

**GATESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Mrs M. Andrews

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MA/DA

5<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parents and Carers

**News Update 6**

**Harvest Celebration**

Thank you to all who came along to our celebration last term. The children performed with their usual enthusiasm and I am sure you would have been proud to be involved.

We received a lovely letter of thanks from Fife Women's Aid for the amazing toiletries donated by yourselves. The toiletries will be given to those families in need, so thank you once again for your kindness.

**Celebrating Fife at Gateside Mills**

Many of you made your way to the Gateside Mills to see the exhibition and took part in some of the activities. This event was well received by visitors and Gavin and Nicola were pleased with the response from the school and wider community.

Unfortunately there was dreadful vandalism during the weekend of 23/24<sup>th</sup> October and many of the exhibits were destroyed, damaged or stolen, including the children's work. The spider's web was burnt and the spiders destroyed. This was most distressing for the children as well as the organisers. The children have come forward with information, which I will pass on to Gavin.

It is important we all keep our ears and eyes open and report any incidents of vandalism to the police. Incidents are quite rare in Gateside, thankfully, but they do occur from time to time.

**Halloween Party**

The party was a great success and enjoyed by the children and adults alike. Many, many thanks to Kate Fernando for running the party on Sunday. She certainly knows how to keep the children involved in exciting games. Also, thanks must go to the adults who helped set up the hall, provided the food, washed the dishes and tidied up afterwards.

The costumes and lanterns were wonderful and it was brilliant to see everyone having so much fun. It's tremendous to see the school and community together.

**Student Placement**

Mrs Banks started her four week placement this week and is working extremely hard. She loves coming to Gateside and we all wish her well and hope the experience is a very positive and useful one as she trains to become a teacher. Her tutor's first visit is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00 am.

## **Forest School**

Chris Childe, Forest School Leader, has approached me to ask if our school would like to be involved in making a promotional film for the People's Millions Lottery, to raise funds for Forest Schools in Fife. We are waiting for a date to do the filming. The intention is to take the P3-7 class to Pitmedden Forest for one morning during the next two weeks when the children will be filmed doing the activities they learned with Chris last year.

Please complete the permission slip below if you are happy for your child to take part. If the project is successful it will mean schools in Fife will have the opportunity to become involved in learning outdoors with fully trained leaders.

## **School Photographs**

Mr Andrews has agreed to take the children's photographs again this year. This has been arranged for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November and will take place in the Memorial Hall. Emma Morgan has kindly agreed to transport the children to and from the school for the day.

Arrangements are as follows, starting with the P7s and working down the school during the morning.

Family groups will be taken in the afternoon and parents with pre school children are welcome to bring them along.

Order forms will be sent home next week and further details of timings will be sorted as required.

Prices are very reasonable and any profit goes into the School Fund.

## **Christmas Cards**

Mrs Easton, our art specialist has been working with the children and they have produced their designs for their individual Christmas cards for this year. The older class have made snowmen cards and the younger ones have made ones depicting scenes of Bethlehem. They are just gorgeous!

Mr Andrews is going to transfer their pictures onto card format and they will be available to buy in a couple of weeks.

Once again they will be priced at £1.00 per pack of four cards and any profit goes into the School fund.

Order forms will be sent out next week.

This has always been a successful enterprise for the school and well supported by parents and friends.

## **Rag Bags**

A tremendous sum was realised from the collection of textiles for the Rag Bags for schools event. A cheque for £123 was sent to school and will be added to the school fund.

Thanks to everyone who contributes to this recycling scheme which also helps raise funds for our school.

## **Boardmaker**

There are lots of new signs around the school using a resource called Boardmaker. Many schools in Fife are working towards becoming Boardmaker schools. Our weekly timetable and daily timetables are used by both adults and children. Everything is labelled using the Boardmaker method and the children are now familiar with the signs and use them well.

Mrs Jackson, Mrs Petrie and Mrs Donaldson have been working flat out to make our school a boardmaker school and our assessment will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

**Parents Teacher Interviews**

Appointments for parents and teacher to meet have been arranged for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Each child has been allocated a 15 minute slot and we will have to stick to the time so everyone can be seen on time. If further discussion is required we are happy to make arrangements with individual parents at another time. Please remember we are available if you need to speak to us about anything, all you have to do is arrange a time either with Miss Turner or myself or Mrs Anderson.

**Inservice Days**

School is closed to pupils on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of November for in-service training for staff.

**TOFF/Milk**

For those who prefer to pay termly TOFF this term is £10.50 and milk £5.60

Yours sincerely  
Maureen Andrews  
Headteacher

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**P3-7 Pupils Only**

I agree to my child/children taking part in the filming at Pitmeddan Forest

I do not wish my child/children to take part in the filming at Pitmeddan Forest

Signed.....

Date.....