

February 2017

Marykirk Primary



Dates for the Diary!

Jammin Fitness - Monday 27th
Feb
The Right Click: Internet
Safety workshop for
parents/child - Wednesday 22nd
March
Term ends - 31st March
Term 4 starts - Tuesday 18th
April
May Day Holiday - Monday 1st
May
Term ends - Friday 30th June

Marykirk Primary
Kirktonhill Road
Marykirk
Laurencekirk
AB30 1UZ
Tel: 01674 840200
Headteacher:
Mrs Fiona Thomson

Severe Weather Line
0870 054 4999

Pin No.
02 2180

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/
closures](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures)

Answering Machine for
reporting absences:
01674 840200

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope everyone enjoyed the mid-term break. The staff at Marykirk can hardly believe that we are approaching the end of our third term. Time certainly flies when you are having fun☺!

New Pupils

We are delighted to welcome two new pupils to our school, Joseph Shaw (P2) and Estelle Shaw (P3). Once again the children at Marykirk have been very welcoming, making Joseph and Estelle feel included at Marykirk.

Celebration Assembly

Thank you to all our pupils who brought in certificates and achievements to share with us at our celebration assembly. The following pupils were given a special mention from staff:-

Emilia (P1) - for fantastic reading and sounding out of words.

Taylor (P1) - for showing responsible behaviour.

Maya (P2) - for her kind and caring attitude towards others.

Fraser (P5) - for super effort and contribution during French.

Leah (P5) - for being extremely helpful to Mrs Milne during breaktimes.

Rebecca (P6) - for showing initiative to think of how to solve a problem independently.

Please, please, please encourage your child to share their learning with us from outwith school. We would like to encourage our children to challenge themselves and therefore it is not always their achievements that are celebrated but more importantly **the progress they have made!**

Help us raise funds for FREE when you shop online:

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Tempest Photographer

Please remember to return all individual photo orders to the school office **no later than Friday 24th February 2017**. Class photos are in the office if you would like to come in and have a look before deciding if you wish to order any.

Pupil Profiles

Pupil profiles were sent home over the long weekend. We hope you enjoyed looking through the profile with your child and sharing the progress they have made. Please feel free to send in any evidence from home e.g, photos, certificates, pieces of work etc throughout the year. The profiles form part of our annual reporting calendar and your feedback and contribution is much appreciated as it helps build a holistic picture of your child.

In-service feedback

During the in-service days in February, all staff received training from nhs colleagues on how to deal with anaphylactic shock. Online profiling, Reflective Reading, The Learning Challenge and Physical Education courses were also attended by different members of staff to ensure that we are keeping up to date with educational developments and ensuring our pupils receive the best opportunities and experiences available. Both days were very valuable and provided staff with a wealth of ideas and resources to challenge and engage our learners.

As always, staff are motivated and eager to try some of the ideas from their training and we would welcome any feedback from pupils and parents.

Homework

Thank you to everyone who replied to our homework survey. As expected, the responses were very varied. We are trying to develop a more consistent approach to homework, that takes in to account after school commitments and learning needs. Recent research has shown homework to have very little impact on children's progress in primary, although it plays an important role in engaging parents in their child's learning and developing independent study skills. We would like to encourage our children to spend 10/15 minutes a day reading for enjoyment at home. Children will be selected daily to talk about their book at school and share their opinions, ideas and reflections. Reading for enjoyment will also be given time in school as well as guided reading groups. Staff are also going to incorporate a 'Preview' approach for homework. Preview gives children the opportunity to be prepared for learning as their teacher will tell them what topic/unit of work they are going to be looking at next. A study undertaken at Durham University highlighted this approach as a key factor in raising attainment. Once or twice a week, Preview will be used to allow your child to prepare or practise in advance for a topic and resources to support will be suggested by the teacher (eg., books, education city, websites, activities).

Golden Time

At Marykirk School our overarching aim is to develop **Responsible, Respectful and Independent** young people. We are continuously reviewing our approaches and strategies to encourage positive behaviour and minimise any disruptive and inappropriate behaviours.

We encourage our pupils to remember and respect that;

Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

ARTICLE 31

Golden Time is used throughout Aberdeenshire Schools to promote positive behaviour and encourage social skills. We are adapting our Golden Time model to ensure that it provides children with the opportunity to develop social skills, whilst also engaging them in challenging and stimulating activities. 'Time out' of the playground or classroom will be used for low level disruptive behaviours as they arise and Golden Time will be more structured and protected. **Loss of Golden Time will be for more persistent disruptive behaviour.** The children have identified their interests and Golden Time Groups have been set up for children to opt in to for a block of 3-4 weeks. These groups aim to develop and extend children's skills in a particular area, whilst still being fun and rewarding. The following groups have been identified for this term but these will change in the future to ensure all interests are catered for over the course of the year:

- Cooking/Baking
- Garden Gang/Bugs and Beasties
- Science and Investigation
- Fun and Fitness
- Art and Craft

If you have any skills that you would be willing to share then please get in touch.

MPCC

The MPCC still have a selection of Christmas Puddings as well as hessian shopping bags if you would like to purchase either at a cost of £5. They are available to buy at the school office.

Active Schools News

Active Schools are currently organising their annual Cross Country Series. These events will take place in various locations in the Laurencekirk and Stonehaven areas and will provide opportunities for children to compete against other schools in cross country running. Dates and details will follow shortly.

School Uniform

We are currently looking in to alternative suppliers for school uniform following reports from several parents about poor quality. A letter will be issued as soon as more information becomes available but in the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch with your views on the matter.

Jammin Fitness

We are delighted to welcome Andy McKechnie back to Marykirk on Monday 27th February. *Andy McKechnie is an international motivational speaker and the Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Public Speaking Champion 2006. In recent years, he has spoken at conferences in Switzerland, Estonia, Sweden, Ireland and South Korea. A former member of the Scottish national freestyle ski team, Andy believes that we must be match fit for both business and modern life. He now speaks at over 50 events each year. When not speaking at conferences, Andy spends most of his time promoting staff wellbeing and children's fitness in health promoting schools.*

Andy will be approaching the subjects of Growth Mindset and Presentation Skills through a whole school assembly and follow up workshops.

Presentation Skills (Primary)

We are now preparing young people for jobs that haven't been invented yet, to solve problems that we don't even know are problems yet, using technologies that haven't been invented yet. Competition for jobs isn't just local or national, it is now truly global, with youth unemployment soaring out of control. Every generation faces its challenges, and this exciting new programme gives young people in primary, a positive outlook for the future, the world class inner game techniques to overcome roadblocks and the key workforce skills they can develop right now, to prepare for their future. It's about global communication, resilience and getting the projects done that make a difference.

After completing this exciting new assembly and workshop, your pupils and staff will:

- Have a crystal clear vision of how to use world class communication, presentation and networking skills to achieve your school's most important goals.
- Have powerful visualisation and relaxation tools to overcome obstacles, build resilience and unleash their creativity.
- Leave refreshed, revitalised and empowered with the transferable skills they need, to be successful in your 'School, Community and the New World of Work'.

The Right Click: Internet Safety Matters Workshop

Children and young people have the right to access information (Article 17) but we need to ensure that they have the know-how around internet safety to navigate the risks and embrace the benefits technology brings. With this in mind, I would like to inform you that we will be hosting a parent/child workshop on Wednesday 22nd March 2017. This workshop will take place at the end of the school day and although all families are welcome to attend it is aimed at 8-11 years olds. More information will follow shortly.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Thomson

Head Teacher

**PARENT
COUNCIL
NEWS**

Next MPCC meeting **Tuesday 21st March @ 6:30pm. ALL WELCOME!**
Please feel free to come along and support your children through our very successful Parent/Carer Council. You do not have to commit to attending every meeting but if you would like to know more about what we do and how you could get involved then this is the time to do it!

Comments, Compliments, Concerns

Tell us what you think! We want to hear good or bad! We are always trying to improve. Please write below.

Name Date