

## **NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017**

### **First Ministers' Reading Challenge 2017**

As part of the drive to raise attainment across Scotland, the First Minister has again set schools a reading challenge.

This year, we will be celebrating Book Week during the week of 27th November.

Activities will include:

- Sharing of the Homework Connect Four reading challenge – P4-7
- Library visits – P1-4
- Start the Day with a Fairy Tale
- A book swap
- Paired Reading training for Parents and for children in P5-7.



If you would like to read to the children and share your favourite story, fairy tale or poem, we would love to welcome you. Please get in touch.



### **Outdoor Early Learning and Childcare Setting at Ferintosh**

Last session we talked about the future of Ferintosh, given the falling roll and wonderful facilities that are available there.

Ferintosh is on the commuter route to and from Inverness and so has the potential to offer an Early Learning and Childcare Centre in an 8am – 6pm setting to families from across the area, making use of the amazing outdoor space that there is. It would be the first authority-run outdoor learning setting in the Highlands. There will be significant benefits to the school as a result of this – firstly it helps to keep the Ferintosh Primary School open. The class could continue - there is no intention for this to change. Also, there would be some refurbishment of toilets and the school building itself which will naturally benefit the children in the school too. The class and the early learning centre could work as partners, giving opportunity for our children to develop responsibility, be buddies and enjoy time with the younger children.

The nursery at Mulbuie will not be affected and will continue as normal.

The first step is to ascertain interest, and leaflets and advertisements will be appearing in the community and in the press in the very near future. If there is sufficient interest, it is proposed that the centre could open in August 2018.

A draft copy of the proposal is available on the school websites. For further information or to register interest, please contact Jackie Ross, Family Resource Coordinator at [Jackie.ross2@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.ross2@highland.gov.uk).

### **Nurturing Approaches – Can you help?**

We are committed to creating an ethos in which children feel nurtured, safe and ready to learn. As part of this, we are keen to expand our imaginative and role play experiences and are looking for any dress ups, a toy kitchen, “house” toys or such like that you no longer use. We hope to set up a new supervised play area for children over the lunchbreak. This will be in addition to the activity tables that are already in place.

### **Girls' Football**

The Scottish FA North Region are hosting a Girls Football Festival for players from P1 to S6 on Saturday 14th October at the Bught Park. Times are: P1-5 - 9.30-10.45am, P6-S6 - 10.45-12.00pm

All abilities are welcome and players can come along as part of a team or as an individual for some fun games and coaching sessions.

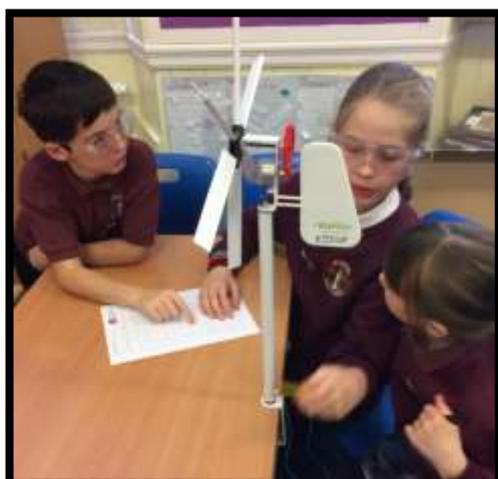
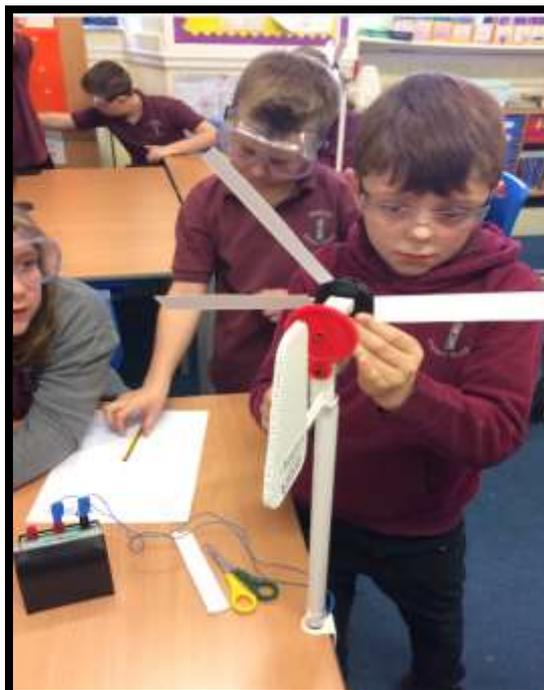
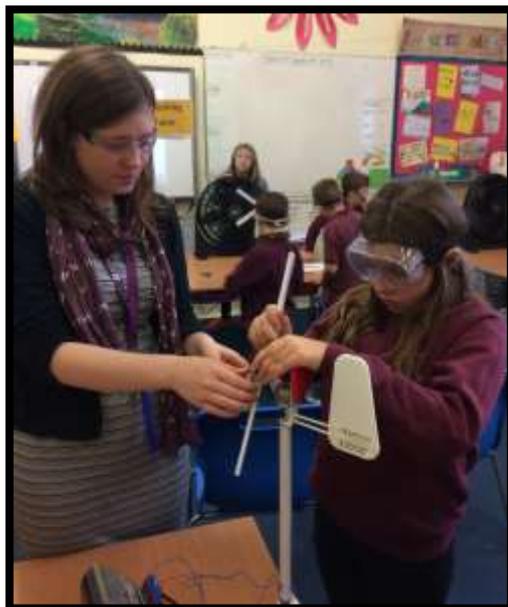
For more information and to register teams/players, please contact: [joanne.murphy@scottishfa.co.uk](mailto:joanne.murphy@scottishfa.co.uk)



### **After School Clubs**

Mrs Jill Ogilvie-Laing is looking for volunteers to help her in running a cross country club for older children in both schools. For more information, please contact her either directly or through the school office.

The P2-4 Football Club is up and running on Tuesdays from 3 – 4pm at Mulbuie. If you can help out or support with this club, please contact Mrs Jo Mackenzie directly or through the school office.



The STEM Hub from the UHI visited the schools to run Science Workshops with the children. Children in P5-7 at Mulbuie learned about renewable energies, making their own windmill to generate electricity. The children at Ferintosh learned about DNA. All the children learned about running a fair test, changing variables to conduct an experiment.



**Dates for the Diary**

**October**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Safe Highlanders P7
- 6<sup>th</sup> – School closes for October break

**November**

- 16<sup>th</sup> - Community Coffee Morning
- 29<sup>th</sup> – P1-4 Library Visit

**December**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – P5-7 Bag Packing - Tesco 11-12
- 6<sup>th</sup> – P3-7 Rehearsing at Dingwall Ac
- 12<sup>th</sup> – P5-7 Carol Singing at Tesco 11-12
- 13<sup>th</sup> – P3-7 Show at Dingwall Academy
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Panto trip to Eden Court
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Nursery / P1-2 Nativity – 9.30am
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Nursery and P1-2 Party – am
- 20<sup>th</sup> – P3-4 Mulbuie Party – pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> – P5-7 Mulbuie Party – pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ferintosh Party

