



# Arnage Primary Newsletter

Newsletter 4 – February/March 2017

## Welcome back!

I trust that everyone has had a restful mid-term break. This newsletter will not only put some important dates in your diary but will also keep you informed of some of the exciting things we are working on.

## Teacher Vacancy

We are currently advertising for a full-time teacher to cover Mrs McFarlane's maternity leave (P1-3). In the meantime, we have the following timetable in operation from now until Easter –

Mon	Mrs R Keddie	Mr D Galbraith (Student Teacher)
Tues		
Wed		
Thurs	Mrs K Middler	
Fri	Mrs S Mathias	

As explained at the Parent Council meeting – planning and learning experiences in the infant classroom will continue as normal. Should you have any worries regarding this please do not hesitate to get in touch.

## Specialist Teachers – Term 3



We are very fortunate to have a breadth of curricular areas being covered by specialist teachers this term –

Curricular Area	Teacher	Day
PE	Miss Fowler	Monday (pm)
Music	Mrs Astley	Tuesday (am)
SFL	Mrs Jamieson	Thursday (am)
Art	Mrs Connell	Friday (pm)
French	Ms McBoyle	Friday (pm)



All pupils will have PE on a Monday afternoon. P4-7 will have non-contact rugby training on Wednesday morning. Please ensure your child has an appropriate change of clothing; a t-shirt, shorts, gym shoes/trainers. Football kits are not permitted in school. We will remind children to take their sports clothes home at the end of the week for washing!

## Parent Council

The most recent Parent Council meeting was well attended – thank you! Minutes from the meeting will be distributed shortly.

## Pupil Council

Pupil Council members meet regularly and during our last meeting it was made very clear that the group wish to work together to tackle break-time snacks.

They are currently debating a 'plan of action' in order to deliver their desired outcome – more information will be distributed soon!

Additionally, pupils have highlighted the need to replace some outside play equipment. This will be discussed and actioned at our meeting next week.

## Daily Mile

We have started the 'Daily Mile' Challenge at Arnage School!

The aim of the Daily Mile is to improve the physical, emotional and social health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age or personal circumstances. It is a profoundly simple but effective concept, which any primary school can implement. Its impact can be transformational- improving not only the children's' fitness, but also their concentration levels, mood, behaviour and general wellbeing.

## Eyesight

Eyesight has a significant effect on a child's ability to learn and on their behaviour. I cannot stress enough the importance of attending the free eye check that your children are entitled to. Often, reduced sight goes unrecognised by children, parents and teachers. Please seek advice if you have concerns about your child's vision.

## Outdoor Clothing



As the cold weather continues please ensure children are sent to school with suitable outdoor clothing. Outdoor play will be encouraged when it is deemed safe to do so. A change of clothes can be left at school should it be required (a change of trousers and socks are always handy to have!)

## Severe Weather

Just a reminder that there is a "severe weather" page within the school handbook which has all of the information for how to access the latest news with regards school closures and transport. There is a quick reference box included at the bottom of this newsletter – ideal for sticking to the kitchen noticeboard!

## Absence from School

Unfortunately, it's that time of year again when pupils and staff are more likely to develop illness/ sickness.



Please ensure pupils are not returned to school prior to 48 hours after the final symptoms of illness have passed.



## School Update

### School Library

Our new library will have an 'Under the Sea' theme – both pupils and staff are very excited about putting our plans into action. In the coming weeks, the room will be painted and the new furniture will be delivered!

We may well find that we need to purchase more books so please bear with us as we get the library up and running over the next couple of months.

## Curricular Update

### 1+2 Languages

As explained in previous newsletters and as detailed in our improvement plan, we continue to work towards the Scottish Government's aim that by 2020, all children in Scottish schools from P1-P7 will have opportunities to learn and access a modern language. Furthermore, all children in P4-P7 will learn two other languages as well as their mother tongue.

In Arnage, all children in P1-P7 are now learning French and as a staff we are continuing to develop resources and approaches, particularly in P1-P3 where this is something new for us. Miss McBoyle continues to teach French to P4-P7. Mrs Becquart will continue to support the all pupils with weekly lessons based around familiar stories.

The next step in this process was to determine what our "L2" language would be for P4-P7 children and to begin to plan for how we were going to achieve this. We worked in consultation with neighbouring primary schools, Ellon Academy and of course the pupils as we began making decisions. After much consideration and deliberation it has been concluded that our "L2" will be German.

## School Policy Update

Many of our school policies and procedures are approaching the point where they require to be updated.

Throughout this process there will be continuous consultation with primary stakeholders to determine existing processes, problem areas, and to ensure that the policy document developed will enhance the educational provision for *all* pupils.

Educational establishments have many policies and procedures – teaching staff are currently meeting to decide upon the hierarchy of priority in which we tackle these.

### Next Parent Council Meeting

To be confirmed.

### Current School Policy under Review

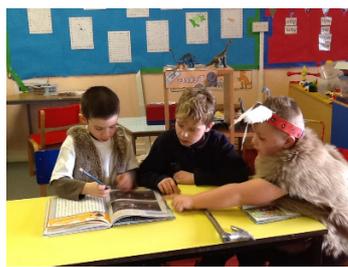
To be confirmed.

### Emergency Closure Information

Information Line –  
0870 054 4999  
PIN - 021220

# Photo Gallery

## World Book Day 2017



## Diary Dates - 2016/2017

February	What's On
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Aberdeenshire Occasional Day – School Closed
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Day – <i>School Closed to Pupils</i>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Day – <i>School Closed to Pupils</i>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Student Teacher Placement (P1-3) <span style="float: right;"><i>5 week block</i></span>
March	What's On
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	World Book Day
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	P1-3 Job Vacancy – Application deadline
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Garioch Fun Run – Inverurie, 1.30pm start
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Visit to The Aberdeen Science Centre
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of Term 3
April	What's On
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of Term 4
May	What's On
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	May Day Holiday (School Closed)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Election (School Closed to Pupils and Staff)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Transition Event – Ellon Meadows
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	McRobert Trust Science Workshops (school based)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Auchnagatt Gala
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Residential Trip – Kindrogan



***The layout of our school newsletter has been changed – what do you think?***

### Stay in Touch

Please know that your views and comments are always welcome.

You can-

- call the office to leave a message - 01358 701233
- email the school

[arnage.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:arnage.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) or  
[kerry.lawrinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.lawrinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



Also, you are more than welcome to pop up to school. Schools are often very busy places, so when possible please call the office first so that a mutually convenient time to meet can be arranged. This will allow us the chance to talk without being interrupted!