



February 2023

Issue 4

Learning and Achieving Together

Cluny School Newsletter

2022 – 2023

Hello All,

We are fast approaching the mid-term holiday and looking forward to the break. Please find below information about what's been happening at Cluny so far and plans for the rest of the term.

Burns Poetry

Well done to all pupils who participated in the Cluny annual poetry competition. We had a great uptake and were impressed with all the preparation that went into learning the Scots poems. We enjoyed the class winner's performances at our Burns assembly. Congratulations to Gavin Reilly who was voted by the staff as the overall poetry winner of 2023.

T3 Topic

This term our whole school topic is 'food'. Pupils will be learning about healthy eating, finding out about the journey from farm to fork, and have opportunities for tasting a range of food. If time allows, we hope to have each class planning and preparing a restaurant for the other classes to visit.

Thank you P7 and Mrs Payne for organising the healthy breakfast. It was such a great success and enjoyed by all we have decided to host another breakfast in future, date tbc.

With all the various food tasting opportunities, please can you keep us updated with any changes to food allergies/intolerances by completing this [form](#).

Script 2 Screen

After the mid-term break 'Script 2 Screen' drama group will be working with each class to create and film adverts related to our food topic. We look forward to sharing these at our open morning on Friday, 24th March.

Kodaly

All classes are enjoying music sessions with Mrs Malone this term. The pupils are actively learning the rudiments of music theory through games and songs. They are also learning about beat, rhythm, and pitch through ear training.



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Outdoor Learning

All classes continue to enjoy the timetabled outdoor learning sessions with Mrs Sangster. This term all classes will be focusing on Orienteering skills. On Tuesday 21st February the P7's will be heading to Sauchen Village to undertake an orienteering / treasure hunt style activity. Please contact the school if are any parents able to help supervise that morning. We plan to leave Cluny soon after 9am, walk to the village and return at approximately 10.30am. Thank you to those who have already replied. If you have not already done so, please complete the consent [form](#).



School Houses



This term pupils have been participating in activities linked to the whole school topic 'Food'. The houses have been learning about the 'Eatwell Plate' and enjoyed presentations from Fiona Vasquez, Grant Arms and Kevin Milne who brought along some lambs too!

School Leadership

As part of our Rights Respecting Schools silver award journey, the house captains and vice captains will be visiting Tough School this term to work collaboratively, share ideas and see the work they have done at Silver Level.



Pupil Council are currently carrying out an 'How good is our school?' evaluation to find out what it is like to be a learner at Cluny, what is going well and what we can improve on. They will report back to all stakeholders once their survey is completed.

Lunchtime clubs

P7 pupils continue to offer a weekly Wednesday lunchtime games club which is now also open to P4 pupils. Going forward, we will also be introducing a Hair club which will also be held on Wednesdays commencing the beginning of March.

P7 Transition

On 6th March, P7 pupils will begin to participate in a variety of transition activities in preparation for starting S1 in August 2023. Some of these activities will involve both staff visitors from Alford Academy, and pupil visits to Alford Academy. Please note the Alford Transition week will be the week commencing 12th June. More information will follow soon.



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Sports Day

Please note three possible dates for Sports Day, weather dependant: - 26th May, 2nd June and 30th June.

Abernethy P6 and P7 trip

Preparations are well underway for the P6 and P7 residential trip to Abernethy. There will be an online information sharing meeting for parents at 6.30pm on Thursday 16th February (see email of 20th January for link). Pupils will also be participating in a 'Getting to know each other' session with Monymusk pupils attending the trip on Wednesday 8th March at Cluny School.

Homework update

As you are aware we are no longer able to use Seesaw for homework and profiling as it doesn't align with Aberdeenshire Council DPIA protocols. Pupils will now be issued a paper copy of homework, week commencing 27th February. Homework will include literacy, numeracy and a term challenge linked to the whole school topic.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. Pupils have the option to dress up as a character from their favourite book on the day. We have some fun activities planned such as 'stop and read' at various times during the day, a visit the school library and chose a book from our book swap table. We will also be holding our annual 'Extreme Reading Challenge Competition' where pupils can take a picture of themselves reading a book in an extreme, but safe and imaginative way! Pupils can bring photos in or get parents/carers to email them to cluny.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

CCOW visit

We are excited to announce that the 'Countryside Classroom on Wheels' (CCOW) will be visiting school on Wednesday 8th March. The purpose-built trailer will bring livestock, crop and feed samples to the playground and provide an insight into farming, food production and the countryside. Each class will have a time slot to visit the trailer and will receive a talk about farming linked to our Food topic.

Annual Alford Rotary Club Quiz

P7 pupils who wish to take part in the quiz should contact Mrs Payne or Mrs Gilmour. The quiz will take place after school on Wednesday 22nd March at Alford Community Campus. More information will follow soon.



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After School Activities



P4-7 Netball takes place on Thursdays 3.15-4.15pm, and Football takes place on Saturday mornings. Please contact the school or Active Schools if your child(ren) would be interested in giving these activities a trial. This term the netball team are



participating in a local Netball festival with games being held at a number of different schools.

Running Club Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to lead and assist extra-curricular sporting opportunities at Cluny School. The pupils are very keen to start a Running Club and we need people to help deliver one! You don't have to have any experience as ongoing training and guidance will be provided. Volunteers are made up of people from all backgrounds and ages, including school pupils, parents, and teachers! If you are interested in helping, or finding out more, please contact Active Schools Alford at activeschoolsalford@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. More information about volunteering with Active Schools can be found here - <https://jobs.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/active-schools-coach-volunteer/>

School building and grounds updates

As a legacy for the school, P7 pupils are participating in tree and hedge planting with the Bennachie Ranger. They have planted hedging at the front of the school along with some fruit trees and created a hedge boundary to mark the outdoor learning space we are in the process of creating.

New blinds have been installed in the P1/2 classroom.

We are hoping to work with 'Midmar Mens Shed' this term to create a welcoming outdoor entrance to the school beside the car park. Pupils will be making planters and planting bulbs etc. More information to follow.

Oil tank pipe work is planned to take place this term (date still to be confirmed). This will mean that part of the tarmac playground at the back of the school will be cordoned off for up to 4 weeks. The storage container will also be moved in line with oil tank safety requirements.

Unfortunately, due to anti-social behaviour last session the storage container roof has been significantly damaged. This week a skip will arrive in the playground to load the damaged contents. We are hoping to get the container roof repaired, if you know of any companies that can do this type of work please contact the school office, thank you.



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General School Information

Please can pupils remember to bring the following named items to school every day:

- Water bottle - filled with water (no diluting juice)
- Outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for all weather
- Indoor shoes
- Pupils can wear gym wear on P.E days

Car park safety



Polite reminder when parking in the school car park please remember to reverse park and switch engines off. Please can we ask that you do not park in the utility layby that is opposite the school as this causes a safety concern for pupils crossing, by limiting vision for oncoming traffic. Can you also remind your child to use the correct gate when accessing the school grounds, ensuring they follow a safe route that does not require them to walk across the car park.

School Website

The school website is nearly ready to go live and will be available soon to access with updated information. Thank you to Mr Geddes for his ongoing support and time with this process.

Kind Regards Suzanne Gilmour and all the staff at Cluny School

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