Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new year at Culter School. The children have now settled well into their new classes and rooms and we are looking forward to a busy year.

All pupils will receive a Home / School Help sheet this week which will outline expectations and requirements for each particular class. All classes are negotiating class rules with their teachers at present and these will be on display in the foyer soon.

Mrs. Polson has been busy taking some group photographs of pupils in P1 – 7 for display outside the school office. The photographs are lovely and I encourage parents to have a look if they are visiting the office. Many thanks to Mrs. Polson for her hard work.

All pupils in P1 – 3 have been given smart new red book bags for carrying reading books and homework to and from school. Over the years, we have had many reading books damaged by spilt juice and other minor accidents. We hope that in providing a separate bag for books, they will be protected. We will take these bags in over school holiday periods.

We welcome some new children to Culter this term. Esmee Enters has joined class 5L and Paul Ballantyne has joined 7P. We wish them a happy time in our school.

A very warm welcome of course to all our new P1 pupils and their families. The children will attend all day from next Monday, 8th September. They have all settled in very well and are already enjoying the playground and making lots of new friends.

Sadly we had to say goodbye and good luck to Miss Glass and Miss Weighill. Both teachers worked very hard for the children at Culter and had to move on at the end of their probationary year. Miss Glass is currently working in Bramble Brae Primary in Aberdeen and Miss Weighill is at Meldrum Primary in Aberdeenshire. We wish them well in their future career in teaching.
EMERGENCY CONTACT UPDATE

Emergency contact updates – we would ask all parents to ensure we have updated mobile and work numbers in school. Parents should also check alternative contacts are still valid. If your child is ill or hurt it is important we can contact someone quickly. We thank all families for their cooperation in this matter.

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Our ‘lollipop’ lady has contacted the school to say that very few pupils are now crossing with her. She has been informed that if the number of pupils crossing does not increase then we may lose the service. If your child crosses North Deeside Road, please ensure they are using the patrol. I am sure all parents would wish to retain the services of the patroller on the busy crossing.

SCHOOL LETS

Aberdeen City Council is reviewing the use of Primary Schools for evening and weekend Lets. This is part of the budget savings. The cost of janitorial overtime needed to cover use of the building outwith school hours is considerable and Lets will in future be directed to Secondary School. This may have some impact on timings of Parent Council meetings however at the time of writing the situation is unclear. School Concerts and Parent Interviews will go ahead as usual and we hope fund raising events can run as planned.

TOPICS THIS TERM

We are working to update and review topics used to deliver Environmental Studies at Culter. For this reason, we have not included a list of topics for the year in the Home/School sheet as usual. We will continue to use some familiar topics with updated content and outcomes. Many classes will study new topics this year and the number of topics studied, especially in Early Years will increase. In the past, some classes had only two or three topics across the year and we wish to increase this to include shorter, more motivating blocks of work. This term, topics studied are as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P1W P1R/P</th>
<th>My School Myself</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P2D</td>
<td>Senses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2/3 M</td>
<td>Early People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3 R</td>
<td>Pirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>P4 B &amp; P4 S/C</td>
<td>Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5L</td>
<td>The Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5/6 I</td>
<td>Culter Aberdeen Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6C</td>
<td>Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P7 C &amp; P7 P</td>
<td>Earth and Space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Improvement Plan

Our priorities for improvement at Culter in 2008/09 are as follows.

- A Curriculum for Excellence – work to implement the outcomes of ACfE across the curriculum. In particular we will be working on the contexts used to teach Environmental Studies at all stages. Many of these will be changed or updated.
- Introduce a systematic programme for evaluation of Listening and Talking skills.
- Monitor and evaluate Pace and Challenge in all classes.
- Review Behaviour and Anti Bullying Policy.
- Continue implementation of GLOW across the school. Culter is a focus school for Aberdeen City Council in the implementation of GLOW, which is the digital network for Scottish Schools.
- Continue to develop and extend good practice in Active Learning

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BLOG SITE
Due to financial restraints placed upon us, parents are encouraged to receive their newsletter by e-mail. If you do not have Internet access, you may request a ‘hard copy’ of the newsletter from the school office, which will then be sent home with your child. Regular bulletins are ‘posted’ on the blog, so to make sure you do not miss any information, please ‘sign up’ to receive e-mail alerts. It is very simple to do, just follow the instructions below. If you have any queries relating to the School Blog or School Website, please direct them to b.polson@culter.aberdeen.sch.uk

www.culterschoolaberdeen.edublogs.org

All you need to do is type your e-mail address in the sign up box and click ‘Subscribe’. You will then receive e-mail alerts from the blog site. You must also do this for the office blog, as they are two separate blogs. The URL address of office blog is www.culterschooloffice.edublogs.org

Type your e-mail address here, and click ‘Subscribe’ – That’s all you need to do!
SCHOOL HOUSE CAPTAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>CAPTAINS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARDBECK</td>
<td>Kevin Watson (7C) &amp; Catharine Danielian (7P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DALMAIK</td>
<td>Ross Milne (7P) &amp; Kimbirley Aberdein (7C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAIRN</td>
<td>Adam Fisher (7P) &amp; Katya Sementsova (7C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMPLARS</td>
<td>Morgan Smith (7C) &amp; Hannah Vullinghs (7P)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to those elected.

PARENT HELPERS

We are grateful as always for help and support from parents in school. If you would like to help in any capacity, you will be asked to complete a Disclosure Scotland form. This is to make sure all adults working with Culter Pupils have been checked and do not hold any offences against children. Please ask at the office if you would like to complete a form. We look forward to working with you.

Parent Interviews will be held in early November this year. Please do not hesitate to contact us however if you have any queries in the meantime.

SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM – MANAGER VACANCY!

Unfortunately, due to family commitments, Mr McKinnon is unable to continue the running of our senior football team. This includes taking the team for a weekly training session and a Saturday morning match in a local 9-a-side friendly league. If you have some spare time and are interested in taking on these ‘managerial’ duties please contact Mr Grant at school.

AND FINALLY...

Some classes have been issued with a Homework Help sheet. Please note that an error was made with regard to lunch ticket prices. A book of 10 tickets costs £17.00 and not £17.50. This has now been amended on the remaining Help sheets still to be distributed. I apologise for this error.