

## Our vision

At Ben Wyvis Primary School, we are committed to delivering an ethos of respect for all in our school community.

We aim to provide a happy, positive environment where everyone is listened to, supported, valued and nurtured through fun learning experiences.

Be the best you can be.

## Ben Wyvis Primary Newsletter. December 2018. Bumper Issue!

### Sporting Achievements.

**Swimming Gala:** The Annual Primary Swimming Gala took place at Dingwall Leisure Centre on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Ben Wyvis Primary were competing for **The Bailie Mrs. Brown Trophy** and we are delighted that we came 2nd in this category. Well done to Zoe Thomson, Charlotte Simpson, Tayler Barlow, Elana Duff, Jamie Robertson, Campbell Hepburn, Kieran Munro and Abraham Mitchell and Miss Dalseme & Mrs Duff who supported the children.

**Running Club:** Many pupils from Primary 3 upwards have been attending Running Club on a Wednesday morning. Mrs Harry, Mrs Barlow and Mr Cross run and support this club. Running Competitions have been held at both Dingwall Primary and Bridgend Primary. We are so proud of our children as they all did really well, returning yesterday in the cold with santa hats and big smiles. Without parent helpers, we wouldn't be able to do so much, so thank you to all those who were involved.

**Staffing:** Mrs Harington will be going on maternity leave in January and as a cover teacher, we are welcoming Mrs Hadley, who was previously the area supply teacher.

**Winter Menu:** Please note that the sandwiches on offer on the menu continue to be set next term:

Monday	Egg sandwich
Tuesday	Tuna wrap
Wednesday	Cheese baguette
Thursday	Ham wrap
Friday	Chicken and lettuce sandwich

**Fundraising.** A huge thank you to parents, carers and staff who have raised a huge amount of money so far for JRock.



The fundraising efforts have been outstanding with events (Fashion Show, Race Night, Bag Packing, Carol Singing) being organised by a core team of parents and staff. The 2018/19 team are working very hard towards the final performance on February 18th.

It costs per child to enter and also behind the scenes the cost for props, costume and set can be very expensive, so we are really grateful for the time everyone dedicates to helping.

Reminder: The choir will be singing in Tesco on the 18th December. Please do join them.

### Visit to Ben Wyvis Primary:

Jill from QUORN UK, visited the infants to demonstrate how the food item was used and what it was. Jill worked with the infant classes and they were delighted to taste the food and learn about the health benefits of quorn too. The visit was organised by the Highland Council Catering Service.



### Early lunch dates:

Every other Friday, we have an early lunch to support the Senior Citizens Club, who also use the canteen for lunch. Please add the following dates to your diary. Lunch starts at 12.00 for those going home for lunch



21 December 2018

18 January 2019

1 February 2019

15 February 2019

1 March 2019

15 March 2019

29 March 2019



**Easter Disco.** We are arranging a School Disco for the Easter term. The provisional date is Tuesday 2nd April. Infants will be able to attend between 3.30 and 4.15pm and P4—7 disco will be from 4.30—5.15pm. Tickets will be £2.00 per child and £1.00 for siblings.

**Christmas Concert:** We would appreciate if as many pupils as possible could attend the evening performance of the concert on Wednesday 19th December at 6pm. The concert should only take an hour and we understand if parents cannot stay. Children will be supervised by staff. There are also tickets still left for the afternoon performance.

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**Parent Helpers for parties:** Staff would really appreciate an extra pair of hands, especially when helping with the food and games. If you are able to give some of your time to your children's class, we would really appreciate it please.

## Team Sports and Clubs:

All clubs and outings within school, organised by staff are risk assessed and appropriate permissions are put in place. Clubs and after school activities are also very important to the children and to the school. We fully support all those who are helping our school community achieve and parent volunteers are very much appreciated. Without parent help and input there wouldn't be so many shields and awards being presented to the children.

We have been asked by the Highland Council to share the following information with parents and carers about clubs and after school activities. If you have any queries about this, please do ask.

Mrs Mackie

**Highland Council guidance:** The use of the school name has understandably led parents in many schools to believe the teams operate under the auspices of the school. In reality, the Ben Wyvis Primary teams are run and coached by volunteers, who also select the team. Local competitions are organised by volunteers / Active Schools Co-ordinator. School staff therefore do not take any role in overseeing the team, either directly or indirectly, hence the school is not responsible for vetting the skills or qualifications of a leader/coach, nor for PVG checks on them.

Where parents are transporting other people's children to these events, they should contact their insurer to gain confirmation that their Insurance Policy includes cover for the activity. Any queries that parents have with respect to the school teams should be directed to the organisers.

## ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the onset of winter approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you (especially new Nursery and P1 parents) of procedures during extreme weather conditions. The safety of our pupils and staff at all times is our prime consideration. Parents/carers should decide, under such conditions, whether it is safe for their children to travel.

The school's policy in Adverse Weather Conditions, would be to **try and keep the school open whenever possible**. As a school we have put preventative measures in place and an assessment on whether to stay open or closed would be based on several factors, for example, conditions outside and inside the building (heating, meals, etc.) and whether there were enough staff to teach and supervise the children. An assessment would be made as early as is possible in the morning.

The main source of information for parents is the updated messages on our **dial-in- telephone service** under Option 1. First dial the **Highland Council's access number - 0800 564 2272** and then enter the **school's pin number** when asked - **04 1730**



### **Adverse Weather continued:**

If the weather is extremely severe, parents should listen to Radio Highland and/or **Moray Firth radio** in the morning. They will issue regular updates of school closures throughout their breakfast time broadcasts. Morning bulletins will be around **7.10, 7.40, 8.10 and 8.40 am** and will also include local information on weather, roads and conditions affecting schools. In severe conditions normal programmes will be interrupted more frequently to carry emergency bulletins. Please do not telephone the radio station for advice.

You may also access up to date information on school closures on Highland Council Weather Website - <http://www.schoolclosures.highlandschools.org.uk>.

If a closure has to occur **during the course of a school day**, a telephone call will be made to the Highland Council School Closures line and MFR will also be updated with information. We will also contact parents/carers by telephone to arrange for pupils to be collected.

If parents are unavailable, the emergency contact will be notified. **Therefore it is imperative that, should there be a change in circumstances, the school should be notified immediately.** This includes a change of address, home telephone number or a change of emergency contact. **No children will be sent home on their own without the permission of parents.** They will be kept safe within the school building.

Thank you for your support in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **ENROLMENT:**

P1 enrolment will take place **week beginning Monday 28 January 2019** with early learning and childcare enrolment being held **week beginning Monday 25 February**.



It was agreed last December by the Highland Council that schools from August 2019 will not have the flexibility to stagger entry, but all pupils starting Primary 1 will attend full-time from the start of the school session.

The only exemption would be for pupils with additional support needs after discussion with the Mid Area Team.



**Pantomime.** All children who are attending the panto next Wednesday, should have had a slip home asking about how they are being collected. If you are collecting your child, the class teacher must know.

Please do not collect from the coaches, as all children will be expected to return to class, collect bags and then be dismissed from class.

Coaches should return to school for about 4.30pm, although this will depend on the traffic in Inverness when leaving Eden Court.

## A FOCUS ON:



### **The Hub, Ben Wyvis Primary School Nurture Base.**

Emotional well-being underpins learning. The Hub allows children to flourish emotionally. It's a safe place in school where they can develop and grow with provision based on the needs of the individual child.

Time in our nurture room has significant impact not only on self-esteem, confidence, attendance and behaviour, but also on academic achievement.

It is run by specially trained staff who offer a warm, structured environment where children are encouraged to build their confidence and learn good behaviour. There are clear rules and coaching in basic social skills such as how to share and have a conversation.

### **The Hub's Team: Ms Black, PSA. Mrs Brockman, PEF ASN Teacher and Mrs Mackie, HT.**

#### **Aims:**

- \* We understand children's learning.
- \* Our Nurture room is safe.
- \* We nurture our children to develop their self-esteem.
- \* Language is a vital means of communication.
- \* We understand all behaviour is communication.
- \* We understand how difficult it is for children when changes happen.

#### **What we provide?**

We aim to create an environment that includes elements of both home and the classroom. The curriculum includes structured play and many practical hands on experiences. We place particular emphasis on:

#### **Structure**

They will be given as much structure as possible in order for them to feel safe and secure. A sense of predictability is very important in creating a calm atmosphere.

#### **Language Development**

Children will be encouraged to express themselves clearly and are taught different listening skills.

#### **Tasks completion**

The children will be given short tasks, which they will be able to complete, ensuring progress is maintained and success is achieved.

#### **The Environment**

Food is very important and all the children take part in a snack time.

- \* We have the opportunity to cook in our purpose built kitchen area provided by Albyn Housing.
- \* We have areas of the room dedicated to role play for children to use their imagination and communication skills.

**Nits in school:** We have had lots of visitors in school this term and they still seem to be here. Please could all parents and carers take the opportunity of the Christmas holidays to check hair and treat if appropriate.

Guidance can be found at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits). Your local pharmacy can also provide help too.

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**Note from Rory Cross, Active Sport Coordinator.**

WEEKLY INDOOR PRIMARY AGE FOOTBALL SESSIONS SEASON 2018-19

13 JANUARY - 23 JUNE 2019

AT THE HIGHLAND FOOTBALL ACADEMY DINGWALL



PRIMARY 1 - 3 INDOOR 9.30 - 10:30

PRIMARY 4 - 5 INDOOR 10:30 - 12.00

PRIMARY 6 -7 OUTDOOR 10.30 - 12.00

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

[dingwallfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:dingwallfootballclub@gmail.com)

School returns on Monday 7th January and we wish everyone a peaceful holiday.

