

# Charleston School Newsletter



## Upcoming Dates

Lunchtime Dance Club for P4-7 Starts	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	Number Talks (Numeracy and Maths) Parent Curriculum Event	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> of February @3:30
P7 Transition Visit to Lochside for Road Safety Event	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Charleston Young Inspectors group to visit Culter School	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February
P1 and P7 Dental Checks in school	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	February Holiday	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
School Pantomime (Cinderella)	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January PM	Inservice days (Staff only in school)	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> of February
Doric/Robert Burns Assembly <i>(Invitations will be sent to parents of performers)</i>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Culter Young Inspectors group to visit Charleston	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February

## Pantomime

Following a bit of research regarding travelling pantomimes, we have been lucky to have found a group who had availability to deliver a show in school at the end of January. The panto will be 'Cinderella'. I'm sure the children will enjoy the show.

## Christmas Events Thanks

Many thanks to all the parents and families who attended the many events which took place around the Christmas season. We passed the glowing feedback on to the performers and teachers who really pulled together to make it all happen. A big thanks also to those parents who helped out with refreshments. £150 of donations went to CreateAberdeen.

## Number Talks/Maths After School Parent Information Event



As part of our School Improvement Plan this year, we are introducing 'Number Talks' across the whole school to support the development of pupils' mental maths abilities. Number Talks involves frequent targeted sessions of discussion and debate on mental maths strategies and has the potential to significantly improve pupils' ability to work confidently and flexibly with numbers. We will be running an after school parent engagement event at 3:30 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February where we hope to share information on this, and other maths strategies which we use in Charleston. The aim of the event is to support parents to better understand the maths strategies and methods used in school, so they can support their children at home. We hope to see a good turnout!

## P1/Nursery 2019/20 Applications

### P1

Applications are now open for P1 for next session. Aberdeen City has changed the way families apply for a school place. Applications will now be completed via an online form which is available at:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/apply-school-place>

All school placing applications will now be completed through this portal. If any families require IT support to complete the applications, this will be provided via the local library service.

### Nursery

Nursery places will still be offered via the paper application process. Paper applications are available from schools from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

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## Celebrating Positive Behaviour

Following the pupil, staff and parent review of the existing Positive Behaviour Policy and structures within the school, a new strategy has been introduced. Key themes from the feedback which helped to structure this strategy were:

- Zero tolerance to hitting and kicking
  - Rewards for positive actions
  - Conversations between pupils and teachers
  - More immediate consequences to allow children to move on from mistakes sooner.
- 'I feel it is important to reward the pupils who do the right thing all of the time.'* (Parent)  
(Staff, pupil and parent audit Nov 2018)

Resultantly, our new strategy will look to celebrate positive actions and achievements on an individual, class and house level with clear rewards for pupils' who are working hard and behaving well. The house system will become a central feature to this system and will be given greater prominence throughout the school. Alongside the positive rewards clear, consistent consequences will be implemented as necessary.

House Captains will be responsible for maintaining a 'Leaderboard' in the school reception to display and celebrate the achievements of children across the school.

Further detail is available in the full Positive Behavior Policy on the school website at:

[https://charleston.aberdeen.sch.uk/?page\\_id=3221](https://charleston.aberdeen.sch.uk/?page_id=3221)

**Positive Behaviour**



Charleston School

**#beallyoucanbe**

Points are rewarded for positive actions and achievements linked to the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators.



**Individual**

- 40 Points House Badge
- 80 Points House Band
- 120 Points Silver Band
- 160 Points Gold Band

**Class**

- 750 Points Bronze Class **Extended Break**
- 1500 Points Silver Class **Non Uniform Day**
- 2500 Points Gold Class **Pupil Pick**

**House**

The house with the most points by the end of Sports Day will receive £100 to spend on something of their choice for the school.

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## Newsletter

### Vision Values and Aims

Following consultation with pupils, parents and staff at the beginning of the session, we have finalised an updated version of the school vision, values and aims. These are used as a basis for decision making in all areas of school life and provide values which all members of the school community should strive to work towards.

## #beallyoucanbe

### Vision

At Charleston School, we are a centre of learning which offers nurturing, relevant learning opportunities for all, strengthens the resilience of *all* and celebrates aspiration, ambition and innovation with all in our community.

### Core Values

We will be...

#### Respectful

Inclusive

#### Honest

Principled

#### Resilient

Diligent

#### Creative

Innovative

#### Ambitious

Determined

#### Curious

Questioning

Over the next week, children throughout the school will be given the opportunity to create characters to represent the core values. The winning characters for each of the values will be used in displays throughout school and on the school website.

### Aims

#### We aim to develop a learning environment where:

- We uphold the rights of the child and show respect and kindness to each other.
- We understand and celebrate our similarities and differences to ensure everyone feels part of the school community.
- We are open and honest about our successes and mistakes. We have a strong set of moral principles and our actions are based on these.
- Learners are encouraged to use their imagination and to think outside the box.
- Learners are given opportunities to develop skills relevant to the future workforce.

#### We aim to help all pupils to become lifelong learners who:

- Understand that learning and life is not always easy and that mistakes and failures are an important part of learning.
- Who set high standards for themselves and work hard to achieve goals.
- Who approach learning with a growth mindset and use their resilience to 'bounce back' when things are tough.
- Are eager learners who are encouraged to instigate, investigate and question new learning.

#### We aim to collaborate, participate and lead together by:

- Providing opportunities for all children to take part in decision making, planning and leading their own learning.



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## P7 Transition

Next week the P7 pupils are attending a Road Safety event at Lochside with all the other pupils in the ASG. This will be the first of several transition events which are being coordinated by the staff at Lochside. This year some of the transition experiences will be supported through a programme called FunSTEM. FunSTEM introduces primary school-aged children to the fundamentals of science, technology, engineering and maths by framing STEM-based learning as an exciting and enjoyable experience. We will also be coordinating additional transition experiences with the P7s from our local partner school (Loriston) over the next two terms.

## Staffing Update

A big welcome to Mrs Salmon who has joined us, and is working with children throughout the school in a Support for Learning role as well as P1/2 on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Farewell to Mrs Ferguson who works on a Thursday and Friday will be leaving us to take up a post a Hillside School at the end of January. She currently works alongside Mrs Maitland in P1 on a Thursday and does PE with children throughout the school on a Friday. From the end of January Mrs Cartlidge will work with P1 on a Thursday and arrangements are being made to fill the PE timetable.

## Film/Science Family Event

In honour of Martin Luther King Jr Day the school will be hosting a cinema celebration with a screening of the film Hidden Figures on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January at 3:30. This hugely inspirational film focuses on the NASA space race and the role of African American women. The screening will be accompanied by a rocket design and launching session for families. We hope this will be a really fun family event and may arrange more events like this in the future if it is well attended. Any children attending this event must be accompanied by a family member (adult). More information will come out via email.



## Doric Event

As the first of the focus themes which the children and staff have selected for this year, we will be having a whole school focus on Doric dialect and Robert Burns. We are holding a Scots poetry recital and art competition within classes on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.. Before this all the children will be given a Scots poem to recite and memorise. The winning children will perform their poem at a special school assembly. Good luck!



## School Closure

We have been really lucky with weather recently, however with some snow forecast on the horizon, a leaflet will be coming out next week via email with guidance on procedures for school closure. We will always endeavour to keep the school open, however if for safety reasons school is unable to open, parents will be informed via Groupcall text by 8:15 am that morning.



## School Security

To ensure the school building is secure throughout the day can I please ask that:

- All parents/visitors coming into school report to the main school office and sign in. Please do not come into the pegs through the playground doors.
- Only staff members open the main door to let visitors (even other parents) into school. Children have also been asked not to open the main door to visitors, even to a face they might know.

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