



# Skene School News May 2014

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

Welcome to our May newsletter, a quick round up of what's been going on in and around school.

## In the classrooms

P1-3 are currently amidst their "Bodyworks!" project which, not surprisingly, is looking at all different things to do with how our body works! This is mainly a Science and Health and

Wellbeing project, but is taking in all different areas of the curriculum, including making good use of ICT including the iPads. We had a great afternoon taking part in Food Revolution Day 2014, joining in with the world record attempt at the highest number of children cooking around



the world in one go. The record was broken before we were even out of our beds though, as it started in Australia! We



cooked along with Jamie Oliver's live online cooking lesson, but we couldn't have done it without our parent helpers who were absolute superstars. Every child in the class made Jamie's Rainbow Salad Wrap (but not every child enjoyed eating it!!) and helped in



both the preparation and the clearing up. We learned about the vegetables in the recipe, and the P3s researched what other countries around the world had been doing to join in with Food Revolution Day. Our Bodyworks project has also made it into our maths, as we have a café and shop set up in class which we are using for our work on number, money and data handling.



P4-7 have been geographers and scientists too this term, with their Scotland project again running alongside their Wheels project. As part of the Scotland topic, the class will be doing some persuasive writing to get you all to come along to their enterprise next

month – a Scottish gift shop and café!

They have also been working on a Bible Alive Art Attack activity with Miss Stewart from Skene Parish Church, investigating the art and architecture there. The Wheels project is really gearing up now towards its culmination on Race Day on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Alford, and the drivers have been taking part in time trials and practice runs to prepare.

Wood Group engineers Scott and Anton are still working with groups most Monday mornings, they came along to present the kit car at our Parents Active Literacy and Technology Information Evening, and we received a cheque for £600 sponsorship from their company. Alongside the £1000 donation from BAA via Euan Munro, (Innes and Struan's dad) which was amazing, we have a lot to be grateful for this year already. P4-7 have also had student teacher Mrs Laura Murray working with them for the past couple of weeks. Mrs Murray is currently undertaking the Distance Learning path to becoming a teacher, and also works as an Active Schools Co-ordinator for Aberdeenshire



Council, so she has been making good use of her area of expertise by teaching a series of lessons on the Commonwealth Games.



Both classes attended Tesco's Farm to Fork trip as it fit well with both the Bodyworks and the Scotland projects. This was entirely funded by Tesco and the children enjoyed finding out about the different foods, where it came from, how it was stored, and even what some of it tasted like!



## School Buses and Car Park

Unfortunately we are still having a few problems in this area. There have been several incidents of poor behaviour on the school bus home, and some parents and children are continuing to use the delivery gate and take children through the car park. We would really appreciate it if you could all abide by our safety rules, stick to the designated path through the playground, and reiterate to your children the importance of good, safe behaviour on the bus.

## Community Time Groups

The **Pupil Council** and the **Eco Group** presented an assembly to the rest of school about the dangers of misbehaving on the bus, as part of their work on the School Travel Plan. They came up with a drama performance themselves, based on their experiences on the school bus home, which was quite an eye opener for everyone, and very educational. We hope to be able to show it to the parents early next term, when the new P1s have started, so that we can include them in the final version of the Travel Plan document.

The **Fairtrade Group** have planned this year's picnic, and all parents are invited to bring their packed lunch along to eat with us on the field (weather permitting!) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30. As usual, Lorraine will be preparing a school packed lunch for anyone who wishes to order one, and it will include an option for a Fairtrade banana or Fairtrade raisins. Anyone coming along to the picnic is asked to have a Fairtrade item as part of their packed lunch. The Fairtrade Group will be checking!

The **Rights Respecting School Group** met with their compatriots from Monymusk School who came along to visit one afternoon at the end of April. Monymusk School have been working on their Rights Respecting School Awards for several years, and are now working towards Level 2. As part of that, the children would like to stay in touch with the Skene group and give us help and advice where they can. We enjoyed seeing the work they had brought with them to show us, and learned a lot from it. The Rights Respecting School Group will also contribute to the Fairtrade picnic by linking it to one of the rights in the UNICEF Children's Charter which we will learn about on the day.



## Our Community



We invited all parents in at the start of the month for an information evening, mainly focusing on Active Literacy and how it is taught from P1-P7. It was an excellent evening, fairly well attended, and with very positive feedback. Children from both classes gave a good demonstration of how they learn in spelling, reading and writing.



We were lucky enough to have a surprise visit from a member of the Aberdeen Football Club coaching team who brought with him the Scottish League Cup. Staff and children were all excited to get their photos taken with it!

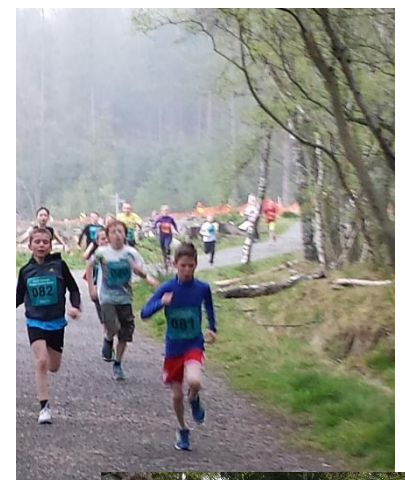


Our P7 pupil Chantelle joined with the Westhill P7s on their residential trip to Barcaple. Chantelle had a fantastic time taking part in all the adventurous activities (even though some of them were pretty scary!) and says she has made lots of good friends she is now looking forward to going up to Academy with. We are really proud of her for going off to Barcaple on her own with Westhill Primary – well done Chantelle!

We are now starting to meet with the new P1s from the playgroup in Kirkton of Skene, and several other nurseries around Aberdeenshire and beyond. They will be spending the best part of 4 mornings with us in P1-3, and will hopefully be able to join us for the Fairtrade Picnic on their last induction day. It is always an exciting time, and we are welcoming another 11 P1s this year so our numbers are growing fast.

## Sporting Achievements

This month children from P3-P7 took part in football, swimming, netball and cross country, competing against other schools and having great fun at the same time. Parents have this month been involved in organising events, arranging transport, running training sessions and supervising participants. Our thanks again have to go to these parents, without whom attendance at events would not be possible.



## Parent Council

Skene School Parent Council had hoped to run a Family Fun Day either at the end of this term or the start of next, but unfortunately didn't get much response to their plea for other parent helpers. Because of this, they have decided to downscale and instead are running what sounds like a great addition to our Sports Day this year. You have already received a flyer home for the fun day activities planned for after our sports on Friday. There is still time to let the Parent Council know if you can help or contribute in any way.

**Please note that this event will run even if sports day has to be postponed due to inclement weather.**

## Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	First of 4 weekly swimming sessions for P4-7 pupils ending 24th June
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	P1 Induction Day 2 and parents meeting (11.15-12)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	P1 Induction Day 3 Sports Day, 1.45pm (existing P1-7 only) and School Council Fun Day (below)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Green Goblin Kit Car Race Day, Alford
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	P1 Induction Day 4 Fairtrade Picnic 12.30 – 1.30pm (below) Pupil reports sent home
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	New P1 Parents' Information Evening 6pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Chantelle's Assembly, Skene Parish Church, 2pm
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day summer term
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	First day Term 1 2014/2015 session (half day for P1)

In the case of inclement weather, we will take the decision regarding whether Sports Day will go ahead or not by 11am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please ring the school information line on 0870 054 4999 (Skene School Pin 022550) to find out.

