



## **November 2019 Bulletin**

Dear Parents,

I refuse to accept that it's Christmas. Without wanting to be labelled as a Grinch, it's seems far too early for all this festive cheer and tinsel!

I am joking of course. It's great to feel the festive atmosphere in the school and the children are certainly getting excited about Santa's imminent visit to the Hup. But, I simply can't believe that it's time for Christmas already.

I am certain that many of the children have asked Santa for technology of some sort or another to keep them entertained. There's no doubt that games consoles, tablets, phones and laptops have completely changed the way that children play and socialise but I do worry about the impact this can have on young developing minds. Technology can be terrific for learning and development, but it does not necessarily equip children with the skills and qualities needed for long term success. Resilience and concentration are two particular worries of mine. I know that your children could probably play computer games for hours if they were permitted, but these activities are all based around instant gratification. Play in the 'real world' (whatever that means) is all about persistence, patience and solving problems and I can see children finding this harder and harder. I guess, as with all things, the answer is balance. Even if the weather outside is dire; it's always good to break out the cards, board games and craft activities. Or perhaps just wrap up and enjoy the fresh air!

I feel like I've started this bulletin sounding like a cranky old man, but I am feeling very positive about our school, I promise!

Some of you may be aware that our Nursery was inspected by the Care Inspectorate at the beginning of November. It was a really helpful and successful visit and they recognised the terrific work and improvement happening within the Nursery. The feedback focused on the high quality of interaction that takes place between our two practitioners and the children and the inspector was really impressed with the way that the conversations focused on development and learning. The full report will be available on the Care Inspectorate website shortly, but in short, it was our most successful inspection on record. My enormous thanks go to Miss Thomson and Ms Hourston for their ongoing hard work.

It was fantastic to see everyone at the opening night of the Christmas Art Exhibition at the Loft Gallery. The work that the children have produced is truly exceptional. What a treat for them to have it displayed. Mrs Ewing worked above and beyond her hours to pull it together and we're all very grateful. The quality of the work is testament to her great teaching!

Speaking of Christmas artwork, some of the decorations we have been making are about to make their way down to the Alfred. If you happen to travel across the firth during December, you might see some of the festive treats the children have made.

Our lucky children have had the chance to participate in some rugby sessions recently. John was very impressed with the way the children listened and participated and it's great to see the children taking the opportunity to try different sports. I know the East rugby coaches would love to see kids

at the weekly training sessions. They happen on Sunday mornings at 11am and they rotate between Burray, Hope and St Andrews.

Preparations for the Carol Service are well underway and it's looking and sounding fantastic! It should be a special night for the whole community. I'd like to publicly thank Mr Duncan for taking the lead on this. I can't wait to see and hear the finished product. I've recently been working with the P6 pupils on their Dynamic Youth Awards and some of the products and ideas will be on display there too. You can even purchase some things the children have made and the money will be donated to charity.

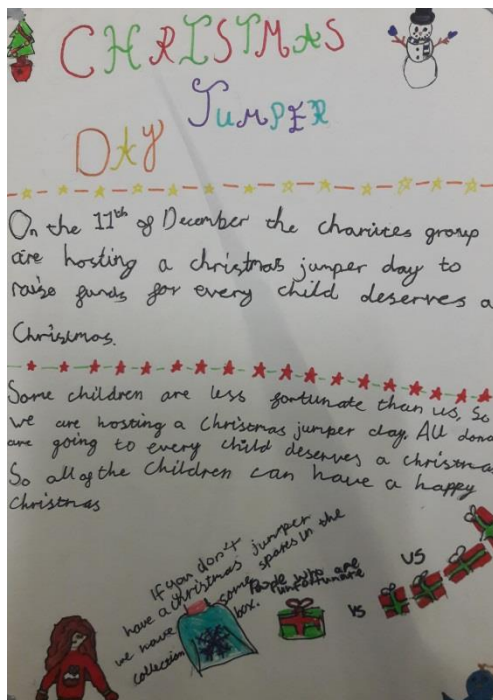
I hope you all have a terrific weekend. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Steve Arnold**

### Dates for your Diary:

**Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> Nursery decorating 11.00 – 12.30**

**Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**



**Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> Carol Concert in Hope Community School at 6.30pm**

**Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> Children's Christmas Parties Nursery – P7**

**Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Film at Cromarty Hall, Nursery to P7**

**Friday December 20<sup>th</sup> Last day of Term**

**Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> Return to School**



I can feel the ice is slippery.  
 I can see the frosty leaves.  
 I can feel the leaves hard.  
 I can see the bubbles in the ice.  
 I can hear the birds.  
 I can see the baby.  
 I can see a frozen pond.  
 I can see a leaf with a vein.

by David

I can see pond.



I can feel slippery  
 on my hands.  
 I can see the  
 pond was frog.  
 I can feel leaves  
 cold on my hands.  
 I can see the ice  
 is broken.  
 I can pick up a leaf  
 The leaves were frozen  
 and cold when I pick up  
 a leaf it was cold.  
 I can see a baby  
 in a pond.  
 I can touch the ice.  
 I can see a bird  
 as heard birds.

By Kacie 19.11.19

