

Aim high, accept the challenge

Learn for life

Visible in and at the heart of our community

Enterprising

School and community working together



ALVES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ALVES PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

May 2010

We are now in the final term for the 2009-2010 school year. This will be a very exciting term as we have lots of interesting things in place and I am sure the time will go by quickly. I hope everyone had a good Easter break and are refreshed and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.

Just before the break all the pupils here at Alves Primary were working on creating new school values to go along with the schools aims and vision. They worked in random groups to discuss what values they felt were important to building a school environment that everyone can learn in. I was very impressed at how well the pupils worked together on this task and to see the mature responses they came up with. To involve the whole school community a simple consultation for approval of these values will accompany this newsletter so please fill in and return to the school.

Now that the weather is starting to feel more like spring, there will be more school events within Moray and opportunities to take learning outdoors. Believe me when I say that this term will go fast as we have been trying to organise different events for this term and are struggling to find the time.

Handouts enclosed

Diary Dates sheet

Curriculum for Excellence in action leaflet

Puffin Book Club

School Values Consultation

School Uniform Order Form

learning to live
living to learn



Inspire

• Include

• Improve

The Moray Council Educational Services
www.moray.gov.uk

CLASS THEMES	CONTENTS	ASSEMBLY THEMES
<p>P1/2/3/4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Moray's Larder</i> • <i>Science - Growing plants and food chains</i> <p>P5/6/7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rights and Responsibilities</i> • <i>Technology - Bridges</i> • <i>Science - The Physical World</i> 	<p>Page 1 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acting HT introduction</i> <p>Page 2 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Class themes</i> • <i>Assembly themes</i> • <i>School Improvement Plan CfE Homework</i> • <i>Reports</i> <p>Page 3 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School Improvement Plan</i> • <i>Health Week/Sports Day</i> • <i>Enterprise in Education</i> • <i>Wild Things</i> • <i>Daffodil Tea</i> • <i>School Information Line</i> <p>Page 4 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Election</i> • <i>Pupil News</i> • <i>Parent Council news</i> • <i>Bits 'n Bobs</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.05 - <i>Global Citizenship</i> • 14.05 - <i>Bob-a-job Fundraising</i>

School Improvement Plan

CfE : Homework

After reviewing our homework practices, we are trialling 'Home learning logs' which will support our changes towards A Curriculum for Excellence. We will be adapting this new practice with current practices so that we have transition between the traditional homework format and the new CFE format. Each pupil will have 1 page of a learning log to work on and an objective to work towards. This will accompany the traditional maths and language work they have to complete each week. On the Friday of that week pupils discuss their learning with their talking partner and complete peer and self assessments. An information leaflet on 'Home learning logs' can be found in the blue information folders and a parents information evening will be organised to demonstrate how the homework is used in class. This will provide us with a consistent structure to our homework practices.

Reports

The annual report has finally been revamped and all schools in Moray have been switched over to the new Seemis system. We have been fortunate to be one of the first schools to be trained to use the Seemis reporting system and will be able to begin the completion of the reports. Reports will be issued to parents on the 28th of May with parent interviews to follow on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd of June. A letter with information on times and preferences will be issued closer to the date. I again apologise for the unforeseen delays to this years annual reports.

Health Week/Sports day

Arrangements for a Health Week which will include our sports day are being organised by staff which is being lead by Mrs Goodall. We are planning to organise different events, activities and a challenge day which each class will take part in during the whole week of June 7th. This will include Sports day which will be held on the Tuesday 8th, June with a bad weather back up day on Tuesday 15th, June. To make this and other events here at the school a success we will need all the support we can get.

Enterprise in Education

This is a school initiative part of the Determined to Succeed funding strategy by the Scottish Government. It is a process where pupils learn by taking responsibility for decisions through a 'can-do' attitude. Learning and teaching becomes relevant with real life links and a focus on skills that maybe needed. As part of our Enterprise in Education initiative we will be looking for outside agencies to come into the school and work with our pupils. In today's economic climate there is a greater importance needed on financial education. With this in mind we are organising a Money Week which will focus on the importance of managing money and its impacts on life. This will begin on the week of May 10th and is being lead by Miss. George. Another 'Social Enterprising' project that the whole school has taken on through our pupil council is the creation of a new veggie patch. Both classes have been working hard to clear a flower bed in the play ground to grow and sell vegetables. We are always open to advice from anyone who has a green thumb.

Wild Things/Outdoor learning

Our friends at Wild Things have managed to secure some additional funding to offer schools some free outdoor learning opportunities. As we attended their programme earlier this school session, Wild Things have offered our school two days of environmental education at Culbin Forest where our pupils will learn about the biodiversity in Scotland's forests. Pupils from Primary 1 to 6 will get hands-on experience as they explore the secrets of the forest.

Daffodil Tea

The Daffodil tea was a huge success and many thanks goes out to everyone who supported or helped out to make this event run smoothly. The pupils did an amazing job running the stalls and raising money for the school and their chosen charity. We had a surprise visit from an ex-pupil Mr. William Harper who was the 2nd dux of the school in 1934.

School Information Line

Instructions for Use

Dial **0870 054 9999**

Enter your school's PIN number: **031090**

You will get a confirmation message: "**selected Alves Primary School**"

Please note, you can also leave non-urgent messages which are forwarded to the school e-mail automatically and provides a convenient way for you to let us know for instance if you wish to make an appointment or to find out some information such as holiday dates.

Election Day

If you haven't noticed from TV, newspapers, radio or billboards at the side of the road, there is a national election on Thursday 6th, May. Due to the school being used as a polling station, the school will be **closed** for pupils only on that day. Staff will be present in the school working on developments towards CFE. As a reminder, the school is also closed Monday 3rd, May for the May Day holiday. Enjoy your long weekend.

Pupil News

Pupils from Alves Primary competed in the Moray Schools Cross Country competition at Elgin Academy. Our Primary 6/7 girls team was very successful placing 1st overall in the small school section. Well done to these girls and everyone who competed in this event. At assembly we celebrated the success of two individual achievements. Anna MacFadyen along with her team mates from the Moray and Nairn Pony Club came 2nd overall in a national quiz and Amber Kenny was successful in passing her gold level in ice skating. Well done girls!

Parent Council News

- Next meeting of Parent Council will be held on Monday 10th May at 6.30pm in the main school. Please come along and join us, we need new members. Your support is much appreciated.
- Stay and Play - thanks to everyone who came along. A good night was had by all. The raffle raised £36 - thank you for all the raffle prizes donated. We hope to hold another event in the summer term.
- Paired Head Teacher Return - thanks to all those who responded.
- Daffodil Tea - thanks to all the parents and staff for helping set up and serve teas and coffees. Also, to everyone who donated cakes and biscuits for serving at the tea. We received a lovely letter of thanks from P5/6/7

Bits 'n Bobs

- We are collecting Tesco Vouchers, any donations gratefully received.

Cross Country Girls with all their medals



Daffodil Tea current pupils with ex-pupil Mr Harper

