

# Bramble Brae News

August 2017 Edition

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready to see the children back at school! We are certainly delighted to see them back and to start planning a range of exciting activities and opportunities for them.

It is lovely to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils to the school but also pupils who have joined us from other schools, both within and out with Aberdeen City. We hope that you all enjoy your time at Bramble Brae.

The term has already got off to a busy start and it will be non-stop from now until the October holidays with new and exciting learning experiences and opportunities for the children. We all look forward to seeing what we can achieve together over the course of this year.

**Belonging, Believing, Achieving**

A. A. Murray



This session we will be working towards achieving our Level 1 Rights Respecting Schools Award. Although we have a pupil participation group taking the lead on this, it is important that we all have a shared responsibility for helping children to understand their rights. We have already undertaken a great deal of work in this area but this will be further developed this session. Please look out for opportunities for parents to get involved.



Our Eco Pupil Participation group will be working towards achieving green flag status but this will be a two year process. This is the highest level awarded by Eco School Scotland.



This year we also hope to gain our FairAchiever Schools award as part of our Fairtrade work. Again we have a pupil participation working on this but we hope that you will support us in our efforts.

## **New Staff**

As well as welcoming our new pupils we are also delighted to have four new members of teaching staff. Miss Ritchie (P3), Mr Stewart (P4), Miss Leckey (P5) and Miss R. Murray (P.E.) are a great addition to the Bramble Brae team.

We have also appointed a music teacher who will be in school two days per week. It is hoped that she will start in late September.

## **Food and Fun**

For the full seven weeks of the holidays the Food and Fun sessions for pupils ran and were hugely successful. These sessions were free to attend and the children enjoyed a variety of activities from arts and crafts to sports.

We are hoping that we will be able to continue these sessions during the October holidays.

## **Lunchtimes**

At Bramble Brae we promote healthy eating and encourage our pupils to make healthy choices. As you are aware the school menus are set by Aberdeen City Council and are the same across the whole of the city. They are produced according to health and nutrition guidelines to ensure that pupils have a balance of all food groups within each meal.

The health and safety of our pupils is of paramount importance to us, therefore, as a school we do not encourage our pupils to be off the premises at lunchtimes unless they are going home. It is important that we remind you that if you do give permission for your child to be off the premises that they become the responsibility of the parents/carers, not the school. We must also have received the signed consent form before permission will be granted.

### Safety in the school car park

We are delighted that we have some children who are choosing to cycle or scoot to school, however I must stress the importance of them not coming through the staff car park at any time. I am sure that you will understand that this is for the safety of our pupils.



All classes from P2-7 have attended the Aberdeen Booked Festival where they were treated to sessions with real authors. Bridging Differences, Museum Mysteries, Battling Greek Gods and Ridiculous Rhymes have been some of the titles.

### Playground Improvements

At the end of last session we were delighted to inform you about the improvements that we had made to the playground based on the ideas and suggestions from the children in our school. The full cost of the improvements was £25,000 - a significant investment for the school supported by grants from the Lottery. Sadly over the summer break the majority of the equipment was vandalised and will have to be removed and in time replaced. We are working closely with the police who will use the CCTV to identify the culprits. We are not in a position at the moment to be able to replace the equipment due to the financial implications but we will look to start fundraising and looking for other ways to ensure that our pupils have the same opportunities as those in other schools across the city.

### Parent Open Sessions

We are going to be trialling some new events for parents which will be known as 'Well Done Wednesdays' and 'Find Out Fridays'. These will be regular opportunities to come into school and celebrate the work and progress of your child and to find out more about what they are learning. More information about these sessions will follow soon.

### Breakfast Club

We continue to have a well attended breakfast club at Bramble Brae where a range of healthy options are provided for our pupils. There is no charge for this service and pupils can attend daily or at times when it is convenient for parents/carers. Doors will be opened at 7.55am and children should not arrive before this time.



## TECHFEST



We were lucky enough again this year to

secure places for all our P2-7 pupils to attend TechFest which is an annual festival promoting and celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Our pupils will be taking part in a variety of practical workshops and activities relating to these four areas. We look forward to sharing updates on these visits in due course.

### Percussion Lessons

Our school is to be alive with the sound of drumming thanks to our pupils in Primary 5 and Primary 6! They are to receive percussion tuition as part of an Aberdeen City Council programme. Over the course of the year the children will receive 16 lessons in total. We look forward to hearing and seeing the progress that they make during this time and hope that they will entertain us all with a performance of their new skills.



### Attendance and Late-coming

As part of our work to raise attainment and achievement in the school we will continue to monitor not only absences but also late arrivals in school. If attendance drops below 85% this will trigger the start of formal attendance procedures. We do understand that, from time to time, children can be absent from school for a variety of reasons and in these situations we would urge you to contact the school. This avoids your child being marked as an unauthorised absence.

Late arrivals to school are marked daily and parents will be contacted if this becomes persistent. Regular late-coming or absence can impact significantly on your child's progress.

### Parent Voice Group

Now that we have an established Parent voice group running in the school we are keen to develop this further over the current school year. The group will meet formally once per month to discuss ways in which it can support school developments and improvements as well as help with the organising of social and fundraising events.

We are always keen to see new faces joining the group and would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that this group is open to anyone who is interested.

Based on feedback from the parental survey last session we will be sending out a questionnaire to find out when would best suit parents to attend meetings. The plan is that these will alternate between evenings, school time and after school to ensure that we meet the needs of all who are interested.



### After School Clubs

We are pleased that, in conjunction with Active Schools, we will be able to offer a range of before and after school clubs again this term. These will change and be added to throughout the year so please continue to look out for information. We hope to be able to offer more opportunities for our younger pupils.

Clubs this term will be:

**Girls' Football** - Monday 5.30-6.30pm  
Northfield Academy (P4-7)

**Multi-sport** Tuesday 8.00-8.45am (P1-3)  
Thursday 8.00-8.45am (P4-7)

**Floorball** Tuesday 3.15-4.15pm (P4-7)

**Zumba** Friday 8.00-8.45am (P3-7)

### Children and Young People's Services Awards

We are absolutely delighted to have been nominated again this year for the Children and Young People's Services Awards which will take place on Wednesday 27th September at the Beach Ballroom.

The awards celebrate the work of pupils, staff and other agencies and organisations across a range of categories where there have been significant achievements or developments. Our nominations are for the following projects that our pupils and parents have been involved in:

- \* **Bramble Brae Bakes:** As part of our work to increase parental engagement we introduced this intergenerational cookery project, supported by Chris Dunhill. Parents, family members and pupils have come together to cook healthy, budget friendly meals and are in the process of creating their own recipe book. We will be hosting a community BBQ to celebrate the end of the project.
- \* **Food and Fun Project:** Over the Easter and Summer holidays, the Food and Fun project has been running in the school providing children with a range of fun activities to keep them busy. The project is supported by the Community Learning and Development team and Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT).

Representatives from these groups and school staff will attend the awards and, although we will have everything crossed that we take home an award on the night, we are both excited and honoured to have been shortlisted in two categories.



### School Uniform

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms and we hope that this will continue throughout the year. We do understand that from time to time there can be valid reasons as to why a child is not in uniform but we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to wear uniform as regularly as possible.

It is important that your child also has a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they arrive in school. This helps us to keep the school clean and free of mud and grass but most importantly they are required for PE. If for any reason you are unable to provide your child with a pair of indoor shoes, please contact the school.

### Dates for the Diary—Term 1

Below is an overview of what will be happening in term 1. If there are any updates or changes you will be notified about these via Groupcall or letter

<b>Monday 28th August</b>	9.30am — P4 Swimming
<b>Tuesday 29th August</b>	P6 and P7 to Techfest 11.30am—P1 Parent Lunch
<b>Wednesday 30th August</b>	P2 and P3 to Techfest
<b>Thursday 31st August</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre P4 and P5 to Techfest
<b>Monday 4th September</b>	9.30am—P4 Swimming
<b>Thursday 7th September</b>	P1 pupils start full time 9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre
<b>Friday 8th September</b>	Class photos—please ensure your child is in full school uniform
<b>Monday 11th September</b>	9.30am — P4 Swimming
<b>Thursday 14th September</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre
<b>Monday 18th September</b>	9.30am—P4 Swimming
<b>Thursday 21st September</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre
<b>Friday 22nd September</b>	Holiday—School closed
<b>Monday 25th September</b>	Holiday—School closed
<b>Tuesday 26th September</b>	Bramble Brae Bakes Community BBQ - 3.15-5.30pm
<b>Wednesday 27th September</b>	Children and Young People's Services Awards - Beach Ballroom
<b>Thursday 28th September</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre
<b>Monday 2nd October</b>	9.30am — P4 Swimming
<b>Thursday 5th October</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre
<b>Monday 9th October</b>	9.30am — P4 Swimming
<b>Thursday 12th October</b>	9.30-11.30am I'm a Parent Get Me Out of Here—Community Centre