

# Culter School Newsletter November 2007

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November '07  
Volume 1, Issue 3

Mrs S Crossan  
Head Teacher



## Contents

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Headteacher's News      | 1 |
| Inset                   | 1 |
| Think Pink Day          | 1 |
| School Closures         | 1 |
| Mrs Downie              | 1 |
| Achievement Assembly    | 1 |
| Sporting News           | 2 |
| Nestle Box Tops         | 2 |
| Robert Gordon's College | 2 |
| Pumpkin Winners         | 2 |

## Diary Dates

- ◆ **ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY** - 8<sup>th</sup> November
- ◆ **TOP TABLE DATES**  
16<sup>th</sup> November  
7<sup>th</sup> December  
20<sup>th</sup> December
- ◆ **MRS DOWNIE'S ASSEMBLY**  
16<sup>th</sup> November - invitation to parents 2.30pm
- ◆ **INSET DAY**  
19<sup>TH</sup> November
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS SHOWS**  
10<sup>TH</sup> December  
11<sup>th</sup> December

## Headteacher's News

### DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Welcome back. I hope all our families enjoyed the break in October. In school, we are now working to plan our Christmas Show and activities. Full dates and details will be sent home over the next few weeks. One date, which has been fixed, is that of the evening performance of the Christmas Show. This will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December with further performances to take place during the day on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Times and full details to follow but I hope it is helpful to parents to have these dates in the diary at this stage.

### INSET

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November for staff INSET. Culter school staff will be working on the development of A Curriculum for Excellence, our new National Curriculum guidelines in Scotland, and will receive training in the use of our new Interactive Whiteboards. Staff will also receive training on the use of our Blog Site and other ICT needs.

### THINK PINK DAY

I would like to thank all parents and of course the children for the fantastic efforts made on our 'Think Pink' on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Most of our pupils dressed in pink for the day and a special mention must be made to all the boys who were brave enough to wear pink. Thanks also to the pupils of 6B, Mrs Black and Mrs Moore who came up with the idea and organised the event. A total of £694.82 was raised for Breast Cancer Awareness. Well done everyone!

### SCHOOL CLOSURES

At this time of year, we like to remind parents of the procedures for emergency school closures due to bad

weather. I attach an information sheet for parents, which gives details of the Aberdeen City Council Website on School Closures, the Schools Information Line and Northsound Radio Links. We do of course always do our best to open school in bad weather however on those occasions where we have a much-reduced staffing ratio, school cannot open. The safety of both staff and pupils has to be our main consideration. I do hope Culter will remain open throughout the winter months. Please ensure the School Office have your current emergency contact details.

### MRS DOWNIE

An Assembly will be held in school on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November to mark Mrs Downie's retiral from Culter School. The children have been working on some surprises for her and a presentation will be made on behalf of Culter pupils and parents. The Assembly will take place at 2pm for pupils and we would like to invite parents and former pupils to come along for a cup of tea and a chat with Mrs Downie at 2.30pm, following the pupil assembly. I look forward to seeing many of you there. School staff, past and present, will attend a Dinner for Mrs Downie in the Cults Hotel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Our second Achievement Assembly will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November. A display of Culter School Achievements is now in place in the School Foyer. Please come in and have a look if you have time. Culter Top Table diners are featured in a display in the canteen. Please feel free to come and see your child's picture if they have been at the Top Table. To read the children's achievements you can log onto:

<http://www.culter.aberdeen.sch.uk/children.htm>



## CULTER SPORTS CENTRE

*New Mini Badminton Class for 5-7 yrs*

*We currently have 6 spaces left in our 5-7yrs Mini Badminton Class on Mondays from 4-5pm. Anyone interested in taking a space, please contact Culter Sports Centre on 732069*

## WEBB IVORY

Last date for Webb Ivory orders is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## SPORTING NEWS

Miss Weighill is working hard to organise a Basketball team at Culter. We need to purchase some stands but are well on the way to getting this underway. We are aiming to enter a team in the Aberdeen Primary Schools Basketball Festival at the end of January 2008. Pupils who are interested in Basketball will receive a letter soon.

Mrs Moore is running a Badminton Group at lunchtimes for P6 pupils. Many thanks to Mrs Moore for her help with this. A Hockey Club begins this week in school on Friday at 4.15pm. Mrs Pauline de Koning is running the club and I would like to thank her for her work. For details of any of these activities, please contact the school office.

## PUMPKIN WINNERS

Thanks to all parents and children for the wonderful Pumpkins brought to school on Halloween. Rev Ferguson judged these and the Parent Council awarded prizes to the following pupils:

- P1 - Henry Ronaldson
- P2 - Daniel Webster
- P3 - Kimberley Booth
- P4 - James McMahon
- P5 - Joseph Robertson
- P6 - pumpkin designed jointly by Jemma Stein, Eleisha Bates, and Thomas Stein
- P7 - Keeley MacKinnon.

Well done to everyone for a creative and colourful display.

## FOOTBALL NEWS

At present we have 2 teams competing in the Hazlewood 9-a-side league, playing their home games on the school pitch on a Saturday morning. We are indebted to parents Mr Mackinnon, Mr Craig, Mr Griffiths and Mr Mitchell for coaching these teams.

RESULTS SO FAR:-

|                |   |                |   |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Culter 'Milan' | 0 | Culter 'Real'  | 1 |
| Culter 'Milan' | 3 | Mile End Milan | 7 |
| Culter 'Milan' | 4 | Hazlehead      | 8 |
| Culter 'Real'  | 2 | Meiklemill     | 3 |

## NESTLE BOX TOPS

'Box Tops for Books' offer educational books in exchange for Nestle Box tops tokens found on the top of cereal boxes. A school can never have enough books so we would be grateful if you could collect the tokens and send them to school with your child. A collection box is situated outside the school office.

## OPEN MORNING ROBERT GORDON'S COLLEGE

An open morning will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, at Schoolhill. The Head of College will give a presentation at 10.00am and pupils will be waiting to give you tours of the Junior School and Senior School. Enquires can be made at [enquires@rgu.aberdeen.sch.uk](mailto:enquires@rgu.aberdeen.sch.uk) or by telephoning 01224 646346

## PARKING

As winter approaches and the weather gets colder, it might be tempting to drop your children off at the school gates. I would ask that you DO NOT adopt this practice for the safety of all our children. Thank you.

## SCHOOL SWEATSHIRTS

A small stock of sweatshirts has arrived in school. Should anyone wish to purchase one, they are available from the school office.



## CULTER PRIMARY SCHOOL - ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

The decision to close school is never taken lightly. It is always made to ensure the Health and Safety of both staff and pupils is guaranteed. The main reason behind a school closures in bad weather are because we do not have sufficient staff in school at 9.00am to take care of the children. It may well be possible for teachers to reach Culter by 10.30am but we have to consider who will take care of the children until teachers arrive. In this situation, we have no choice but to close school to all pupils. Any decision to close will be made as soon as I have the information required and will be communicated to parents through the following channels.

If there has been a heavy snowfall overnight, parents should check whether school is open prior to sending children to school.

In the event of a school closure, I will in the first instance post this information on the school closures page of the Aberdeen City Council Website. This can be accessed on [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closure](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closure)

If you have internet access, this is probably the quickest and easiest way to find out if Culter School is open.

Parents can also telephone **Culter School's Information Line 0870 054 1999 PIN CODE 011270.**

Information on school closures is also broadcast on **Northsound 1 – FM 96.9** and **Radio Scotland**. Both Radio stations make regular reports of school closures and school bus transport cancellations from approximately 7.30 a.m. and throughout the day.

Any queries regarding whether the school bus will be operating be addressed to the Bus Operator (at present STAGECOACH/BLUEBIRD 01224 591381) for Culter School.

Reports on school transport will also be broadcast on either Northsound or Radio Scotland. All country children and those using the school bus should NOT attend school if the bus is not running. **Please note:** If the school is open and parents whose children usually use school transport bring them to school it is their responsibility to collect them at the end of the day and in the event of the school closing early.

If school is open in the morning but weather conditions worsen or a weather warning is received from Aberdeen City Council with a strong recommendation that pupils be sent home, then I will immediately inform Northsound. The office staff will be instructed to telephone parents starting with our youngest children and their siblings in order that arrangements can be made for the collection of child/ren.

### **Order of contact:**

- (1) mobile phones
- (2) home telephone number
- (3) emergency contact
- (4) workplace of parent

Due to the age of pupils we make every effort to contact you to collect or arrange collection of children from reception, but with 350 families and only two phone lines, this is time consuming and an expensive process. I appreciate parents who are able contact others to assist us in getting children home quickly.

At all times it is up to parents to make the best judgement about attempting to send their child/ren to school. If it is easier for you to keep the children at home or arrange childcare that is acceptable. Equally it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that they have informed the school of local, available emergency contacts for their child/ren.

**Thank you to all parents and families for your cooperation and help on those occasions when we need to close the school. Your help is much appreciated.**

