Headteacher’s News

We are almost at the end of term already. It has been a busy time as usual and the children all seemed to have settled back into school well. Our Primary 1 children are growing in confidence every day and seem happy in the canteen and playground. School will break up for the October holiday at 3pm on Friday 10th October.

BLINK DAY

As usual, we will hold a ‘casual dress for charity’ day on the 10th October. This year we wanted to support Pink Day for breast cancer once again but we also wanted to donate some money to Cancer Research as the loss of Mr Graham, our school janitor in June is still very much in the thoughts of everyone at Culter.

We decided therefore to hold a BLINK Day. Staff and pupils should wear blue or pink to school and we will ask for a small donation to these very worthwhile charities. The money will be split between the two causes, both of which have affected Culter School and our families. An assembly will be held at 9.30am on the 10th and we will award some small prizes for the most original / individual outfits!

The canteen will provide a special American themed lunch on the last day. They will serve burgers in buns with pink iced biscuits to fit in with our pink/blue day. Tickets can be purchased as usual from the canteen.

Our submission for Commended Level as a Health Promoting School will be submitted on the 10th October. Many thanks to Mrs Susan Fiddes and Mrs Robinson for all their hard work in collating the evidence and also for running our Health Committee. We will hear within a few weeks if our submission has been accepted and will hopefully soon have an award to display in the foyer.
PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Parent Council would like to thank everyone for their generous response to the recent appeal for groceries and raffle prizes. The stocks of prizes for the Bingo nights have been replenished and we are all very grateful for your donations. The Bingo nights serve two purposes. They raise money for the school and they also provide a welcome ‘night out’ for local senior citizens.

Many thanks to the ladies on the fund-raising group who give up their time to run the Bingo.

The Parent Council have organised some events for Halloween. All pupils are invited to make a pumpkin lantern and bring it to school on the 31st October. Pupils should take the lantern in to school at 9 am. Once all classes are inside, we will take the children along to the hall where the lanterns will be displayed on the stage. The pumpkins will be judged later in the day and some small prizes awarded.

In the afternoon of the 31st, the Pumpkin Party for P1 – 3 will be held in the hall. The children will listen to a Halloween story and will have some games. This will be held in place of Golden Time.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

I am sorry that school had to close recently as a result of industrial action. I do realise the difficulties this causes for families. Teaching staff worked as usual on both days. Staff worked on development of planning and assessment formats for Listening and Talking. We also planned and discussed Anti Bullying initiatives to take place in November and activities for a Multi Cultural Week to be held in January 2009.

SPREE BOOKS

Thanks to everyone who purchased a Spree book. Thanks also to Mrs Polson for her hard work in carrying out all the administration involved. Some of the money raised is to be used to set up an information screen for pupils and parents in the foyer. We have a screen in the canteen which is very popular with our pupils and we look forward to presenting news and information on the screen in the foyer.

We are having some additional noticeboards put up in the foyer. It is increasingly difficult to find space to display work, information and notices in the foyer and we want to brighten up the area. Hopefully these improvements will make a difference to the entrance to our school.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2007/08

Our school Standards and Quality Report for 2007/08 has recently been submitted to Aberdeen City Council. Following approval, all families will receive a summary version.
PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parent Interviews will take place on 10th November from 5.30pm – 8.00 pm and on 11th November from 3.30pm – 6 pm. We will ask you shortly to indicate which night would be suitable and appointments will be issued early next term. The Parent Council will serve teas and coffee on the 10th in the Infant Hall. Last year we carried out a survey of parent opinions at Parents Night. As a result of views expressed we have made some small changes this year. Times for the later night appointments have changed from 6.00 – 8.30pm to 5.30 – 8 pm. Many parents felt 8.30 pm was too late when they had to bring young children with them. We believe that an 8pm finish still allows time for working parents to attend and will not be so late for the younger pupils. Some parents also felt that they would prefer not to have their child present during the interview. This year we would ask parents not to bring pupils in P1 – 3 into the interview with teachers. They may of course come with you and play in the Infant Hall while you meet with the teachers. Pupils in P4 – 7 may join parents to discuss progress. If class teachers wish to talk with parents in private, they may ask pupils to wait outside for part of the time. Likewise if you wish to discuss your child in private, please feel free to indicate this to the teacher. We look forward to meeting with you all in November.

INSET DAY

School will be closed to pupils for INSET on Friday 14th November. Culter staff will join the staff at Milltimber Primary for a course called ‘Joyning the Learning.’ This is based on cross curricular contexts for learning and we hope the course will help our development work in Environmental Studies. Following the course, we aim to work with Milltimber staff in the development of A Curriculum for Excellence, the curriculum review in Scotland.

We would like to ask parents to ensure all children have a warm coat or jacket in school. Recently it has been quite cold and damp at breaktimes. The children are outside most days and need a coat to keep them warm in the playground. Several pupils have had to go out recently without a coat. Please remember that the children need a jacket in school, even if they travel to school in the car. Thank you for your help with this.

Many parents will have met with our School Nurse, Jo Carnegie. I am sorry to report that she has given up her post recently. Jo was a great help to us at Culter and was a caring and efficient support to staff, pupils and parents. We thank Jo for all her work at Culter and wish her well in the future. We hope an appointment will be made soon.

HOUSE POINTS

We have revamped and updated the House Points System in School. Pupils can be awarded House Points for sharing, being kind, being polite, respecting school property, lining up nicely, walking in school, caring for others, being helpful and lots more things. House Captains total up points in each class on a Friday and these are displayed in the foyer.
NURSERY NEWS

Nursery had a Fundraiser for CLIC Sargent, supporting children with Leukaemia. The children and staff came to Nursery dressed in PJ’s. They took their teddies with them and had a ‘Teddy Bear’s Picnic’. Each child paid £1, raising £44 for this charity.

ECO BAGS

Eco bags have now arrived in school and will be available to purchase for £2.00 after the holidays. One of our Nursery pupils designed the logo and they were sponsored by ‘Aberdein Considine.’

OFFICE NEWS

SCHOOL UNIFORM
We have had an enormous amount of requests for school uniform this year. School sweatshirts have been our main priority. Several orders beyond our normal have had to be placed with our regular supplier. If your child/ren are in need of school uniform we are pleased to let you know that we have yet another stock order arrived. Please get in touch with the school office if you wish to purchase garments. Thanks to all for your patience waiting for the arrival of these garments.

DALGUISE TRIP MAY 2009

Just a reminder that the second payment of £50 for the P7 Dalguise Trip is due by Friday 7th November, 2008.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

If your child is absent from school, please notify the school office on the first day by 9.30am.

I wish all our families a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone at 9 am on Monday 27th October. It’s hard to believe but there are only 8 weeks next term – school will break up for Christmas on Friday 19th December!

S. Crossan, Head Teacher