



Old Rayne School News

Working Together and doing our best for success!

Session 2017/18

November 2017

I'm quite late into the month with this newsletter I'm afraid. With school trips, swimming every Friday, parent's evenings and a range of events, it's been a busy term. Thankfully it always gets quiet as we move towards the Christmas period. Children are calm and relaxed and... who am I kidding? From here on in it'll be wall to wall excitement as we prepare for Santa – and that's just the staff!



**Sports For
Champions®**



Community Café and open afternoon

We'll be holding another community café and open afternoon on Thursday 7th December. There will be the usual drinks and snacks as well as entertainment from the children.

Afterwards, parents and family can follow their children into their classroom where they'll get to see the maths and numeracy work the children have been doing and you'll get to see some of the new 'Active Maths' resources we've bought in action.

Sports for Champions

We were lucky enough to have a visit from athlete Stephanie Inglis on the 8th of November.

Stephanie took the school through a range of exercises which, thanks to the generous donations and sponsorship of the community, managed to raise an impressive **£700!**

This money is split between funds for upcoming athletes and our school. We've already bought new P.E mats to replace the very old ones we had and we'll have more new P.E. kit coming very soon.

Stephanie took the time to tell us all about her successful Judo career. She then told us the uplifting story of how she's battled back from a tragic road accident in Vietnam which she was lucky to survive. Doctors told her she'd never be able to do sports again but she's well on the road to being able to compete and coach once more.

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Parent Council

Our parent council will be having their next meeting on Tuesday 23rd of January at 7pm. We currently have a secretary and we've had a volunteer to be the treasurer but we're still looking for a volunteer to be the Chair of our Parent Council this year.

It would be a big help to the school if someone was willing to take on this role. If it's something you're considering, please get in touch and we can have a chat about what it'll entail, without you committing to anything!

Go on, you know you want to!

School Improvement plan

The way that Aberdeenshire schools present our improvement plans has changed. From this year, what used to be two separate documents, the Standards and Quality report and the School Improvement plan, will be combined into a single document. This document will be a 'living' document. It will be regularly updated and will be available to all on the school website. It will show our self-evaluation of the school as well as the improvement priorities we're currently working on.

Due to the way this document will be continually updated, rather than send you a copy of something which will soon be out of date, I'll email parents a link this week to the place on the school website where you'll be able to find it.



CHRISTMAS — FAIR —

Christmas Fair - Playgroup

We've been asked to let you all know that the Playgroup are hoping some of you might be able to donate raffle prizes and items for their chocolate and bottle stalls for the Christmas Fair. There's a box at the front entrance during drop off/collection times for donations or, pass them on to someone from the playgroup committee. Failing that, to Jacqui Warrender at 6 Barreldykes Way.



Appeal for boxes of tissues

At this time of year, little noses get a bit cold and there is often a need for many tissues. Donations of a box of tissues for the school would be very gratefully received!



Lunchtime activity clubs

Our lunchtime clubs last year were very popular. We've had the P6/7 class collecting data from the school relating to what activities children in the school would be interested in and what they do at home. They will present this data to the rest of the school at an assembly this week and we'll set up some groups again.

This time round we're keen to let the older children lead some of these groups. Some, such as the running club, will need to have staff involved. Where possible we want to use this as a chance to have children develop their leadership and organisational skills.

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Emergency Closure Information – Update on Procedures

As winter approaches, a reminder with regard to the procedures for emergency closure are outlined below.

When will schools be closed?

Head Teachers decide if and when schools should close due to bad weather or another emergency. In bad weather I will decide this after receiving information about local weather conditions. This decision can be made during any time, day or night. During bad weather some staff may not be able to get to school – so the school may have to close because there are too few teachers present. If you are concerned about local weather conditions deteriorating during the school day, contact the school. You may wish to collect your child yourself and are free to do so during the day provided you make arrangements with the school.

If the school is to close early, we will contact you by telephone. If this is not possible we will contact your named 'emergency contact'. No child will be released from school without contact being made. It is important contact details are current and the people named are available – particularly during bad weather.

Outwith school hours, there are a few places you can look to find out information on school closures. The Aberdeenshire council website has a regularly updated page and can be found at the following site.

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures>

Local radio station (Northsound One) has regular round ups of school closures.

The School Information Line will provide up-to-date information. Tel: 0870 054 4999 then enter Old Rayne School PIN: 022370

If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier.

In addition to this, we will endeavour to update the Old Rayne Facebook page promptly.

PLEASE NOTE: As our school meals are prepared by Rayne North School kitchen, if Rayne North School was to close and Old Rayne School was to remain open, there would not be cooked school meals and you will need to provide your child with a Packed Lunch in this event. We will also try to update you on this as early as possible.

Upcoming dates in November/December

20th Nov – Children in Need

22nd Nov – NSPCC School visit

27th Nov – School Photographs

7th Dec – Community Café and open afternoon (Numeracy theme)

13th Dec – School Christmas Show – St Lawrence Hall

14th Dec – School Christmas Lunch

20th Dec – School Christmas Party

21st Dec – School visit to the panto (HMT)

22nd Dec – Last day of school

8th Jan – School reopens for term 3

