

Millbank Primary School Newsletter



If you believe you can achieve

Monday 20th November 2017



Children in Need

We had a great variety of pyjamas and onesies in school on Friday and the marvellous sum of £353 was raised for this worthwhile cause.

Pupils brought their teddies/soft toys to school and used them to make a huge outline of Pudsey in the Open Area. The Pupil Council also organised a competition for pupils to design a new bandana for Pudsey.

Very well done to Miss MacKinnon and the Pupil Council for all the hard work they did in organising this event, we all had a lovely day.

Christmas lights

It is Millbank's turn to choose pupils to switch on the Christmas lights and at assembly on Thursday we randomly chose 2 of our P7s to carry out this important job. We are delighted that Struan Fuller and Jessica Morris were selected; they are very responsible and hard-working pupils who will represent Millbank very well. The lights will be switched on this Friday, 24th November, at 6.30 pm at Castle square. Millbank's choir, along with pupils from the Academy, Rosebank and Cawdor will be singing at 6.15pm.

Book Bug/Read Write Count packs

P1-3 pupils will be receiving these packs on 1st December and you will be invited in to school on this date from 2.00 pm until 2.45 pm to participate in this event and see literacy activities in your child's classroom. Pupils will be sending invitations to their families, this is just advance notice of the date.

Loose Parts play

What is Loose Parts play?

Millbank's Parent Council and school staff have worked together to develop Outdoor Learning opportunities for pupils. Part of this initiative was to introduce Loose Parts play and we worked with a company called 'Smart Play network' who support, deliver and promote the value and benefits of play projects to offer high quality, sustainable provision for children in Scotland.

From November 2017 pupils at Millbank will have access to a large selection of Loose Parts every day during lunch break and class teachers will also access the Loose Parts to plan activities during class time. Some examples of Loose Parts are - tyres, tubes, pots & pans, fabric, rope, buckets. Pupils are supervised while playing with these objects and encouraged to use their imagination in finding games and activities using these items.

Copies of our Loose Parts policy and Loose Parts Risk Assessment are available on the school website and there are paper copies in office. We will start using the Loose Parts at lunch-time on Monday 20th November.

Inhalers and medication

Just a reminder about arrangements for inhalers and medication -

Inhalers for pupils in P1-3 should be given to the teacher who will keep them in their desk. If a child requires their inhaler at break or lunch times then support staff know that the inhaler can be found in the teacher's desk. Older pupils in P4-7 can keep inhalers in their school bags. Any other medication must be given to office staff or your child's teacher with clear instructions, signed by parent/carer.

TSB

The TSB bank in Nairn have nominated Millbank for their community fundraising initiative and as part of this are organising a tombola throughout the month of December. If you would like to donate prizes such as bottles, biscuits or chocolates then please hand them in to the TSB or to the school office.

Adverse weather

At this time of year we remind parents/carers of Adverse weather arrangements. Full guidance is attached and is also available on the school web-site.

The information line number is 0800 564 2272 and Millbank's pin code is 042610.

Updated information on school closures is available on the Council web-site and local radio stations.

Dates for your diary

<i>Mon 11 Dec</i>	<i>Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Show, 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Tues 12 Dec</i>	<i>Christmas Show at St. Ninian's church, 6.30 pm</i>
<i>Wed 13 Dec</i>	<i>Christmas Show at St. Ninian's church, 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Fri 15 Dec</i>	<i>P7 party at 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Mon 18 Dec</i>	<i>P6 party at 11.00 am</i>
<i>Mon 18 Dec</i>	<i>P5 party at 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Tues 19 Dec</i>	<i>P4 party at 11.00 am</i>
<i>Tues 19 Dec</i>	<i>P3 party at 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Wed 20 Dec</i>	<i>P2 party at 11.00 am</i>
<i>Wed 20 Dec</i>	<i>P1 party at 1.30 pm</i>
<i>Thu 21 Dec</i>	<i>Church service at St. Ninian's church, 10 am.</i>
<i>Thu 21 Dec</i>	<i>School Christmas lunch</i>
<i>Fri 22 Dec</i>	<i>School closes at 3 pm for Christmas holidays</i>
<i>Mon 8 Jan</i>	<i>School re-opens at 9 am.</i>

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CARE AND LEARNING SERVICE - GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL DURING ADVERSE WEATHER

It is the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Council encourages full attendance at school but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important. Parents and pupils are often concerned that important examinations may be missed, but this should not over-ride good judgement. Schools normally make alternative arrangements for missed examinations.

The school updates its procedures for adverse weather closure annually, therefore

- **parents** should advise schools of an alternative address, as close as possible to the school, which may be used by their children in emergencies
- **the school** will advise parents of normal local arrangements for school transport and any special arrangements in the event of adverse weather
- **the school** will establish a system of communication with parents and local transport operators and ensure that parents are fully informed of any revised arrangements. A telephone service is offered to provide parents with up-to-date information. Parents may call **0800 564 2272** to access your schools' information. Please note, you will need the unique pin number for your school which is available from your school or Highland Council website.
http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/4653/telephone_pins_for_checking_if_a_school_is_closed
MILLBANK'S PIN NUMBER IS 042610

The Highland Council Website, Facebook and Twitter -

- The Council's **website** <http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> will be updated with information for individual schools
- The Council's **Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/highlandcouncil> will show updated posts on the latest news of school closures and weather related problems
- The Council's **Twitter** page at <https://twitter.com/HighlandCouncil> will list Tweets of the latest news of school closures and weather related problems

When weather conditions are poor Local radio stations issue news and weather bulletins on traffic conditions and school closures. Transmissions may not cover all households and may be subject to re-scheduling but should be helpful. Parents are advised to remain "tuned in" to ongoing road weather, or school information updates.

Broadcast times

BBC Radio Highland: 6.30 am, 7.30 am, 12.30 pm, 4.30 pm.

In extreme conditions, Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions (usually on the hour), to carry emergency bulletins.

Nevis Radio will carry bulletins at roughly ten minute intervals between 7.00 am and 8.00 am.

Lochbroom FM will carry bulletins at quarter-hour intervals between 7.15 am and 8.45 am.

Moray Firth Radio www.mfr.co.uk

Local news on the hour 6am - 6pm carries local information on weather, roads and conditions affecting schools. In severe conditions normal programmes will be interrupted more frequently to carry emergency bulletins.

Please do not telephone local Radio for advice but listen to appropriate broadcasts.

For pupils using school transport

- Parents should note that the final decision on whether it is safe to operate rests with the driver of the school transport vehicle. Therefore there may be occasions on which a school is open but some routes, or parts of routes, are unable to operate
- Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal "pick-up" time
- Morning journeys may be delayed by an hour if road conditions are unsafe at the normal journey time but have improved within the hour. Before pupils return to a pick up point parents should check the schools telephone information line for updated messages from their schools Head teacher. Please note that for some routes the transport operator may contact the parent directly
- Drivers are advised not to drop off children where there is a risk that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. This may involve children being taken to an alternative place of safety, agreed in consultation with the school
- Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at "drop-off" points, they should contact the school as early as possible.

Please note: when weather conditions are poor, parents should ensure that children are met at the "drop-off" point, especially where public service transport is used.