris is 4th of Scotland's All Time Rankings and 7th in the Commonwealth. More information was sent out in the Olympic letter and the sponsor form. We are looking forward to a fantastic event!! Can all sponsor monies be returned by the end of term please (not the date stated in the letter, which is during the holidays!)

Improving Digital Literacy

From the start of the term every class had a new laptop linked to their Smartboard and we are now replacing the Smartboards in P1, P2 and P7. On top of the 7 laptops purchased, a further 12 were bought to replace old laptops in the Laptop trolley. We currently have Apple TV in 4 classrooms and will have in the remaining 3 by Christmas. A significant amount of money has been invested in updating our digital equipment, some of this was provided by Aberdeenshire Council as part of their ICT Refresh programme across schools and the remainder has come from school budget.

Aberdeenshire Council Approaches to Smoke Free Grounds

A reminder that Aberdeenshire Council is following in the footsteps of the NHS with the introduction of smoke free grounds on their sites. This initiative is a result of the Scottish Governments Tobacco Strategy for Scotland (2013) which contains within it a requirement for all NHS and Local Authority grounds to become smoke free. This policy came into action in May 2016 and was rolled out to schools and leisure sites in August 2016. Therefore, smoking is not allowed on the school grounds, please continue to support the school and the health of our community by adhering to this policy.

Parent Council

At the recent AGM, the following parents are on the Parent Council for this session. Chair: Elizabeth Preston; Vice Chair: Stuart Watt; Secretary: Tara Tikitus; Treasurer: Diane Burnett; Fundraising Chair: Laura Summers; Parents: Frances Boyle; Mary Hay; Shona Cumming; Jill Cook; Katie Davidson-Gall; Roslyn Henderson and Nicky Barron. Co-opted Members: Cllr Smith and Cllr Ingram. Teachers: Majella Morrison and Christina Dingwall.

My thanks to the outgoing committee for their support, in particular Lyn Urquhart for her many years of service to the school – who I am glad to hear will happily continue to help at events etc. And welcome to the new committee and we look forward to working with you in continuing to develop and improve the school.

From Aberdeenshire Council: Work will be commencing to support a refresh of Education & Children's Services Parental Involvement Strategy, which will reflect the national guidance given in the National Improvement Framework and HGIOS 4. Very recently a review of the Parental Involvement Act of 2006 went live - staff and parents are encouraged to respond and share their views. Please go to: www.npfs.org.uk

Dates of Next Parent Council Meetings: 16th Nov, 22nd February, 14th June all at 7pm. AGM 13th September at 6.30pm

Fundraising Committee:

Last year's fundraising events:

- 1) Festive family fun night £1917.28
- 2) Catchlites £298.60
- 3) October Halloween disco raising £227.22
- 4) Christmas Cards etc £443.50
- 5) Easter Disco £127.45
- 6) Scavenger Hunt £1371.00
- 7) Family Night £589.72

The money that has been raised in the past year has been spent in the following way: Christmas parties; Christmas Panto at HMT; Young First Aiders course for P5, P6 & P7; School trophies and engraving; 4 new iPads in school and 7 new digital cameras; Class Trips and Buddy Benches.



The committee held a highly successful Ladies night, raising a total of £1232.45!! Well Done Ladies!! A huge THANK YOU to all our box sponsors for the Ladies Evening, your support is much appreciated -

MSM Electrical services; Colaren; Pitfour Arms Hotel; C Findlay; Macduff Shellfish; Leslie's Garden machinery; Longleys Country Store; The Mintlaw Chipper; Happy Plant Garden Centre; Ewan Morrice Butcher; Elmar Bridal Collection; Taylor Design Services x 2; Cumming Joinery Services; Stuart Willox Transport; Karen Lovie; Nisa; Mirchi; MB Plant Hire x 2; Urquhart Furnishings; M Chan; Private Donation; Allure hair and beauty, New Deer; Costcutters; Mintlaw Burns Club; Stephen Urquhart; L & M Autos; Petrie Accountancy; R & A Fraser, Butcher; Co-op and Station Garage.

Thank you so much also to all the parents/carers who donated prizes for our event and a special thank you to the following businesses who donated prizes - Kev's Florist; Rowlands Pharmacy; Steph's Hair Salon; J Style Hair Salon; Harbro; Beyond Beauty; Aqueous Beauty Salon; Beauty by Sacha; Co-op, Mintlaw and Jamerry.

A sincere thanks to Jenna Smith and her team for all their hard work, Jenna has stepped down from her role as Chair of Fundraising committee but will continue to support the work of the committee and the school.

Date of next Fundraising Meeting: Tuesday 4th October at 6.30pm

Healthy Snacks

It's great to see the children bringing in healthy snacks at playtime, a reminder that lollipops are not allowed and if our younger members are choosing grapes, please cut them in half to reduce the risk of choking.

Healthy Life Styles

The congestion outside the school of a morning is becoming quite dangerous, if you live in Mintlaw please walk to school. This will establish healthy routines for your children which will stay with them throughout their life. If using the layby, where possible use it to drop off your children and then leave, especially if children are in middle/upper stages.

Wet Playtimes

As the Autumnal weather sets in, please ensure that your children come to school with suitable footwear and jackets for outside play, only if it is very heavy rain will the children stay in at break or lunch. On these occasions they need to have a wet weather activity book, this can be a sketch book, puzzle book, colouring book etc. Each class has been building up a wet lunchtime box, which we are open to donations of activities that maybe your child has out-grown, eg Top Trump Cards, dominoes.

Communication

A reminder that there is information available on the school's website, for example copies of newsletter, School Standards and Quality report for 2015-16, School Improvement Plan for 2016-17, School Handbook that is full of useful information and school policies. <http://www.mintlaw-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/default.htm>

RRSA – Rights Respecting School Award

The current articles that the children are discussing are Article 14: You have the right to follow your own religion and Article 12: Your right to say what you think should happen and be listened to. These are focussed

Eco-Committee

Many thanks to our team of adult helpers who have helped to tidy up the willow structure and re-plant some new shoots. We also have a new clothes re-cycling container which is located in the car park – please share with family and friends and encourage others to re-cycle and help us raise money for our eco-projects.

Developing Improved Approaches to Reporting to Parents

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are changing the way we report your child's learning. Mintlaw Primary for many years have been ahead with our target setting, achievement books open afternoons, class assemblies etc. this all forms part of sharing your child's learning. To find out more there will be a Parent Information session on Tuesday 1st November at 6.30pm, here at the school, during which you will be able to feedback on our draft plans.

J-ROCK

We are delighted to share that we have been successful in gaining a place in the North East's first J-Rock event which is being held at the AECC.... Watch this space we will be all systems go after the holidays!!

Kind regards

Sarah Forrest
Head Teacher