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Milton of Leys Newsletter

Issue 3 end Dec'23

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We would like to wish all families a wonderful Christmas break and send our very best wishes for a Happy New Year.



Staffing

Mrs Crowley has visited over two days this week and we look forward to her starting with us in the New Year. She comes from Kinlochleven 3-18 Campus where she was Depute Head Teacher also. She brings a wealth of experience both from teaching in Scotland and abroad in Dubai. Please say hello if you see her in the playground or at the gate.

P3

We are delighted to say that Miss MacDonald will also return to teaching in P3 and we thank Mrs Wallace (Malloch) for her time and efforts. She will now move to the P3/4 class teacher role.

Class Events

P5 Swimming This continues for the first three weeks after the holidays with the final session on Thursday, 25th January.

Shinty tasters Please see information below for these sessions running in the New Year for P3 to 4 children.

Shinty

Inverness shinty club is looking for new children to join and ensure the club remains sustainable and has a team to enter upcoming events. To support this, Matthew MacIver has offered to run shinty taster sessions for P3 on 12th Jan, P3/4 on 19th Jan and P4 on 26th Jan.

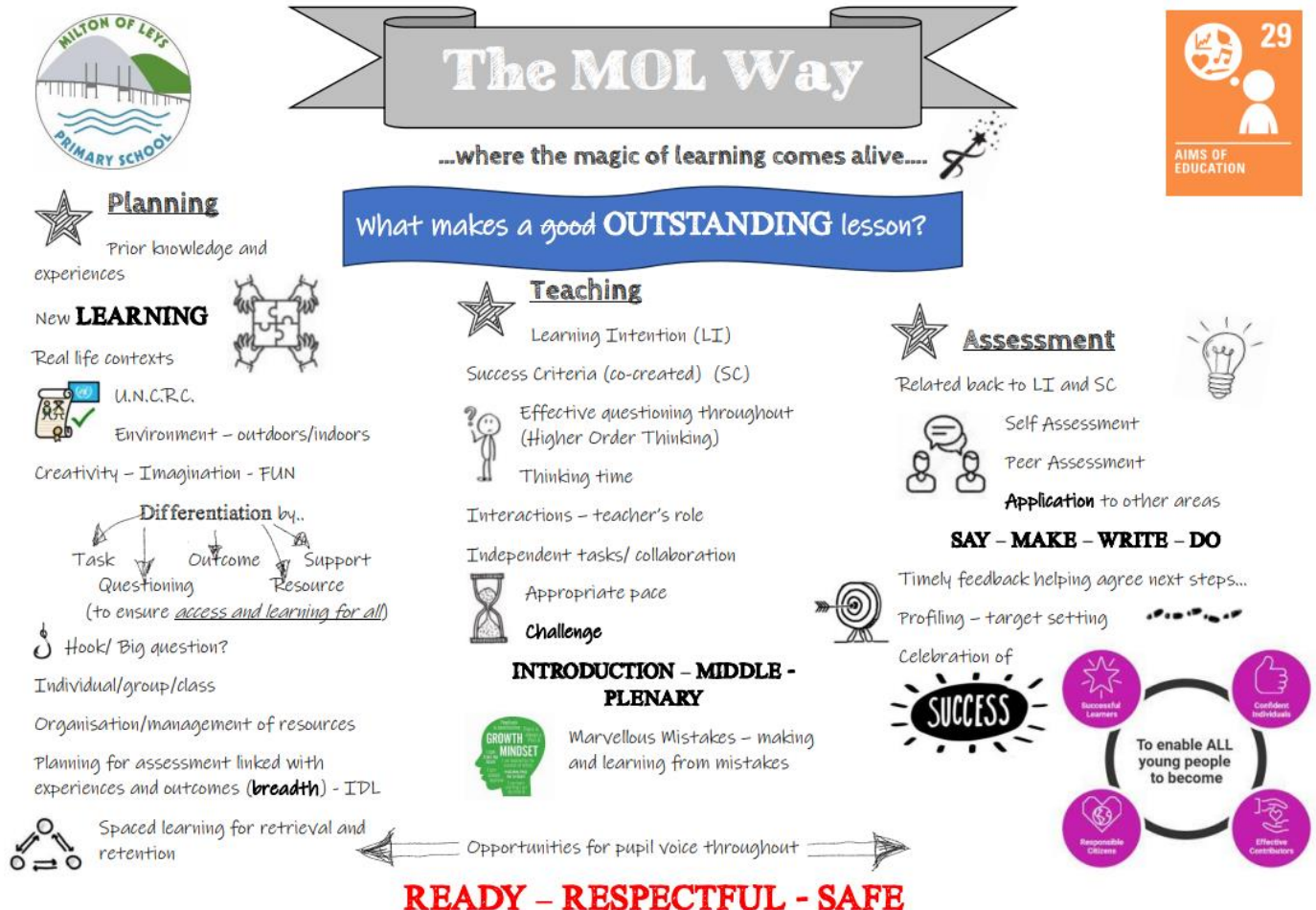
Training times run as below and there are many opportunities to take part in competitions and events throughout the year.

- P1 to P3 - 8.30am until 9.15am Inverness Leisure centre Saturdays
- P4 to P7 - 9.00am until 10.30am Inverness Leisure centre Saturdays
- P5 to S5 all Girls session 3.30pm until 5.00pm IRA sports hall Fridays
- U14s - 6.30pm until 8pm Milburn Thursdays
- 11am until 1pm IRA Astro Saturdays
- U17s - 7pm until 9pm Milburn Thursdays
- 11am until 1pm IRA Astro Saturdays

If you are interested, please let the school office know and they can pass your details on to the club.

School Improvement

Further to the information in the previous newsletter, I have now collated the feedback towards our teaching and learning approaches and drafted 'The MOL Way' for what we would consider across this. Teaching staff will now look at this to consider their own personal steps for professional development and use this to moderate and support each other in moving forward with our approaches. Staff have also continued to build a curriculum overview and this will continue next term.



Homework

Following some queries around homework, I have further discussed with staff. The homework policy was shared with Parent Council and through emails in September 2022 and further reviewed in September this year. The policy has now been added to the school website here;

<https://miltonofleysblog.wordpress.com/homework/> This clearly outlines expectations for homework.

With regards practising basic facts, there have been some concerns raised about timing this. We would like to reassure parents that this is to support learning of key mathematical concepts and children are trying to improve their own abilities. There are many opportunities to practise in class and if timings are causing increased anxiety this element can be removed. Please ask your child to speak to their teacher to make them aware of this or, get in touch through the school office to make us aware. To help with activities for the basic facts we have also posted on the homework page above some games and activities that can help make learning these fun and exciting for families to join in at home.

Sharing Achievements

Again following feedback from parents and staff around our Relationships and Behaviour overview, we have agreed to adapt how we share achievements after the Christmas break. Instead of phone calls/emails home weekly which have sometimes not been received, we have decided to return to certificates. Each week, class teachers will nominate two children who will receive a Head Teacher's Certificate from Mrs Laird on a Friday to take home. The postcards will continue to be issued for over and above achievements. Our blueprint has been adapted to reflect this and can be found here; <https://miltonofleysblog.wordpress.com/positive-relationships-health-and-wellbeing/>

Achievements



Emily in P7 has got through to the second round of the BBC 500 Word Young Writer's competition from thousands of entries. There are some fantastic prizes up for grabs and her story, 'Quirky and Perky' is a fantastic piece about twins who fulfil their dream of taking part in a film. Good luck and a huge well done Emily!

Congratulations also to Holly in P6 who joined her team mates from Lions basketball team in Glasgow last weekend to compete in the Under 13 tournament at Caledonian Gladiator which they went on to win!

Parent Council

Apologies to those who did not manage to join us at our Parent Council meeting online on Wednesday evening. Unfortunately an error with technology meant any who were waiting to be admitted were not showing. Our next Parent Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 · 6:30 – 7:30pm
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iys-xjzi-oek> This link has been added to the school calendar and we will open it to everyone prior to the meeting so you don't have request entry. If you wish to get in touch with Parent Council though, please contact them on Miltonofleys.primary@HighlandPC.co.uk

Playground

At the Parent Council meeting, we shared plans for playground developments and use of money from Morrisons and MFR. This presentation has now been added to the school blog for all to see. If you have any feedback on this, please let us know by emailing the school office. The children will now form a playground committee, led by Mrs Mateer, to take this forward.

Illness

It is important that you contact the school by 9.30 each morning to inform us if your child will not be attending – 01463 773020. We also need to record a reason for this.

Sickness or Diarrhoea

Children experiencing sickness or diarrhoea should be kept at home and remain off school until 48 hours from the last case of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Head Lice

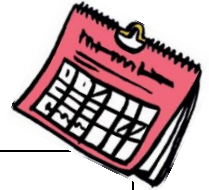
We have had a few outbreaks of head lice recently in different classes. Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't be prevented, but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. Parents and carers should check their children's head once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, conditioner, and a detection comb – ask your local pharmacist to recommend a suitable one. Remember that you are looking for living moving lice, the only evidence that your child is infected. If you find a living louse, ask your local pharmacist, school nurse, health visitor or GP for advice regarding treatment.

School Closures

To check for information on school closures or other details you can contact the schools information number for a recorded message(s) from the Head Teacher. **The number is 0800 564 2272 + the school's PIN 04 1820.** Information is also posted on the website: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and is regularly updated on local radio station MFR.

Dates for your diary for November

A reminder that these are regularly updated on the [Google Calendar](#) on the website:



Monday, 8 th January	School opens for all
Thursday, 11 th January	P5s swimming
Friday, 12 th January	1.30-2.45 Shinty taster sessions for P3
Thursday, 18 th January	P5s swimming
Friday, 19 th January	1.30-2.45 Shinty taster sessions for P3/4
Thursday, 25 th January	P5s swimming
Friday, 26 th January	1.30-2.45 Shinty taster sessions for P4
Tuesday, 30 th January	6.30 Parent Council

Term Dates 2023/24 A downloadable calendar can be found here: - [Downloadable Calendar](#)

Open	Close
Monday, 23 rd October – for all	Friday, 22 nd December
Monday, 8 th January – for all	Friday, 16 th February
Wednesday, 21 st February – staff only	Thursday, 28 th March
Thursday 22 nd February – for all	
Monday, 15 th April – for all	Thursday, 27 th June

Inset Days – Staff training

Wednesday, 21st February,

Thursday, 2nd May

May Day Holiday – Monday, 6th May