



# Onthank Primary School Newsletter - November 2015

## Children In Need

For Children In Need this year we asked pupils to be their hero, wear Pudsey clothes or pyjamas. Pupils and staff took part in this event. Pudsey Bear visited the school and met many pupils and parents. Thanks to everyone for their donation, we raised the fantastic amount of £792. A special thank you to pupils who raised money on their own: Elise White and Sam Barrowman who sold tickets—Guess the Bear's Birthday!



## Christmas Fayre

The school's Christmas Fayre is due to take place on Tuesday 1 December. All classes in the school are busy making crafts and items to be sold at the Fayre. Each class will have their own stall and will be manned by pupils and helpers. There will be many other stalls including toys, DVDs, books, soft toys, raffles and tea/coffee will be available. We are being Eco Friendly and recycling toys, books and games. Please come along between 9.20 am and 12.00 pm. Christmas Fayre timetable - P1s 9.20 am, P2s 9.40 am, P3s 10.00 am, Gaelic Classes 10.20 am, P4s 10.20 am, P5s 11.00 am, P6s 11.15 am and P7s 11.30 am.



## Christmas Tree

We are very pleased with our Christmas Tree this year. It looks wonderful decorated with lights and decorations. Thank you to Cameron Wilson from Plantfinder for lending us a Scissor Lift to allow us to reach the top of the tree to decorate. Thanks to the PTA for buying the Christmas Tree.



## Facebook

If you are taking photographs at a school event, we ask that you only take your own child/children.

**We would appreciate that you do not post photographs of other children or members of staff on Facebook.**

## Come Dine With Me

P3 pupils invited their parents/friends to dine with them in the dining hall. This was very well attended and all were happy to spend time together. Thanks to all 92 guests who took time to come to school.



## Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the office by 9.15 am on 525477. If we haven't heard from you by 9.15 am you will receive a text message in the first instance and if you are unavailable we will contact the emergency contact. All Data Forms have been updated with new contact details, if this changes at any time throughout the session, please let us know.



## P4 Pupils

P4 pupils are having an exciting opportunity this week because they are recording a festive CD called "P4 Sings Christmas". They are sounding amazing as is our resident professional musician Mr Franchi! CDs will be for sale at the Christmas Fayre for £1 each.



## Headlice

We have recently had a few cases of Head Lice in school. Head Lice are caught from close head to head contact with an infected person. Young children are particularly vulnerable because head to head contact is more common in this age group. Momentary, close contact is enough. Prevention - look out for symptoms of head lice. Perform weekly checks to look for nits and head lice in your family's hair. Keep long hair tied back. Avoid sharing combs and brushes with other people. Avoid wearing other people's hair accessories (hairbands, scrunchies), caps or hats. It would be appreciated by the school if you could let us know of any outbreak - all information will be treated in confidence.

## UNICEF UK

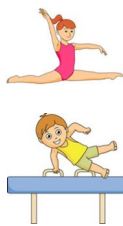
We joined UNICEF UK's OUTRIGHT campaign and spoke out on promoting and protecting the rights of the children affected by natural disasters. We have been working very hard, putting children's rights at the heart of everything we do in school. On Friday 20 November, pupils celebrated the anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They completed activities. The Rights Respecting Ambassadors even wrote to David Cameron, hoping he will share their views and ensure children's voices are heard at the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. The school have been working very hard at promoting children's rights in school and around the community and are passionate about continuing to spread this message.



The Rights Respecting School logo has now changed. Here is a little word from UNICEF on why. 'We want to make sure everyone knows that the Rights Respecting Schools Award is a Unicef programme working for children's rights. By firmly aligning the RRSa logo with the Unicef brand, we become stronger and more visible, and make it crystal clear that the Award is a prestigious Unicef UK accreditation'.

## Gymnastics

P1C and P1L have been enjoying gymnastics lessons from two very skilled Kilmarnock College Students.



## Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, please call into the office to complete the necessary permission slip and hand in the medication. We ask that you do not give your child medication to take unsupervised by themselves.

## Asda—Link

We would like to thank Emma from Asda, Kilmarnock who comes in to help at breakfast club two mornings a week. She also donates items to breakfast club, toy items for our treat tray. The school choir will be singing at Asda on Tuesday 15 December from 9.45 am – 10.45 am.



## Anti Bullying Month 2015

The theme for Anti-Bullying Month this year was 'Cyber Safety'. Mr Simpson and Mrs Williams raised awareness across all stages of how to stay safe online. Anti-Bullying week (Monday 16—Friday 30 November) encouraged pupils to "Make a Noise about Bullying". Some classes created raps, chants, roleplay scenarios and others write poems, stories and took photos. P6 participated in a workshop led by PACE Theatre Company. They presented a play called "Being Me" to P5 and P7 which examined aspects of bullying. P7I and all P5 classes worked with James from Nil by Mouth to learn more about Anti-Sectarianism.



## Nut Allergies

**We are committed to a whole school approach to the Health and Safety of all pupils. We have two pupils in school who have severe nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts/or nut related products to school.**

### Dyslexia Friendly Schools

Meet the members of our DFS Pupil Group: P4A Sean McGhee, P4F Adam Thomson, P4MCC Liam Ross, P5E Reece Gibson, P5EL Jack Chudleigh, P5N Aaron Fulton, P6K Sam Barrowman and Daniel Robertson, P6SP Amy Brewer, P6S Mya McCartney, P7C Keigan Hill, P7H Kaitlin Queay, P7I Eva Crosby, Becca Daly and Jack Morrison, P4-7M/G Niamh Craig.

### Shoe Boxes

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is a priority on our school improvement plan. Shoe boxes are required for the Primary Engineer Initiative that we are involved in. We would be grateful if you can send in any shoe boxes for the children to use in technology.



### Ayrshire Junior Chess Association

The school held the latest junior chess tournament on Wednesday 26 November, with around 40 pupils from across Ayrshire in attendance. All Onthank pupils performed well with Leo Gan from P7C winning the tournament outright! Well done everyone who competed.



### Micro Tyco—November Challenge

During the month of November, P7 have taken part in Wild Hearts challenge to turn £1 into a profitable business. We have had tennis, Zumba and quiz afternoons all organised by the pupils. The SWEGWAY raffle and hamper raffles were drawn at assembly on Monday 30 November.



### Dyslexia Awareness Week



In Scotland this year, Dyslexia Awareness Week was from Monday 2 November to Sunday 8 November 2015. During that week all pupils were involved in a selection of dyslexia friendly activities within their own classrooms. DFS Mascot Competition winners will be announced soon. Our week concluded with 'Wear Something Blue' on Friday 6 November. This was to support a Blue Ribbon Campaign led by an Edinburgh school girl called Ellie to help raise awareness of dyslexia.

**For more details visit: [www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk)**

### Baby News

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Kilpatrick on the birth of their baby girl and to Mr & Mrs Simpson on the birth of their baby boy. Mothers and babies are doing well!

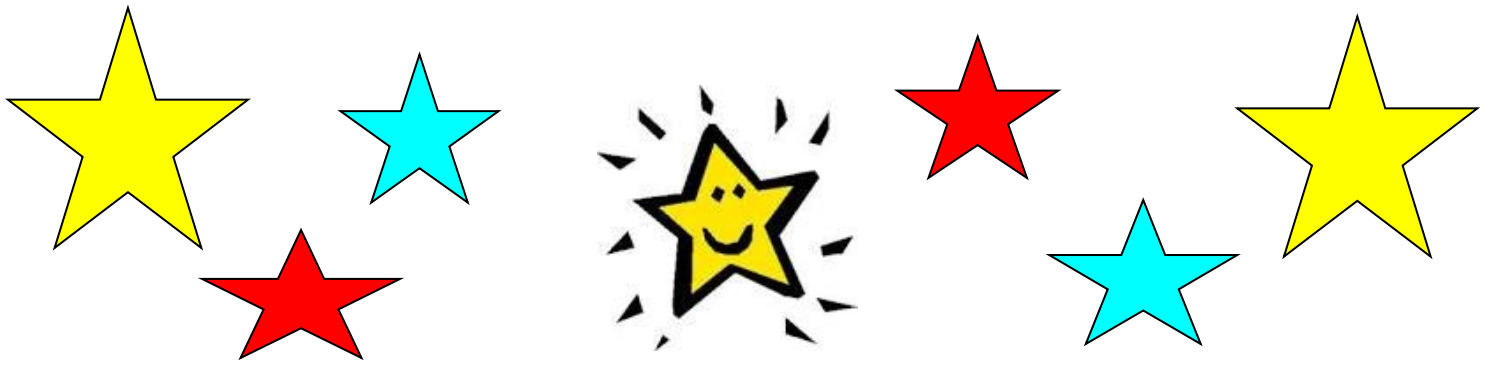


### Road Safety

We all want our children to be safe in and out of school. Inconsiderate parking and reckless driving continues to be a big concern. A parent has made us aware of a pupil being nearly knocked down by a car whose driver was careless with their attention to pedestrians. Please speak to your children about not crossing the car park and model this safe behaviour by using footpaths. We raise this regularly at assemblies. I ask that you drive considerably and park safely when dropping and collecting pupils.

### P1 Registration

P1 registration week will take place week beginning Monday 18 January 2016. Further information will follow in January.



# November Star Pupils

**Primary 1:** Cody Wilson, Rio Quinn, Erin McCormack, Molly Muirhead, Holly Nimbley, Lucie Hill, Harry Mackay, Tyler McCourt, Callum Walton, Oliver Smith, Daisy Lawless, Emily MacMillan, Lewys Cairns, Calin Wyper, Milo Horner, Christopher Lynch.

**Primary 2:** Mia Russell, Breckin Wilson, Frankie Brown, Darren Ferguson, Calleigh Green, Aime-Leigh Tait, Matthew McDonald, Matthew Bradley, Seoras MacDonald, Kyle McGowan, Kyra McGaw, Cerys Elder, Melody Longmuir, Leah Mills, Callum Hamilton-Booth, Dylan Torrance, Steven Black, Kalib McLean, Rhonwen Morsen.

**Primary 3:** Kirsten Robertson, Erin Mooney, Stuart Anderson, Mackenzie Simpson, Joe Dudgeon, Tegan Mair, Cori Saxelby, Olivia Cooper, Aimee Robinson, Erin Tonner, Ethan Stirling, Luke McCall, Gregor McMillan.

**Primary 4:** Kai Munro, Eban Wilson, Ellie Rodgers, Jack Murphy, Aimeeleigh Brown, Ellie Lewis, Clayton Marshall, Adam Thomson, Aamane Kouser Ali, Katie Wood, Sophie Dickie, Fraser Boyd.

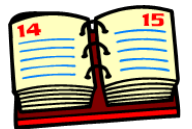
**Primary 5:** Aarran McCourt, Declan King, Sarah Kirk, Lucy Fullarton, Daniel Boyd, Molly Sneddon, Daniel Hettrick, Courtney MacIsaac, Chenai Milne, Pearse Shields, Ross Duncan, Taylor Sillars, Lewis Littlejohn, Molly Sinclair.

**Primary 6:** Sam Barrowman, Megan McKendrick, Taylor McLean, Robbie Pretswell, Lorena Scott, Devon Reid, Lewis Sloan, Ashton Hastings, Steven Gilmour, Elise White, Matthew Ward, Oliver James, Marcus Campbell.

**Primary 7:** Blair Lamberth, Devin Marshall, Mitchel Brown, all P7s, Alex Evans, Amy Macdonald, Emma Stewart, Euan Paterson, Holly Smillie, Conor Shields, Natalie MacLeod, Nicole Morrison, Tjaj Hastings, James Brown, Niamh Craig.

**SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS / CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS / EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS / RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS**

## Dates for your Diary



As per previous sheet in October's Newsletter.

Can also be viewed online at [www.onthankprimary.org.uk](http://www.onthankprimary.org.uk)

K. McCartney / G. Findlay

## Onthank Gaelic Early Childhood Centre News

The children have settled into this session in the Gaelic Early Childhood Centre and have been learning through play through a range of activities. The topic of Shopping has provided a focus on Shops and Gaelic food vocabulary. There has been a wealth of opportunities for role play in the nursery shop and buying and selling has proved very popular. A recent trip to our local supermarket was also a great success, giving children real life experience of shopping for items to be used in the nursery. Transition between the nursery and primary classes has begun with Mrs Merrick leading a range of Literacy based activities in the playroom and the outdoor area. Further opportunities to share learning through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are planned for next term.. St. Andrews' Day was celebrated with both Gaelic Classes and Early Childhood Centre coming together with all primary 1 pupils for a wonderful St. Andrews' Ceilidh. The North Ayrshire Gaelic Singing Group entertained the children and staff by singing a selection of Gaelic songs including a beautiful lullaby. The children and staff then led the dancing, followed by inviting the singing group to their rooms to continue the celebrations. Dates of Christmas activities and events:

- Tuesday 8 December: Christmas Lunch for the cost of £2 per child .
- Friday 11 December: Christmas Jumper day when children are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper and make a small donation to the charity, Save the Children.
- Wednesday 16 December at 1.30 pm: P1-P3 Gaelic Nativity Play. All parents, carers and friends of the Gaelic classes are welcome to attend.
- Thursday 17 December: Gaelic Early Childhood Centre Party. Parents and carers are welcome to join the party for Santa's visit at 10:45 am.

We wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Merry Christmas!

## Onthank Primary School PTA News



### Planned Fundraising Events

The PTA will be running a toy stall at the school fayre on 1 December and requires donations. Please search your cupboards for any toys/games that your children have outgrown but which are still in good condition. Any donations should be handed in to the office.

Alternative race night - discussions are underway regarding holding a fun, interactive' race night with a difference. Further details will be issued on this once available. This is likely to be in February or March of next year.

Bingo night - this is planned for next May.

Other events are being discussed and more information will follow in due course.

### Where the money is spent.....

The PTA will purchase the school Christmas tree.

We have also agreed to a request to purchase lightweight headphones for use in the ICT suite in the school. The PTA will fund the purchase of 35 sets, enough for each child in a class plus a few spares.

The Group has also been asked to fund the purchase of some equipment to facilitate listening and talking learning evaluation, which we are happy to do. No specifics are available as yet but more detail will be noted in a future newsletter once available.

### Do you have experience of completing grant/funding applications?

Help is sought from anyone with previous experience of successfully completing grant/funding applications. If you think you could help the PTA with this please notify the office or advise a member of the PTA.

### Raffle Prizes

Can you provide raffle prizes for future fundraising events, or do you have a local business contact who might supply a gift or donation or wish to sponsor an event? If so, please contact a PTA member or let the office know.

### Next meeting of the PTA

The next meeting is currently planned for 11 January at 6.30 pm in the North West Area Centre. Any new members are welcome to come along.