

# Skene School Bulletin September 2017

*Working Together, Learning Together, To Be The Best We Can Be*



## **A message from Miss Hampton...**

We are off to flying start at Skene School and really getting into the swing of things with our topics. We have the Victorians, Vikings and Dinosaurs all over the school - I hope the children are sharing their knowledge with you.

We are looking forward to meeting with parents over the next few weeks at Parents Evenings to share each child's progress and discuss next steps.

With only two weeks left until the holidays I would like to wish you all a happy holiday when it comes and thank you for your support throughout term 1.

Miss Hampton

## **Class Updates:**

### **P1/2/3 - A group effort (Eden, Aimee, Gabriella, Ruby and Toby)**

We have been learning about dinosaurs. Did you know that a T Rex was taller than a double decker bus? And a Pterodactyl has very good eye sight to catch its food/prey. We have made dinosaurs out of 2D shapes and have explored skeletons out of cotton buds.



In Maths we have been learning about place value and the value of

each digit in a number. We have also introduced chimney sums to help us with our addition. Some groups have even been carrying - we love it! Our Primary 1's have been developing their knowledge of the numbers from 0-10 and have been looking at addition to 5.



In our writing we have been focusing on using questions to find out more information. We asked Stanley Stegosaurus lots of questions and he wrote back with answers! We have also been exploring adjectives and how we can make our writing more exciting with them.

### **P3/4 by Jamin Imoginie**

We have been learning about the Vikings. We made Viking longboats and shields too. We are doing some writing about the Vikings - just now it is about the long boats. We have been focusing on adjectives to describe

them. Did you know that some of the Vikings that some of the Vikings have horns on their helmets for protection but some don't? It can also be to scare away the enemy.



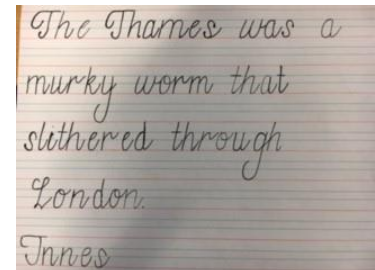
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In Maths, we have been learning about division and timetables. We have really been focusing on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

In French we have been revising our greetings. We celebrated European Languages Day by surveying the whole school about which languages are spoken in Skene School.

### **P5/6/7 by Isla Kay**

We have been learning a lot about the Victorians and how tough life was during that period. They didn't have all of the things we have nowadays - they had to find their own jobs and there were many homeless people. In our writing we have been up-levelling our work by looking for alternative words in the thesaurus and using adjectives to enhance phrases e.g. preposterously good



instead of good. We have also been exploring similes and metaphors.



In Maths we have been learning about shapes and angles as well as addition and rounding.

We went to Castle Fraser for the Going Green day. We learned about how you can make music out of recycling. We did lots of challenges to do with nature e.g. measuring trees to find out how old they were. We went to the Secret Gardens and explored all of the fruit and vegetables that were growing in there.

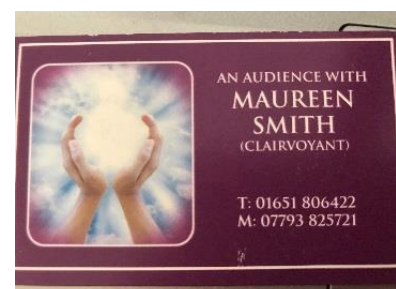
### **Sponsored Walk**

We enjoyed a walk around Loch Kinord on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September for our annual sponsored walk. The weather remained mainly dry and we had a great time socialising with each other and enjoying the scenery. There was rather a poor turn out of families however those who were there had a great time. A big thank you to Mrs Noble for organising the event. If there is any outstanding sponsor money, please send it in to the School Office asap. Thank you to those families who could not attend but have made a donation.



### **An Evening with Maureen Smith**

I would like to thank Ellie's mum and dad, Elaine and Andy, for organising a fantastic psychic night, 'An Audience with Maureen Smith'. A great night was had by all with delicious food from Da Giorgio Trattoria, fun games and excellent raffles and of course, the main input from Maureen. The night raised over £1000 for the school which I am sure you will agree is an excellent total.





### **Tom, Crossing Patroller**

As many of you may know, Tom has decided to retire at the end of October to take life at a more leisurely pace and concentrate on his family and health. He will work until the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Aberdeenshire Council will advertise the post through MyJobScotland and we aim to pop some posters up around the village too.



Tom has been in post since 2004 and has crossed many children in this time. It is our intention to have a tea party on the last day of term so parents and children can wish Tom well in his retirement. Each class will prepare a short celebration to share at the party. More information will follow.

Having spoken to Mrs Kay, Chair of the Parent Council, we have decided to do a collection to buy Tom a gift. Please, if you would like to contribute, send money into the school office in an envelope addressed 'FAO Lesley Kay'.

### **Relax Kids**

As a cluster we have identified mental Health and Well-being as an area of focus over the coming year. One way in which we will develop this is through Relax Kids sessions. The session focus on mindfulness. P1/2/3 will engage with sessions in Term 1 (until Christmas), P5/6/7 in Term 2 and P3/4 in Term 3.



### **Westhill and District Rotary Club**

I had a very successful meeting with the Rotary Club earlier in the term. The Rotary club will continue to support the school through Dictionaries for Life, Shoe Box Appeal, Young Speaker Competitions and Quizzes etc. Please check the 'Dates for your Diary' for the forthcoming events.

### **Castle Fraser - Going for Green**

P5/6/7 enjoyed a trip to Castle Fraser earlier in the month. The trip focused on sustainability and was highly enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Miss Law for arranging this opportunity for the children.



### **Active Schools**



Active Schools have arranged for 2 2 hour taster sessions of curling at The Curl Aberdeen. The children have had one session and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thank you very much to the parent volunteers who have restarted the Netball and Jogging Clubs. Please ensure children are registered for the clubs if they wish to attend.

We are looking into reintroducing the Football Club and more information will follow in due course.

### **Barcaple**

Following discussions with the Parent Council and Staff, we have decided that, in order to make the residential trip more sustainable for Skene School, we will run a trip every second year for both P6 and P7 pupils. The trip and the Summer Show will alternate each year. The date for the 2017 Barcaple Trip is 6-11<sup>th</sup> June. We will once again go with Crombie School. Initial interest letters are in and the first payment is due by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**.

### **Changes to the School Day**

I am happy to report that the changes to our school day are working very well. The afternoons are much better with a short break in the middle. Overall, class time is more productive and there have been less incidents in the playground.

### **Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Smart to the teaching team at Skene. She has settled in well to P1/2/3 and is looking forward to meeting more parents over the coming weeks.

Mrs Moira Morrison, Additional Support for Learning Teacher, has taken up a temporary post at Westhill Academy. We are prioritising the recruitment of a teacher to replace her. We wish her well in her new post.

### **Snappy September**

Thank you very much for all entries to the Snappy September Competition - what a beautiful area we live in. All entries are on display in the library area and have been sent on to Mrs Buckett for consideration for the annual calendar. Thank you also to the parents who sent in some photographs.

The winners this year were:

Joe Pirie, P2





Owen Reid, P4

Isla Beltran, P5



### Dates for your Diary

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - P5/6/7 Curling Taster Session, 12:30 - 2:30pm
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - SSPCA Visit
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Flu immunisations
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October - Parents Evening 5pm - 7pm
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Parents Evening 3:30 - 5:30pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October - Last day of term
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October - Return to School
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - ALEC Caravan visit
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Council Meeting 6pm
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - Prayer Space
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November - INSET Day
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November - INSET Day
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November - proposed date for Bingo Night
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Rotary Young Speaker Competition
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Whole School Trip to HMT Pantomine
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - proposed date for P3-4 Christmas party (pm) and P5/6/7 Party (am)
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December - P1-4 Nativity at Kirkton of Skene Church, 6:30pm start.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - proposed date for P1/2 Christmas Party (am)
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Last day of term
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Holidays Begin
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 - Back to School