



Respect

Working Together

Ambition

Find Out More Event

On behalf of Midmill School pupils we would like to invite you to a Find Out More event about the Rights of the Child and the work we do around this in school.

This event will be for parents/carers only in the Music and Drama Room on Wednesday 8 March at 7pm. We am hopeful that some of our pupil group will also be in attendance to share their views and understanding, as well as some of the work they have done this session to promote this area of the curriculum.

Refreshments will be provided. I hope to see many of you there.



Dates for Diary

6 Mar	P4 Twitter Take Over
8 Mar	FOM Event – 7 pm
10 Mar	P2 Assembly
10 Mar	P1 Health Checks
13 Mar	Nursery Twitter Take Over
16 Mar	Science Showcase
16 Mar	Rotary Quiz
17 Mar	P3 Assembly
20 Mar	P6/7M Twitter Take Over
21 Mar	Parent Meetings (1)
22 Mar	Proposed Strike Day
22 Mar	Parent Council 7 pm
23 Mar	Proposed Strike Day
27-30 Mar	Tree Planting in Gauchhill Woods
27 Mar	P1/2 Twitter Take Over
30 Mar	Parent Meetings (2)

Improvement Priorities 2022/23

To improve learning and teaching through introduction of learning pathways in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

To improve pupil wellbeing and interactions by embedding wellbeing approaches and developing outdoor learning opportunities and play pedagogy.

To improve pupil participation and engagement in their learning and whole school improvement.

Learning and Teaching – Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing

During our Inservice Days in February Shirley Clarke delivered a brilliant input on the Power of Formative Assessment. There were numerous take aways from this which staff are employing within their classrooms.



Following the creation of our Teaching Evaluation Toolkit at the November Inservice Days, we have used this for Classroom Monitoring for the first time and are looking forward to using it for Peer Monitoring towards the end of Term 3.

We are really excited about our Find Out More evening for Parents linked to the UNCRC and would love for as many parents as possible to come along to this.

Outdoor Learning and Play



We are delighted to be able to support Tree Planting in Gauchhill woods this term and in the second last week of term, some pupils will have the opportunity to go to Gauchhill Woods to support local rangers to replant trees after the damage caused by the storms last year.



Our next Kemnay Cluster Collegiate meeting will be focused on Play and how we can stimulate purposeful learning thought play.

Pupil Participation and Engagement

During the February Inservice Days, staff used the CIRCLE resource to support Inclusive Learning to Audit their classrooms and learner participation within their classrooms to review if there is anything they could change or improve to support learners.



Parking



Please, when you come to pick your child up, use the spaces provided in the car park. Do not drive up on to the kerbs beside the roundabout and drop off area.

Parental Engagement

We are delighted to be able to have Parents back in the school building. If there are any areas you would like to support with, e.g. School Library, Play, Reading, Outdoor Learning etc. Please contact Katie Finch by clicking [here](#).



Science Showcase



This term across the school we have been focussing on the Living World, plants and animals. We would love to share our learning with you.

On 16 March we would like to invite you from 2.00 - 2.45pm to our Science

Showcase. Each class will be prepared to share their learning with you from this term. Some of this will take place in classrooms and some outdoors. We would be delighted if you would be able to join us for this.

Absences

Please call the school or email by 9.15 am if your child is going to be absent from school. Please give the reason for the absence. If your child was off the previous day, please ensure you call each day to inform us of their absence. Your child should only return to school when well enough. Any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay off school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours and feel well.



Office Hours

We are delighted to let you know that we have managed to secure an increase to our budgeted Administration hours for the school. Mrs Emslie's hours will now be Monday – Thursday 8.15 am - 4.15 pm and Friday 8.15 am - 12.30 pm.



Cycling and Scooting to School

It has been brilliant to see so many pupils cycling and scooting to school in the morning. Please can you ensure if your child is taking a bike or scooter to school that they are wearing a helmet and that they are courteous of other road users. We have recently had some near misses due to the speed pupils are coming down hills and on to the paths around the school.

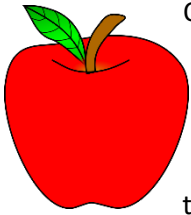


Parent Council Valentine Disco

Midmill Parent Council would like to thank everyone who came along to our "Touch Of Red Valentine's Disco" in February. It was a fantastic night where lots of fun and dancing was had. Thanks to you, we managed to raise a whopping £326.43!!! Thank you very much for your generosity. This money will be put towards the schools new sound and lighting system.



Health Snacks and Packed Lunches



Our scores for healthy snacks across the week have dropped over recent months. Please can you support your child to make a healthy choice for their snack Mon-Thurs and remind them to bring a filled bottle of water to school. We have also noticed some pupils bringing fizzy drinks and a lot of sugary snacks to school for their lunch. This is not something pupils should have in school.

Lost Property

There is a lot of lost property that is on the table at the front door. If you are coming to school to pick up or drop off your child, please have a look at the lost property table to check if any of it belongs to you. It will also be available for collection during the Science Showcase.



Emotion Coaching for Parents



Last year with support from Jen Sutherland our Educational Psychologist, we ran a Find Out More about Emotion Coaching Session for parents. Due to the restrictions in place at the time, this had to be run online.

Jen is running another Emotion Coaching Session for parents on 26 April at 7 pm in Kinellar Primary School. If you were not able to attend the session we did, or you would like to take part in a face-to-face session, you are more than welcome to attend.

I would highly recommend this course. Emotion Coaching is something we use in school on a daily basis. It is a 4-step approach based on the work of John Gottman an American psychological researcher. It is easy to learn and can be used by parents/carers and educators to support children through life's ups and downs, in a way that builds confidence and promotes emotional wellbeing. The approach helps children understand emotions and deal with them more effectively.

You can find out a little more about Emotion Coaching on our school website but clicking [here](#).

Reading Books



We have been doing an audit of our Reading Books in school and there are quite a few missing. We would really appreciate it if you could please have a look at home and return any reading books to school.

World Book Day

World Book Day is a charity that changes lives through a love of books and reading. Their mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. Reading for pleasure is a vital indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.

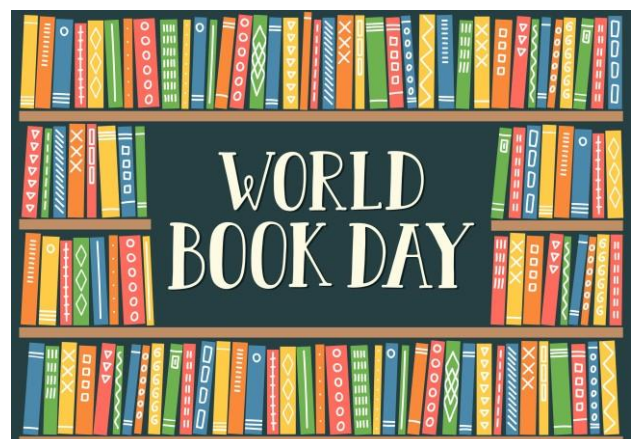
At Midmill School we want to see more children developing a life-long habit of reading for pleasure.

The World Book Day approach to supporting children to read for pleasure encourages 6 behaviours:

These are:

- Being read to regularly
- Having books at home and at school
- Having a choice in what to read
- Finding time to read
- Having trusted help to find a book
- Making reading FUN!

There are lots of resources on the World Book Day website where you can make a weekly plan to read with your child at home. You can access one example of these [here](#). We know how busy everyone is at the minute, but research shows that children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing. It may also be a well earned and enjoyable break for you as a parent.



Rights Respecting Schools Award

We are on a great journey to instilling Rights Respecting understanding in Midmill School. Our RRSA Pupil Group have so far created a Playground Charter that they hope to have printed and displayed in the playground. They have also selected days throughout the school calendar that they would like to highlight and celebrate, such as International Day of Education which was on the 24 January. As part of this we created a whole school menti to show what education means to us. You can see it here.



What to do if you have a concern

If you have a concern about your child in school, the first thing to do is to speak with your child's class teacher. The class newsletter should provide information on the best ways to get in touch. If following this you still have a concern and wish to speak with Miss Finch, she can be contacted katie.finch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.



Contact



As always if there is anything we can help you with please do not hesitate to contact us. To keep up to date with all that is going on in school, please follow us on [twitter](#). Please email the school if you have requested to follow us and let us know your Twitter name so we can accept your request.

We are hoping to have this displayed somewhere in our school building. On the 21 February we celebrated International Mother Language Day and at assembly that week we had the opportunity to hear from some of our pupils who speak another language at home. We learned some Polish, Romanian, Tamil, Russian and Afrikaans.

We are really looking forward to sharing more with you at our Find Out More about the Rights of the Child on Wednesday 8 March at 7 pm.