



Tough Primary School

Tough, Alford, AB338ES

Head Teachers – Laura McAllister & Kerry Porter

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Newsletter 4
March 2022

Dear Parents,

It is encouraging to see the nights stretching and signs of Spring appearing all around us after a chilly and windy winter! I am hopeful that we are coming to the end of our Covid 'wave' at Tough and look forward to everyone being healthy and back in school soon.

Reminders

Please can all pupils bring a named, waterproof jacket to school every day in case of wet or cold weather. **Pupils should have a P.E. kit in school every day and suitable clothing for outdoor learning in all weathers, including wellies and waterproofs.** After Easter, we would like all pupils to bring their P.E. kits with them on P.E days rather than coming to school wearing their kit. Unless the weather is very wet, P.E. will be outside during next term for all pupils, so please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for this.

Pupils should also remember to bring a named water bottle as we are unable to drink directly from the water fountain at the moment. They may also bring their own hand sanitiser to use and hand cream if they wish.

When sending emails to the school or staff members, please use tough.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, as normal. This will ensure that your email is read in as timely a manner as possible, as not all inboxes are checked regularly, and it will be directed to the appropriate people from there.

Mr Watt – iPad skills

This term our P5-7 class have been lucky enough to have music instructor, Mr Douglas Watt working with them to improve their skills on the iPads. We are fortunate to be well resourced with technology, including iPads, and pupils have been learning more about using iMovie and Garageband, creating fantastic pieces of music to use in their own movies. We look forward to our older pupils putting their new skills to use while taking responsibility for creating movies for our Facebook page!

Forest Schools

We have managed to fit in some Forest Schools sessions this term and hope to squeeze in another two before the holidays. Pupils are really enjoying lighting and cooking on the fire pit and have made bird boxes which the forest owner is kindly allowing us to put up the area.



Transitions



Our biannual ski trip took place at the start of March with 4 of our P6/7s able to attend. All pupils had a fantastic time! They met new friends that they will attend Alford Academy with and learned lots of new skills on the slopes, gaining Snowlife Ski Awards.

We are delighted that the transition activities with the Academy for our P7 pupils will no longer be virtual this year. They will attend a 'Tree of Knowledge' session with other schools in our cluster before Easter, a visit for Link Day in May and Link Week in June. More information to follow.

Whole School Lessons

This term we are getting together for whole school lessons linked to our school values of Kindness, Resilience and Creativity. This will include showing kindness in the playground and resilience when challenges arise. Part of our school improvement plan is to focus on Creativity so this will continue into next term. We will be learning about the creativity skills of Curiosity, Open-Mindedness, Imagination and Problem Solving. Staff looked closely at these during the February In-Service days.



River Dee Trust

This week both classes took part in session run by Jane from the River Dee Trust. These sessions focus on nature appreciation, fun and teamwork to promote health and wellbeing. The children enjoyed learning about features of a river and the creatures that live in and use the rivers near us for survival.



Twosday

The children enjoyed some fun activities to celebrate 'Twosday' on 22.2.22! Altogether we raised £36.92 and we will consult the pupils on what they would like to do with the money soon.



Red Nose Day



We had lots of fun celebrating red nose day today! This included red nose yoga, a red nose obstacle course, building habitats for our red nose animals using Lego and taking part in a red nose quiz! Miss Sutherland shared the reasons why we raise money on red nose day and we talked about who the money we raise through buying red noses supports.

World Book Day

We have linked with Orbs Bookshop in Huntly who have provided us with a wide variety of books for the pupils to use their £1 book tokens to buy in school. We were lucky enough to have enough books for each pupil to receive two books each!

Welcome

This term we welcome Mrs Anderson, a PGDE student, to Tough School. She will be working with our P1-4 class this term and into next term as part of her course.

Church Visit

We are planning to visit Tough Church for an Easter Service on Thursday 31st March and look forward to working alongside Simon again.

ASC trip

Unfortunately, due to staff being unwell, we had to postpone our visit with P5-7 to Aberdeen Science Centre. This has now been rescheduled for Wednesday 20th April.

Reports & Parent's Meetings

Progress reports for all pupils will be sent home before the Easter holidays. We hope to hold Parents Meetings on Thursday 28th April. Currently these are planned to be virtual meeting. More information regarding these will be with you soon.



Task Groups

We are delighted to be restarting Task Groups after Easter as this had been on hold due to Covid restrictions. Our Task Groups are the Healthy Respect group, responsible for promoting Health and Children's Rights, the Eco group, responsible for maintaining our green flag, promoting environmental issues and planting, and our Rotakids, responsible for maintaining links with the local Rotary Club, promoting community awareness and organising fundraising events. Our task groups consist of P5-7 pupils, and they work with P1-4 on a rotation to teach them about issues relevant to their group through fun activities. This provides our older pupils with opportunities



for responsibility, teamwork, creative thinking and organising while providing our younger learners with new learning, cooperation and problem-solving skills.

Thank you so much for your support over what has been a quite unusual term with storms, power cuts, snow and Covid challenging us! I am so proud of the resilience shown by our Tough Community, especially by the youngsters, and very much look forward to a busy, fun term after Easter. I hope you all have a healthy and happy Easter break when it comes.

Kind Regards

Kerry Porter
Head Teacher

Easy Fundraising

🙏 HELP US FUNDRAISE AT TOUGH SCHOOL 🙏

Tough School Interest Committee run "Easy Fundraising".

If you are on-line shopping, you can log onto easy fundraising (after creating an account) select "Tough Primary School" and click through to your chosen retailer (there are hundreds of big-name retailers involved) – this will take you directly to their page and from there your purchase works as normal.

Easy Fundraising will then donate to the chosen charity (Tough Primary School.)

The best bit is it's free to you, but your donation will help our children. Please have a look at the website and if you can use the link to purchase and help our school, please do. You can also ask your friends and family to use it too.

easyfundraising.org.uk/toughprim

Dates for the Diary 2021/2022

Tuesday 29 th March, 2022	P7 Pupils to Academy – Tree of Knowledge
Thursday 31 st March, 2022	Church Service
Friday 1 st April, 2022	Last Day of Term
Monday 18 th April, 2022	Term 4 Begins
Thursday 28 th April, 2022	Virtual Parent Meetings – 3.30-5.00pm
Thursday 5 th May, 2022	School Closed for Election
Friday 20 th May, 2022	P7 Link Day
Thursday 2 nd June 2022	Holiday
Friday 3 rd June, 2022	Holiday
Monday 6 th June, 2022	Holiday
Friday 10 th June, 2022	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Monday 20 th June-Friday 24 th June	P7 Link Week
Wednesday 29 th June, 2022	End of Year Assembly
Friday 1 st July, 2022	End of Term

Information for School Closures/Adverse Weather

Telephone Information Line: 0870 054 4999

Tough School Pin Number: 02 2720

ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE - SCHOOL CLOSURES

ABERDEENSHIRE TWITTER

(The web page is re-set at 4pm every day to be clear for next day's information)

Northsound 1 FM 96.9 Tel. 01224 337000

Northsound 2 MW 1035kHz

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