



## Skene School News April 2013

### Welcome to Spring!

A warm welcome back to school for summer term! I hope everyone had a restful, happy holiday and that we are all full of beans, ready to start the last term of the 2012/2013 session. It's lovely to come to school in the sunshine instead of the snow, and see our bulbs actually starting to come into flower. A bumper newsletter this month to make up for last term's deficit!

As we start this new term could I ask all parents to check that your child has everything they need to help them to do their best at school:

- Pencil case with pencils, sharpener, erasers, ruler, glue stick and colouring pens or pencils
- School gym kit – this should consist of sports shorts, a white t-shirt and trainers (these should be checked regularly for fit and condition, and should be suitable for sport; indoor shoes, slippers, flip-flops or sandals are not appropriate for PE). It would be helpful if each child had a PE kit in school at all times this term as both classes would like to get outdoors for PE as much as possible. This should be kept in a gym bag at the pegs. In addition, the P4-7 class will be starting a block of cross country and should have shoes suitable for running outdoors in conditions which may be damp or muddy.
- Reading folder in good condition.
- Indoor shoes – please also check these regularly. Again, with safety in mind, slippers or flip-flops are not suitable.
- School uniform – Skene School uniform consists of navy, black or grey trousers or skirt, a white polo shirt and a navy Skene School sweatshirt. In the summer, girls may like to wear school summer dresses/pinafores.

In addition to this, please remember to purchase dinner tickets on a Monday sufficient for the week ahead. Please also remember that mobile phones and iPods should not be brought to school as a rule. If you require your child to have a mobile phone with them so that you can get in touch with them at the end of the day, these should be handed to the class teacher first thing in the morning, switched off, and will be handed back at the 3.30 bell.

### Pupil Council

The Pupil council have been very active in 2013 so far. Pupils from P2-7 have been split into 4 groups of mini-councils so that each child has the opportunity to have their say in the running of the school.

Pupil Council Group 1 made Comic Relief their focus, and organised some very successful events, the main one being the Sponsored Pyjama Parade, which all children made a big effort for, well supported by parents, family and friends. The Pupil Council also organised a Bake Sale, to which we were overwhelmed by the response. There was a Funny Face Photo competition, won in P1-3 by Natalia Knight, and in P4-7 by Derri Barclay. They also organised for the PE teacher to run some



Red Nose Day fun games with both classes. They managed to raise an AMAZING total of £795.70, of which we are very proud. A massive thank you to all who helped by supporting your child, baking and donating money.



Pupil Council Group 2 opted to sort out and improve the school library. They organised a tidy up day in the Easter holidays when several parents, children and their friends came in to sort through the old books, which have been gratefully received by the Salvation Army. Some books were kept aside as the Pupil Council would like to have a Bring and Buy Sale on Thursday 2 May from

2pm-3.15pm to raise funds for some new books for the library. We also hope to raise some money to put towards a new electronic system for the library which the children will run themselves and which will provide an excellent resource for language and literacy. Donations of old but good quality toys, books and DVDs will be gratefully accepted for the sale, and any leftovers will again go to the Salvation Army. Many thanks to the helpers in the holiday – the new-look library is ready for the children to use and will soon look even better with some new books!



## Staffing

Ms Lindsay Craig, Support For Learning teacher, will be leaving the Westhill cluster to work closer to home, and will be much missed in both classes. Her post will be advertised shortly and will be covered in all schools by a supply teacher until her replacement is appointed. We wish Miss Craig well in her new post. Also to be missed is our Pupil Support Worker, Mrs Marion Smillie, whose remit will still be in Westhill schools but due to some restructuring will no longer include Skene School. Instead, we welcome back Mrs Aileen Kirkwood, who has worked at Skene School before.

Congratulations to Mrs Bisset who has at long last been made a permanent member of staff in her role as HT Relief – she will continue to teach 2/3 days per week in P1-3.

Mrs Hamer finished her block of PE with us at the end of Term 3; many thanks to her from the children, who all enjoyed her lessons. Mrs Garden, one of our regular supply teachers, will take over from her this term until the Westhill Cluster PE job is re-advertised.

Miss Petersen, our BEd3 student, was unfortunately unable to complete her placement last term due to ill health. She will return for 2 weeks to do some research and complete the academic part of her course. All staff have been attending courses this term as part of their Continuing Professional Development. This is an essential part of every teacher's job in order to provide the best education for your children, and is in line with Aberdeenshire Council and Education Scotland's policies and recommendations. Amongst other things, all teachers took part in a Co-operative Learning course last term. The Co-operative Learning approach has shown outstanding educational results all over the world, and provides us with an effective, motivational, fun method of teaching to add to our teaching repertoire.

## Our Community



It was great to see so many parents in school last term for one reason or another. Several parents came in to share information about their work with P4-7, and also to help out with their Fabulously Fun Fridays.

The P1-3 parents had a very informative tour of the Museum of Ancient Egypt by some very professional tour guides!

Please let us know if any parents would like to come in over Term 4 to

help the P1-3 class out with their outdoors-based project "Where The Wild Things Are". Donations of any old wellies, metal biscuit tins, bedding plants or compost will be gratefully received as term goes on.



A lovely Easter service was held at the church on the last day of term – our thanks go to Miss Marion Stewart and Rev Stella Campbell for their continued involvement with the school. It was lovely to see so many family and friends of the school at the service.

Rev. Rogers continues to run the Chess Club on a Monday lunch time, which we are very grateful for, and we must congratulate Jonathon Foulkes for becoming the 2013 Skene School Chess Champion! Our netball mums also continue to do a fantastic job of running Netball Club after school on a Tuesday which a huge percentage of the school now attend.

## Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 24 April – P1-3 Tesco Football Festival  
Wednesday 24 April – School Council Meeting 7pm Staff Room  
Thursday 25 April – P4-7 Theatre Trip  
Thursday 2 May – Pupil Council Bring and Buy Sale  
Monday 6 May – May Bank Holiday  
Thursday 30 May – Provisional date for Sports Day

Any parents who have received a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to be added to the school e-mail list, please contact me on [wendy.craig@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.craig@aberdeenshire.gov.uk). The newsletter will soon also be available to view on our website – [www.skene.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.skene.aberdeenshire.sch.uk) which is now under development.