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ROSEHEARTY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

TERM 1

It has been a very busy term already, with our young people returning from the summer break relaxed and ready. Everyone is raring to go and are filled with enthusiasm for learning and excited for the year ahead.

Pupil Council & House Leaders

During the first two weeks of term, each class selected a pupil to join the school pupil council – you can see their pictures below. Their role is important in ensuring pupil voice is heard in school. Through their Health and Wellbeing work, there will be opportunities for our pupils to share their thoughts with their class rep and bring these to pupil council meetings.



Primary 1/2



Primary 2/3



Primary 3/4



Primary 5



Primary 6



Primary 7

Primary 7 were also very busy during week 1, writing letters of application to become House Leaders. Many pupils made some very important statements about their personal qualities, linking these directly to leadership skills. Many also connected these further to the school values, making the selection process incredibly difficult. We are delighted to share below our House Leaders for session 2022/23.



Brucklay House Leaders



Dundarg House Leaders



Cairnhill House Leaders



Pitsligo House Leaders

Following our first pupil council meeting, our secretary Alyssa shares the following:

We are writing to inform you about the term prizes for the year for the winning houses.

Term 1 – Extra dress down day

Term 2 – Movie & PJs

Term 3 – Mini disco

Term 4 – Water fight

Year winner – Trip somewhere that will be decided closer to the time.

Thank you.



Pupil Council Secretary

Staffing

We're delighted to welcome Miss E Dougan to Primary 7 for a teaching placement over the next few months. Already the children have made her feel very welcome. As communicated over the summer, we have welcomed Miss Renz to Primary 6 too.

Open Afternoon

Next week sees our first open afternoon of the school session. Pop along to the school at 2.30pm and come see your children 'in action.' A separate letter will follow with how to get the best out of your visit.

Cauliflower Christmas Cards

This year we have decided to participate in a 'Christmas Design Project' run by Cauliflower Cards. The project aims to encourage pupils' creativity and design skills whilst also raising funds for our school. Your child has been creating his/her own Christmas design which can be professionally printed to produce personalized Christmas Cards, Gift Labels, Wrapping Paper and/or Mugs. Not only would it be very exciting for your child to see his/her work as a finished printed product, the cards themselves are great for sending a more personal greeting to friends and family at Christmas and the Mugs are great for gifts! Orders and payment must be made online using the unique code located at the top of the pupil order form. Please refer to your order form for further instructions. Each order form must be unique so please do not photocopy the form for other members of your family you can get extra copies from your school. All order forms will be sent home with pupils on Wednesday 27th of September All artwork where orders have been placed must be returned to school by: Friday 6th of October Cards will be delivered by the beginning of December.

Parents Portal

Thank you to the many people who have signed up to parentsportal. Annual data checks are now well underway and it is important that everyone keeps their contact details current. It really is important for everyone to sign up to parentsportal – it's free and secure. This is the platform going forward that report cards will be issued on. If you haven't done so already, please visit [PARENTS PORTAL](#) and register. If you are really struggling with signing up, please contact the office who will be able to help you.

Our School Office / Communicating with the School

Our office is usually manned Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 3.30pm. There are some times where the office may need to close for a short period. If the office is in darkness or the blinds are closed, please push the buzzer to the right of the window and someone will attend to you as soon as they are available.

The school inbox is monitored by 4 different members of staff, so email is the most effective way to contact the school. We try to respond as quickly as we can, but this may not be the same day. If you are looking for a message to be shared with a specific member of staff, please set your email subject to **FAO MISS PARK** (or whichever staff member as appropriate.) Please do not directly email any member of staff (including the Head Teacher.) Any such emails will not be responded to. You can also contact us by telephone during working hours. There is an option to leave a message if there is no response – the school receives an email to notify us of missed calls and voicemails received.

Finally, every child in the school is issued with a home-school notebook which can be used as a two-way communication tool. This can be a great place for quick notes for the teacher or parent, and as every child has one there is less stigma attached to this.

Promoting Positive Relationships Policy

After much work we've now got a policy document that has been revised and revisited many times, which we're now delighted to share with you. Please do have a look at the document by [clicking here](#), and we'd encourage you to send us an email with your feedback.

Lost Property

Miss Ward has been frantically trying to reunite items of clothing (as well as water bottles etc) with their owners. Please do have a final look on the school Facebook group for any items yet to be claimed – these items will eventually be moved to the school uniform bank if unclaimed. PLEASE label all items of clothing – no matter how much you think your child will recognize their own clothing – they won't.

School Uniform

In our recent Quality Improvement Visit it was noted how much pride our young people take in their school, and in particular how many of our children wear school uniform. We still process a monthly school uniform order, so if you wish to order through the school please ask at reception for an order form. Alternatively you may wish to order from a supplier directly – we as a school use Buchan Embroidery. If you are registered for Free School Meals, do remember that you may be entitled to a **school uniform grant** to help with these costs – more information can be found on Aberdeenshire Council's website around this or by [CLICKING HERE](#)

As a very basic overview of our uniform expectation; grey top (jumper/zippy/hoodie, preferably with school logo,) white or navy polo t-shirt (again logo preferred) black/grey trousers/skirts/pinafores/shorts and black shoes. Many parents choose to embroider their child's name onto items, however regardless of this we ask that you PLEASE write their name on the label of every item – it makes it so much easier to reunite lost items.

We have a very successful uniform swap-shop in the library, which is available to everyone. Pop in if you need an item or two and equally if you have items that no longer fit, please pop them in the blue bin by the library where we can put them to good use.

Industrial Action – Strike Days

Next week member of certain trade unions will be undertaking industrial action by striking, therefore our nursery will be closed Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th September.

Learning Letters

You should by now have received a copy of your child's class newsletter, highlighting some of the learning they will be undertaking this term. These are also displayed at the front door for your reference. If you're fed up of asking your child what they've been learning in school and getting the 'nothing' response, why not flip the question on its head and ask them something from their learning letter? "I can see this term you're learning about place value up to hundreds, how do you think you're getting on with that?"

Session 2022-23 – Reflections & Session 2023-24 – Looking Forward

Each year as a school we undertake some self evaluation of the school; our successes, strengths and next steps. We use a framework called 'How Good is Our School?' or HIGIOS as it's often shortened to. It gives us some key themes to consider. Thank you to those who filled in our form at the end of term with their thoughts about our school improvement journey last year – this was useful in informing our school gradings. Despite the numerous staffing challenges we faced last year, it's clearly felt by all that the school still made progress in its improvement journey.

Leadership of Change <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing a shared vision, values and aims relevant to the school and it's community• Strategic planning for continuous improvement• Implementing improvement and change	Our self-evaluated grade: Satisfactory
Learning, Teaching and Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning and engagement• Quality of teaching• Effective use of assessment• Planning, tracking and Monitoring	Our self-evaluated grade: Satisfactory
Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wellbeing• Fulfilment of statutory duties• Inclusion and equality	Our self-evaluated grade: Satisfactory
Raising Attainment and Achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attainment in literacy and numeracy• Attainment over time• Overall quality of learner's achievement• Equity for all learners	Our self-evaluated grade: Satisfactory

For more information on how HIGIOS self-evaluations are reached, please visit Education Scotland's website.

This year we have 3 main school improvement priorities:

- Raising attainment in literacy (particularly writing)
- Increase engagement and understanding of the UNCRC & SHANARRI
- To improve our approaches to Learning, Teaching and Assessment

We look forward to sharing our progress with you as the year progresses.

Holidays During Term Time

We have seen a significant increase in the number of children being taken out of school for family holidays. This term alone we have lost 57 learning days to holidays. Unless there are **very** exceptional circumstances these will always be recorded as unauthorised absence, with a letter issued from the school to state this. You are encouraged to book holidays during the 12 weeks that the children are not in school. Ultimately it is your decision as a parent to take a child out of school and where this is the case, we trust that you are prioritising your child's wellbeing needs over their educational needs. To this end we won't issue schoolwork to be completed in their absence, though there may be work to catch up with upon their return. All we would ask is that you give some consideration to reading for pleasure.

Across our Communities

In our newsletters we often have contributions from various community groups such as uniformed groups and the community council. If you are a member of any community group or know someone who is and would like to use the school newsletter to share news or information, please contact the school office.

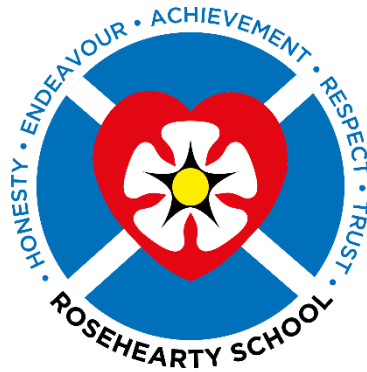
From our Parent Council

The Parent Council are always keen to hear of any fundraising ideas that you may have which you and your children would love to be involved in! Please pass these on to any PC members - each class is represented.

Also coming soon, is the new PC information board where you will find contact details for some of the members, upcoming dates of meetings & events and a summary minute of the previous meeting. Keep an eye out for it in the foyer.

Whole Year Calendar

Finally, I have attached our proposed school calendar for session 2023-24. This is a live document, which is always subject to change. We will try to inform you as soon as possible of any change to dates. We'll also pin up a copy at the front door.



Calendar 2023-24

TERM 1 (8 weeks)

Mon 21 st August	IN SERVICE
Tues 22 nd	Children return to school for Term 1 P1 children commence half days
Fri 25 th	P1 Parent Lunch
Mon 28 th	P1 children commence full days NESCOL to begin Science sessions with P5 Bikability for P5-P7 begins
Weds 30 th	Parent Council AGM
Mon 4 th September	Learning Letters out
Weds 27 th	Open Afternoon (2.30pm – 3.00pm)
Fri 6 th October	All Cauliflower card orders due by today
Weds 11 th	Parent Council meeting – 6.15pm
Thurs 12 th	Winning House Dress-down day
Fri 13 th	LAST DAY OF TERM – DRESS DOWN DAY P5 Class Assembly – 2.30pm OCTOBER HOLIDAYS – 2 WEEKS

TERM 2 (8 weeks)

Mon 30 th October	Children return to school for Term 2
Tues 7 th November	School photographer in – individual & family photos
Weds 15 th	Interim Progress Summary Issued
Thurs 16 th	In Service – School closed to all pupils
Fri 17 th	In Service – School closed to all pupils
Weds 22 nd	Open Afternoon – Literacy focus
Thurs 30 th	St Andrews Day – Wear a Touch of Tartan
Fri 1 st December	P3/4 Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Thurs 7 th	Save the Children Christmas Jumper day
Thurs 14 th	Afternoon Christmas Performance (grandparents/elderly community) Evening Christmas Performance for parents
Fri 15 th	Afternoon Christmas Performance for parents
Mon 18 th	Early Years Christmas Party
Tues 19 th	Primary 6 & Primary 7 Christmas Party (1.15pm)
Weds 20 th	Primary 1/2 & Primary 2/3 Christmas Party (1.15pm)
Thurs 21 st	Primary 3/4 & Primary 5 Christmas Party (1.15pm)
Fri 22 nd	LAST DAY OF TERM – DRESS DOWN DAY PJ Party & Movie for winning house (AM) CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – 2 WEEKS

TERM 3 (12 weeks)

Mon 8 th January	Back to School
Tues 29 th	Open Afternoon – Numeracy Focus
Fri 2 nd February	P6 Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Tues 6 th	Parent/Teacher Appointments (Evening)
Weds 7 th	Parent/Teacher Appointments (Afternoon)
Thurs 8 th	OCCASIONAL DAY - HOLIDAY
Fri 9 th	OCCASIONAL DAY - HOLIDAY
Mon 12 th	OCCASIONAL DAY - HOLIDAY
Tues 13 th	In Service – School closed to all pupils
Weds 14 th	In Service – School closed to all pupils
Saturday 24 th	Fundraising Soup & Sweet by Parent Council
Thurs 7 th March	World Book Day
Fri 8 th	P2/3 Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Fri 22 nd	Mini Disco for Winning House Term 3
Thurs 28th	LAST DAY OF TERM – DRESS DOWN DAY Egg decorating competition

SPRING HOLIDAYS – 2 WEEKS

TERM 4 (12 weeks)

Mon 15 th April	Back to School
Mon 6 th May	MAY DAY - HOLIDAY
Fri 17 th	P1/2 Class Assembly – 2.30pm
Mon 3 rd June	HEALTH WEEK – Sports clothes all week
Thurs 6 th	Sports Afternoon (Option 1)
Fri 7 th	Potted Sports (am)
	Progress Summary ('Report Card') issued
Thurs 13 th	Open Afternoon & Open Evening
Mon 24 th	P7 Leavers Assembly and PrizeGiving - 1.30pm
Mon 1 st July	Proposed P7 Residential Trip
Fri 5 th July	LAST DAY OF TERM – DRESS DOWN DAY <i>End of Session</i>

Correct at 22/09/23