

**GATESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Main Road, GATESIDE, Fife KY14 7SZ

Telephone: 01334 659417

Email address: [gatesideps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk](mailto:gatesideps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk)



Headteacher: Mrs M. Andrews

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MA/DA

**News Update 16**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

**Animation**

Our school is involved in a project with Mr Imrie, Curriculum Technology Officer and Mr Knussen, Digital Music Teacher.

The P3-7 children are learning to create animated clips using a programme called Pivot, then moving on to making a short video clip using the stop, go technique. (Just like Wallace and Grommit!)

We are very excited about this project and are working on the story boards in preparation for filming.

As well as learning more about computing the children are working on their literacy skills which make this work cross curricular and very valuable, perfectly in line with the Curriculum for Excellence.

**ICT**

The P7 pupils have been working with Mr Saunderson, a Computing Teacher from the Secondary Sector. They have been focusing on spreadsheets and data bases. On Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, Mrs Donaldson and I are taking the P6-7s to the ICT Suite in Bell Baxter as part of the transition process. Pupils from Strathmiglo Primary School are joining us for the session which runs from 9.300 am – 12.00 pm. This is a great opportunity for the older pupils to go to Bell Baxter and meet teachers in the computing department.

**The Triathlon Event – Kids of Steel**

Most of the children in P6-7 are going to Duffus Park, Cupar to participate in this event on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. This has been organised by Murray McBain, our Active Schools Coordinator.

The children are swimming, cycling and running.

Mrs Petrie is accompanying them. A bus has been arranged to transport them. I am sure you would like to join with me and wish them good luck. A letter for parents is enclosed for those children going (please complete permission slip on back)

The event finishes at 1.00pm so please provide a packed lunch, which the children will eat on return to school. They may take a snack and drink to the event and Mrs Petrie will look after these items. TOFF and milk will also be supplied.

**Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN)**

Scottish Schools are taking part in a national survey to find out what children in Scotland know and can do in Numeracy. Thousands of pupils in Scotland are taking part.

Four pupils from our school have been randomly selected to complete the surveys which will be administered by me, next week. The parents of these children will be informed and asked if they are happy for their child to participate. This is not an assessment of individual children or individual schools so children are not identified.

The selected children will be given assurances that they are taking part in a special survey to inform the SQA about how well children in Scotland are progressing.

## **Student Placement**

Miss Hock is enjoying a very successful teaching placement with us. Next week is her last week with us and she will be taking the P3-7 class for the whole week. Mrs McLean and I will support her over the week and be available to work with groups and individuals. This has been a very good opportunity for Miss Hock to develop her teaching skills. She has worked very hard and it looks as if she will make a very good teacher.

## **Nursery Visits**

The nursery children are visiting school on

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1.30pm -2.30pm

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 11.00am – 12.00pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00am – 12.00pm

We are looking forward to welcoming six new children after the summer holidays.

## **Rag Bag Day**

The next Rag Bag Collection is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The pick up time has been arranged for 9.00am so please have all your bags in the front shelter shed for then. It will be possible for bags to be dropped off the day before. All proceeds from the Rag Bag uplift go towards school fund, so have a good clear out, recycle your old textiles and help the school as well. Many thanks.

## **Parent Council Meeting- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30pm**

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the meeting in school.

It is very important that those parents interested in the After School Club come to this meeting. There is a need for After School Care in our area and many people are keen to see this start up after the summer. Please come and make your views known so an agreement can be reached.

Other areas about school life will be discussed too, so please join us and be involved.

## **Orienteering Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June - Lochore Meadows**

The P6-P7 children are taking part in this wonderful event. I am delighted it is going ahead again this year and extend my thanks to the PE Staff who organise the day for Fife children.

A packed lunch and snack is required. The children should wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

Mrs Petrie and I are transporting the children and will stay on location at all times to ensure the safety of the children. However, they are expected to go off on their own and follow a map around the course. There is PE Staff on duty, all around the course making sure the children are safe. This is a great chance for children to develop their confidence and independence.

## **Health Fortnight – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.**

Following the success of last year's Health Week we are extending it. There are lots of activities planned and once the programme has been finalised a timetable will be sent home.

Our Sports Day takes place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1.30pm -2.45pm. If anyone is free to help out please let me know.

## **Dundee Science Centre – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

A visit has been arranged to tie in with the project this term. As well as looking at the exhibits there is a workshop for each class called "Healthy Body Bits".

Transport is provided free of charge!

Packed lunches, school uniform and snacks are required. No spending money should be sent in.

This is a very busy term, full of exciting activities which should enrich the children's learning and help develop their skills and knowledge. Also, we hope to have lots of fun in the process!

Yours sincerely

Maureen Andrews, Headteacher

