**Port Elphinstone School & Nursery**

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**NEWSLETTER**

***Tel No. 01467 536860*** *Email –* *portelphinstone.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk*

*School Information Line – 0870 054 4999 Pin number – 022430*

*Facebook Page – Port Elphinstone Primary School & Nursery*

HEAD TEACHER *Mrs N Boyle B.Ed.*

**JANUARY 2018**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year from us all here at the Port School & Nursery.

We hope that it is a good one!

Welcome to Bassel who has joined the Nursery Red Group.

I’m sure everyone will make him feel most welcome.

I have created a “wishing wall” outside my office, so if you would like to

share your Resolutions for 2018, then please write it down on a post it

note ☺ The wishing wall is for staff, pupils and parents.

**Bringing valuables to school**

We wish to remind parents and pupils that it is not advisable for pupils to bring valuable items to school. If they do, it is not the school’s responsibility should they be damaged, lost or go missing.

Thank you for your support with this matter.



**Visiting Specialists this term**

Tuesday & Wednesday - SFL – Mrs Sheila Middleton

Wednesday – Art – Mr Livingston

Tuesday a.m. – Drama – Mrs Charlton

Thursday a.m. – French – Monsieur Journe

Thursday p.m. – Kodaly – Mrs Barna

Friday a.m. – Drama – Mrs Charlton (until end Jan)

Friday – Music – Miss Murray (From Feb onwards)

(Please note – not all classes will receive all specialists this term)

**Car park safety**

We have noticed that there are still people who choose to walk through the car park in order to use the small gate as a means of getting to and from the school. Please be aware that children should not use this small gate. There is a level of risk in choosing to go this way.

Can I also remind everyone that the road approaching school has a 20mph speed limit? This area can be very busy area with parents and children crossing so please be vigilant at all times.

I sent home a letter recently regarding parking issues, which included advice from Police Scotland.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions (enrolment)**

Admissions for children to Primary 1 are from 15-19 January. Please come and collect forms if you have not already done so from the office. Admissions for Nursery are from 22 January – 2 February.

Information and application forms are available on Aberdeenshire Council’s website or from the school office. Please bring to school your child’s birth certificate and a recent utility bill. Thank you.

**Parent Information Evening - 23 January**

Just a reminder that there is a Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 23 January, starting at 6:45. Please inform the office if you are able to attend if you haven’t done so already. Thank you.

**Scots Poem**

Recently, every pupil has been learning a Scots or Doric poem. Class teachers have selected a poem for their class and have helped the pupils to learn their poem. Your child will have received a copy of the poem to take home. Extra practise at home is always useful, so any time spent helping your child to learn their poem is much appreciated. Learning a piece of poetry develops many different skills and has real benefits for other areas of the curriculum too.

Two pupils from each class will be chosen to receive a special certificate from the Robert Burns World Federation Limited for their efforts, and then one pupil overall will receive the Helen Currie Shield for excellence in Doric/Scots verse. Each pupil will receive a certificate from school for their efforts.

****Staff will be considering the following areas when choosing the winners from each class:

• Physical Presence

• Voice and Articulation

• Accuracy

• Expression

• Overall Performance

Our Scots Poetry assembly will be held on Friday 26 January at 2pm. All parents/carers are invited to come along and hear each class recite their poem, as well as the 2 class winners, before the shield for the overall winner is presented. Please note, the winners will have already been chosen before the assembly.

We are happy for pupils to wear something Scottish / tartan on that day if they wish to do so.

**Weather**

Please ensure that your child is wearing suitable warm clothing and footwear for outside at break and lunch, as it has been quite cold recently. Thank you.

**After school clubs**

Just a reminder that clubs have started for this term. There will be Book Club at lunchtimes later on in the term. A note will go home confirming dates. Thank you

**Parent Council News**

We had our Parent Council meeting on 11 January. We are looking for ideas for new events / stalls, so if you have any suggestions please let us know. We are thinking about a SHOPPING NIGHT next session so if you know anyone who may wish to have a table then let us know.

**SPRING FAIR: SAT 12 MAY 10-12 – save the date ☺**

**NURSERY – Care Inspectorate**

The nursery had a visit from the Care Inspectorate on Tuesday 16 January. We will give you an update on how the visit went as soon as we know. Thank you to parents that took the time to fill in the questionnaire and to chat with Mrs Smith during her visit.

**Dates for your Diary**

Fri 26 Jan – Scots poetry assembly at 2pm. All welcome.

Fri 9 and Mon 12 Feb – School closed for Mid Term Holiday.

Tues 13 & Wed 14 Feb – In Service days for Staff.

 School closed for pupils.

Thurs 1 March – WORLD BOOK DAY

Thurs 8 March – Parent Council Meeting 6pm

Mon 12 – Fri 16 March – SCIENCE WEEK

Wed 21 / Thurs 22 March - **Parent Appointments (Previously May)**

**Thurs 29 March – Last day of term. School / Nursery close at usual times.**

**Mon 16 April – First day of term -School / Nursery open at usual times.**

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Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss any matter further.

You are invited to comment on the return pro-forma on any aspect of school whether as a comment/suggestion, compliment or concern. These are responded to as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely



*Mrs Nic Boyle*

Head Teacher

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**Comment / Suggestion, Compliment or Concern**

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Signature …………………………………………………………………………………………… January 2018