

**Pupils return to
school on Monday 9th
January 2017**

News Bulletin 3

Charleston School News Bulletin

Dear Parents/Carers

Once again Charleston pupils put on excellent Christmas productions - "Shine Star Shine" and "Aladdin Trouble" – Oh yes they did! And the Nursery sang a lovely selection of Christmas songs.

All their hard work paid off and we were delighted to welcome you and your families to the shows. The spirit of Christmas certainly did come to Charleston this year.

Thank you to all staff who did such a sterling job putting pupils through their paces and bringing it altogether. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we did.

Our collection for Grampian Deaf Society raised over £200. The sale of the "Aladdin Trouble" CDs brought in almost £140. This was an enterprise run by Primary 7s, the proceeds of which will go towards their Prom at the end of this session. If you still have to collect your copy, please do so by the end of this week.



**Pupils return to school on
Monday 9th January 2017**

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In school, we have been very busy leading up to all the Christmas festivities. Although outside the weather is unseasonably mild, Christmas is very much happening in the classes around school.

The children are all excited about the approaching break, and on behalf of everyone at Charleston, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

**Laura Fowler
Headteacher**

Behaviour Policy

We have revised our Behaviour Policy to bring it into line with our commitment to the Rights of the Child. A copy can be viewed under "About Us" on the school website.

In line with Aberdeen City Council policy, we have to update our Anti-Bullying policy this session. Our Health and Wellbeing group are currently doing this. It will be on the website when it is completed.

Alongside these policies, we have introduced the saying:

"Stop it – I don't like it"

to encourage pupils to take more responsibility for their actions towards others.

Achievements

There have been quite a few achievements so far this session.

The work done in school on the Rights of the Child, made it onto the front page of the first Rights Respecting Newsletter for schools. It was then picked up and included in the Evening Express' supplement, "Chalk Talk".

The Rights Respecting pupil group have set up a board in the local Annexe, so that people in the community are aware of the work being done on this at Charleston.

For the first time, we have introduced Leadership Skills Training for senior pupils at Charleston. We are running this in conjunction with colleagues from Community Learning and Development. Pupils work through a programme and have challenges set, which they need to complete in order to gain their Certificate of Completion. Folders with their work are externally verified. Our first cohort, who gave up their lunchtimes to do this, will receive their certificates at the end of term Assembly.

They are – Jack Sutherland, Lois Johnson, Sophie Flockhart, Jamie Rennie, McKenzie Gove, William Komar, Kory Buckingham, Abbie Bodicoat, Lachlan Cargill and Jessica Flockhart. Very well done to them.

Earlier in this term, we supported the Rotary Club's Shoebox Appeal. Each class was given 3 shoeboxes to fill for similar aged children less fortunate than them. The response was amazing, and not only did we fill all the shoeboxes to the point of bursting, we also had a barrow load of bags with extra gifts to hand over to the Rotary. Well done everyone – your generosity will make some children very happy this Christmas.

Miss Sinclair and Miss Matson have been running a school choir since the start of this session. Boys and girls from Pr 5-7 meet weekly and have been learning some Christmas carols. A group from the choir sang at the Cove Christmas Concert in the Thistle Hotel locally. They recently were invited to sing at "The Wellington", Tesco and our business partners at NOV at the Business Gateway. By all accounts they sang beautifully and were rewarded with a tasty lunch from "The Wellington". The choir had expected to sing to the elderly at the Banks o' Dee nursing home, but unfortunately, due to a sickness bug in the home, they had to cancel at the last minute.

Behaviour in the community

I was recently contacted about a group of boys from Charleston, who were reportedly ringing doorbells in the community and running off. A number of the bells being rung belonged to elderly people, who were, as you'd expect, quite upset and angry with this behaviour, and after repeated incidents, called the police.

At a recent assembly, I talked to pupils about this, and stressed the need to be respectful of everyone in the wider school community.

On behalf of Charleston School, I apologise if you were one of the houses targeted, and hope the behaviour of a few has stopped.

Parking

Inconsiderate parking is an ongoing issue at the front of the school. May I remind drivers that the road markings in front of the school are there for the safety of your children.

Please heed them.

Parking at the back of the school, through the gates, is for staff only. Throughout the day we have delivery lorries and bin lorries come in and out of the car park. They need room to manoeuvre, so please do not park in this area. We cannot be held responsible for any damage to cars left there.

Thank you

Much of what we do in school, and out and about, requires the additional support of parents and carers, to make it happen. We are very grateful to all of you who are able to give of your time to help in school and to accompany classes on trips and such like. Thank you all.

With the support of our Parent Council, we can offer "extras" to pupils, such as discos, theatre trips, new books in the library and much more. At our recent Christmas Fayre, over £3000 was raised, which is a considerable sum of money, all of which is ploughed back into the school. Thank you to the current group of parents for your continued support and hard work.

At the end of this term, we will be "losing" Mr Mitchell. Mr Mitchell is a supply teacher who came here for the short term and stayed much longer than he thought he would! We are very grateful to him for his loyalty and hard work, and feel sure we will see him again before too long! Thank you Mr Mitchell.

This term after the October holidays, is always an exciting, but very busy term, as we hurtle towards Christmas. It can be a hard job keeping a class of very excited children focused and on task, and I must thank all the staff for keeping the school ticking over calmly – for the most part – amidst all the glitter and sparkle of Christmas.

Lost Property

The lost property boxes are overflowing with blue sweatshirts, polo shirts, jackets and even shoes! Please check your child has all his/her belongings, and if not, come in and see if the missing items are here in school. We will be sending any items left at the end of term to the recycling bin.

All holidays and in-service days can be checked on the Aberdeen City Council Website at:
http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/education_learning/schools/scc_SchoolHols.asp

Term Begins Monday 9 January 2017
Mid Term holiday Monday 13 Feb 2017
In Service day Tuesday 14 Feb (pupils do not attend school)
In Service Day Wednesday 15 Feb (pupils do not attend school)
Term Ends Friday 31 March 2017

Term Begins Tuesday 18 April 2017
May Day holiday Monday 1 May 2017
In Service Day Tuesday 2 May (pupils do not attend school)
Session Ends Friday 30 June 2017

Session 2017/2018

4 In-Service days still to be confirmed

Term begins for pupils Tuesday 22 August 2017
September Holiday Friday 22 September - Monday 25 September 2017
Term Ends Friday 13 October 2017
Term begins Monday 30 October 2017
Term Ends Friday 22 December 2017
Term begins Monday 8 January 2018
Mid Term Holiday Monday 12 February 2018
Term Ends Thursday 29 March 2018
Term Starts Monday 16 April 2018
May Day Holiday Monday 7 May 2018
Term Ends Friday 6 July 2018

Session 2018 - 2019

4 In Service Days still to be confirmed

Term Begins for pupils Tuesday 21 August 2018
September Holiday Friday 21 September - Monday 24 September 2018
Term Ends Friday 12 October 2018
Term Begins Monday 29 October 2018
Term Ends Friday 21 December 2018
Term Begins Monday 7 January 2019
Mid Term Holiday Monday 11 February 2019
Term Ends Friday 29 March 2019
Term Begins Monday 15 April 2019
Good Friday Holiday Friday 19 April 2019
May Day Holiday Monday 6 May 2019
Session Ends Friday 5 July 2019

Please let us know of any query, concern, complaint or compliment relevant to our service.

Child's Name _____ Class _____
(optional)

Parent/Carer signature _____ Date _____
(optional)



We will acknowledge receipt of this slip within 5 working days. If appropriate a full reply will follow within 15 working days. Any urgent issue eg Health and Safety will be dealt with more quickly. All issues will be dealt with as per our usual customer standards. Every effort will be made to ensure problems are resolved. However, on the rare occasion that you remain dissatisfied with our service further action can be taken by contacting our Quality Improvement Officer at Marischal College, Broad St, Aberdeen, AB10 1AA.