



# Newsletter December 2021

Dear Families,

What a term! This is always such a short and busy term, and has felt even more so this year as we continue to adapt more and more elements of everyday school life in the face of the ongoing pandemic.

Highland Council will shortly release a statement regarding the impact of Covid on schools this term and in light of the new Omicron variant which is now present in the Highlands. We will share this as soon as it has been published.

In the meantime please be assured that we continue to follow all government guidelines in terms of hand hygiene, mask wearing and social distancing between adults. Each working space in the school is well ventilated whilst kept warm and we continue to restrict mixing of classes indoors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for supporting us to keep our school and nursery safe by following the current guidelines too. We appreciate how difficult it is to have to make arrangements when children become unwell but your vigilance has played a huge part in keeping every class in our school going this term. The children themselves have also coped brilliantly with changes to plans, changes in staff, and have “shown up” each day with a determination to look out for each other and learn together - proud head teacher moment!

Of course our incredible staff are the other major factor in keeping the school going and I don't have enough adjectives to describe their resilience, creativity and energy this term - that goes for our teaching and nursery staff, support staff, clericals and superjanny, our kitchen team and cleaning staff - superstars all round.

Have a wonderful festive break everyone, and we look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Mrs Bev Douglas, Acting Head Teacher

## Staffing Changes

We are delighted to welcome Miss Bethany Sutherland to Primary 3. Miss Sutherland has been with the class for a few days whilst finishing her teaching post at Park Primary, Invergordon and is now with us full time.

We are sad (for us) to announce that Miss Paula Ferguson will be leaving us at the end of the term, but we are excited for her as she sets out in her new career. The P5 teacher post that Miss Ferguson is vacating has been advertised and we hope to appoint before the end of the term.

Finally, I can confirm that Ms Macdonald will remain in her seconded post at Council HQ until the end of the session, so the leadership team will continue as it is until then.

## Our Enterprising P6-7s!



If you haven't visited the Winter Fayre website yet, you are in for a treat!! I am so proud of everyone in P6, P6/7 and P7 for all their hard work and creativity in putting together the Crown Virtual Winter Fayre. They produced such lovely items for sale which rushed off the shelves, and marketed them wonderfully with posters around the school and some super adverts too!

Here's the link, and it's available from the main Blog homepage too:

[Crown Virtual Winter Fayre](#)

## Crown Sings

In the Entertainment section of the Winter Fayre there is a Christmassy song from every stage. Whilst it doesn't replace the ideal of having everyone in the assembly hall or church to sing together, as we traditionally do in the last week of this term, it will surely bring some festive cheer.

Speaking of church (and singing), we have been working with Struan at Crown Church to come up with ways in which we can adapt even more of the traditional service into a virtual offering. We hope that he will live stream a service from one of the classrooms into all classrooms in the last week of term. We certainly have the will if we can find a way! We also plan to sing together outside to round off the term in a truly festive way.



## Christmas Lunches

Thank you so much to our wonderful kitchen staff for providing us all with a tasty, hearty Christmas lunch again this year. The children made their own hats to wear and were in great spirits - some of them even ate their sprouts!



## P5 Free School Meals

As announced by the Scottish Government in June 2021, [Free school meals - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot), all Primary 5 pupils will become eligible for free school meals from January 2022. There is no requirement to fill in any paperwork, just choose the option you want from the daily menu.

## House Captains and House Points



Our House Captains have just closed their Winter Art competition and will announce the winners soon. Well done to all who entered, they will really help to brighten up some of our display boards around school.

## Communication and Parent Engagement

As you can imagine, we were disappointed not to have families back in the building to share the learning and walk the learning walls with the children. However, the children were excited to share their learning with their families at home, through their learning profiles, and worked very hard to show their latest and best work. It was so lovely to see all the encouraging feedback to the children after the sharing of profiles.

Thank you for sharing the successes that your child has had out of school too. We really love to hear about the wider achievements of our pupils. If your child is in P4-7, they can now add their wider achievements to their own profiles - there is a 'wider achievement' tab at the top of

their profile. If your child is in Nursery or P1-3, we would encourage you to send a note or photo in with your child and we can stick these into their profiles after sharing the success with them.

A reminder that the learning your child is doing in class each week is shared with families at the end of each week through a weekly big learning update. These can be found in google classrooms or class blogs.

Our Parent Engagement key dates are as follows:

Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual coffee and chat with HT</li> <li>• Open Afternoon/ Profile Sharing</li> <li>• Reports</li> <li>• Parent workshop on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood</li> </ul>
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual coffee and chat with HT</li> <li>• Parent Appointments: focussed on attainment and health &amp; wellbeing</li> <li>• Profile Sharing</li> </ul>

## Dates/ Events for your Diaries

This week	P6-7 Virtual Christmas Fayre - see Blog for link
Thursday-Friday this week	Christmas Lunches
Weeks of 13th and 20th December	<p>           P4 Monday 13th pm            P6 Thursday 16th pm            P5 Friday 17th am            P7 Friday 17th pm            P3 Monday 20th am            P2/3 Monday 20th pm            Nursery Tuesday 21st am            P1 Tuesday 21st pm #1            P1/2 Tuesday 21st pm #2            P4/5 Wednesday 22nd am            P6/7 Wednesday 22nd pm         </p>
Wednesday 22nd December	School closes for Christmas break at 3pm

