Hello/Goodbye and staff changes.
A very warm welcome to Kenzie who joins P7 next week and to Mrs Golden joining the nursery in January. Farewell to Mrs Dinwoodie—wishing you all the best.

Interim arrangements—Highland Council’s current budget constraints have resulted in the DHT post being delayed. Until the Depute post is advertised and filled, Miss Munro will be acting DHT teaching 2.5 days per week, Mrs Hughes will teach the P2/1 class the other 2.5 days.

Miss Patience will lead the nursery for the time being and Mrs Byham will teach P1 for a day per week. I have advertised for an acting Principal teacher from our own staff and will let you know when I have that information.

Mrs Byham will temporarily take up Mrs Dinwoodie’s teaching commitment of one day in P5 and one day in P2.

As you will imagine, all this means less management time for the school so please be patient if I cannot immediately deal with any concerns you may have. I hope that we can offer the same amount of activities for the children over this period but please be aware that may not always be possible.

St Andrew’s Celebration
~Wednesday 28th November at 9.30am (dress rehearsal) & Thursday 29th November at 7pm
This celebration is for all children in P4-7. Remember we are expecting them in the evening too at 6.15-6.45pm

Tickets ONLY event

Tickets have been on sale for a few weeks now, limited to two per family until now. If you have requested a third spare ticket, you will have been notified by now if you have been successful. These must be paid for before Tuesday or the tickets may be given to someone else

Tea will be available in the hall at 6.15pm-6.45pm

Scottish Raffle
To be held on the night of 29th. We would be most grateful for any ‘Scottish’ donations, preferably before the 29th.

Tartan day—Friday 30th November
Pupils and staff are invited to wear tartan on St Andrew’s day. It is NOT a casual day, so it is only a bit of tartan or school uniform. NO Scotland football strips please.

Scottish bake sale—the house captains will be selling cakes at a Scottish themed bake sale at playtime on the 30th. They would be delighted for any donations—thank you.

Christmas Tree—Thank you to the Anderson farm who are once again kindly donating a tree for both the school and nursery—much appreciated.
Sponsored Skip-a-thon The final total was £1513.85 which is fantastic. Thank you.
SCHOOL CHARITY~ Mary's Meals led by P5 class

“ We are now gathering items to support Mary’s Meal’s ‘Backpack Project’. The Backpack project will help children across the world get the most out of their learning - and it’s a great way to recycle your old school bags, P.E. kits, etc ....

The following items are needed - pencils, pens, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, pencil cases, towels, shorts, skirts, t-shirts or dresses, flip-flops, sandals, small balls (such as tennis balls), soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste and spoons.

All clothing donated should be for children between the ages of 4 and 12. If you are able to donate a full bag with all items, we'd be grateful if you could add a wee note to say whether the bag is suitable for a boy/girl and what age (e.g. girl, 8).

However one or two items would be fantastic and we will make up the bags at school. Pupils can bring the donations to their own classes and we (P5s) will collect from there. Many thanks in advance for all your support and kindness.

From P5
Christmas fair - update from parent Council
As in previous year, the parent Council have kindly offered to run some stalls, such as teas, jars and a raffle. They would be very grateful for donations of filled jars. This can be anything from sweets or nuts and bolts to cotton wool balls. They are also looking for donations for the raffle and home baking for the teas. Non-perishables can be brought to school from **Monday the 5th December** and perishables later in the week. Thanks.

LUNCH CHANGES
To accommodate Christmas events, we need to change a few lunch times. On Friday 7th lunch time will be early - infants at 11.30-12.45 and P4-7 from 12-1pm and on Friday 14th, the Infant lunch time will be 15 minutes longer, beginning at 11.45am.

Parties
All nursery pupils & Primary 1 - **Tues 18th December at 1.30pm**
All P2 and P3 pupils - Thursday 20th December at 1.30 pm.
All primary 4 & 5 pupils - **Wednesday 19th December at 9.30 am**
All P6 & 7 pupils - Wednesday 19th December at 1.30pm.
The PE teachers will be helping with the P4, 5, 6 & 7 parties.

NURSERY - The morning group will have their usual session on the Day of the party (18th) and are also invited to join the party along with the afternoon group and P1. However they should be brought to nursery at 1.25pm and collected at 2.45pm. The afternoon group should come for their usual session ie 12.15-3.25pm. I am sorry but the larger numbers at nursery prevents us from simply joining the groups.

If your child's party is in the afternoon, and they are not going home for lunch, they should bring their party clothes in a bag to change into at lunch time. If it is in the morning they should wear their party clothes to school and bring their school clothes in a bag to change into at lunch time.

Christmas Jumper day -
**Friday 14th December**
(also Christmas lunch day).
All pupils & staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumper to school or a Santa hat/antlers /tinsel etc.

Christmas dinner - Avoch School Canteen will be putting on a Christmas Dinner on Friday 14th December for pupils and staff. The cost is just the same as the usual school meal. The dinner must have been booked and paid for on Monday 10th Dec. Please note there will be no alternative meal except for vegetarians/vegans, who must also book on the Monday.

Dates for the diary (new/ changes in bold)
26th library van
26th P6/5 class to Eden Court for ‘Take One Action’ (children's Rights)
28th Kodaly music restarts for all P3
28th Extra St Andrew's performance 9.30am
29th ST ANDREWS CELEBRATION at 7pm (ALL P4-7)
30th Tartan day and Scottish bake sale
30th Stay, play and learn in nursery

December
3rd post box in school
5th P6 team football tournament
5th Maths drop in for pupils with their parent @ 3.10pm (see info left)
7th Christmas Fair at 1.30pm
10th P7 transition event 2- Ceilidh (am)- wear school uniform
10th Nativity dress rehearsal pm
11th Nativity N (pm)-P3 at 1.45pm
12th Nativity N (am)-P3 at 10am
14th Christmas dinner & jumper day
14th/17th library van
18th Senior citizens coffee morning 10am
18th N (all) and P1 party 1.30 pm
19th P4 & 5 party am, P6 & 7 party pm
20th stay and play and carol singing
20th P2 & P3 party pm
21st Christmas Assembly 10am
21st school close 3.10pm

January 2019
7th school back (staff and pupils)
10th Mini Bridge begins for all P6
11th STEM 3 (in school time)
11th Stay, play & Learn in nursery
17th Sharing assembly P6/5 2.30pm (parents & grandparents welcome)
17th Parent Council at 6.30pm
18th/21st Library van
25th Casual day (not P4)
25th all P4 to ballet at Eden Court
28th Enrolment to P1 (tbc)
31st stay, play & learn in nursery
31st OPEN AFTERNOON (whole school)

February
1st Pupil walk-a-bout
3rd Gymnastics competition
4th football club returns
4th safer internet week
4th after school football returns
5th class photographs- N, P1 & P7 ONLY
5th P1 100 days in school celebration
Nursery Christmas 'sing song'- Thursday 20th December
Please join us in the nursery for some carol singing and a mince pie. For those who attend in the morning, parents are welcome to come at 11.30am and for those in the afternoon, parents are welcome to come along at 2.45pm.

Senior Citizens MORNING tea.
The P7 class will be serving a Fair-Trade' morning tea to our local senior citizens on Tuesday 18th December at 10am. Look out for a nomination letter coming home soon. The orchestra and choir will need their instruments and P7 should wear clean and tidy school uniform.

Christmas Assembly- Friday 21st December
A short traditional Christmas assembly is being held on Friday 21st December at 10am. Mr Hughes, one of our school Chaplains, will be leading it. Parents are welcome to attend but please note that space will be limited as the whole school in attendance.
Due to fire regulations, please can we request that buggies not brought into the hall but left outside/shelter sheds/nursery foyer.

Achievement- 'Achievement is a success you are proud of- you have tried your best and not given up' definition written by pupil council
The following is just a small selection of the pupil achievements
~Golden pencil awards for handwriting: Jayon Docherty, Ruby Macleman, Eleanor Horsley, Morag Davies, Freya Smith
~super star writers for story writing: Eilidh White, Alex Rawlinson, Alma Fraser, Freya Hubbard, Lorcan Parke, Oliver Horsefield, Orlagh Parke, Rosie Young, Allysha Cameron, Mila Bruce- Skulina, Amy Patience
~House times tables- In the lead: Walnut with 8 points, Aspen with 6, then Elm and then Beech
~Perfect Punctuation People - Imelda Barton, William Mclean, Chloe Mudge, Mollie Jaffrey, Sadie Dewin, Jessica Sinclair, Maisie Milne, Kacper Drozedzal, Hamish Henderson, Finlay Stewart, Cameron Litster.
~Magic maths people- Cameron Thompson, Calvin Stewart, Finn Tremlett, Ellie Keanie, Harry Cameron, Fred Mudge, Jessica Smith, Hamish Grigor, Emily Duggan, Ben Watters, Kate Knight
Spelling- well done to everyone who recently achieved their next spelling award
Star class of the week- P6 Cloakroom- P5 Fruity Friday class- P4 Eco class- P6
House points so far- Walnut- 2986, Aspen 2970, Beech 3754, Elm 3076
Football- well done to all the children who took part in the recent football competition. You played really well.
From the Golden book (written by the pupils themselves or by staff)
'I danced at Eden Court on 12th November 2018' Eibhlin Silversides.
'Isla Timson took part in the Scottish Street Dance championships- the team came 2nd and she was 4th in the duets'
First ministers reading challenge- well done to all the children who have managed to read their first 10 books- Sol (P4), Kate (P4), Alfie (P2), Ella (P5).& Jessica P2 has read 20 books- well done to you all.
Helping your child to home- please encourage your child to read or share books and to let the teacher know when they have read 10 and more.
Lunch time book club- 'We really enjoyed reading our book with the real Author- Barbara Henderson (see photo)
New pupil council- Andrew McMichael, Hannah Wills, Catherine Lipp, Millie Conroy, Oliver Horsefield, Aaron Gallacher, Rosie Edgar, Freya Hubbard, Freya Smith, Allysha Cameron, Cooper Mullery & William McLeMan

Christmas cards
There will be a postbox in the school foyer from 3rd Dec for children to post their cards. They will however need to put the child's full name and classroom the envelope to get it safely delivered.

Christmas holidays- Schools closes at 3.10pm on Friday 21st December and re-opens to both staff and pupils on Monday 7th January 2019.
If you have any concerns regarding your child's education or well-being, please contact the class teacher in the first instance using the home/school diary. If you need to speak to the teacher directly please phone to make an appointment. The teacher is unable to speak with you after 9am and before 3.10pm as she/he will have a class in their care.

If the matter is more pressing and you wish to speak with Miss Munro (Acting Depute Teacher), or myself, please phone the office to make an appointment.

Regards Mrs L Sim (Head Teacher)

Parents (and Grandparents) as Partners

NEW - Maths drop in - Wednesday 5th December at 3.10pm - parents with their child together

An informal opportunity for you to see how we teach aspects of maths and to give suggestions as to how you could help your child at home, either to support them or to challenge them. This first session will focus on adding and subtracting. At the session, you will be asked what aspect we could look at later in the school year.

Community news

The Community Council is delighted to invite you to the grand 'switch on' of the Avoch lights on Sunday 2nd December at 4pm. The school choir will be singing. Please meet at Lazy corner.

Indoor shoes Many of the children's indoor shoes are falling apart/too small/or simply lost. We will send them home at Christmas time. Please could you check they are still OK and that they will keep them safe in school. If shoes don't arrive home, please ask your child if they are lost. Thank you

NEXT SESSION- P7 Trip to Lendrick Muir

Next session's P7 residential trip has been booked for the week beginning 2nd September 2019. Those currently in P6 will get an information letter after Christmas and an information evening has been arranged for the 21st February at 7pm. Pupils should also attend this meeting. The cost will be approx. £270. Those who receive free school dinners will pay half that cost as the parent council usually kindly pay the other half.

You will be asked for a deposit of £70 by the end of February. The remaining costs can be paid in instalments but all must be paid in full by May 2019.

Parent Council HOT SPOT

If you would like to get in touch about matters which you feel are parent council matters as opposed to the school, please email avochprimarypc@gmail.com or put a comment on the school Facebook page. Next meeting is 17th January at 6.30pm. Everyone is most welcome. The next pupil disco is on Thursday 14th February - save the date!

From the parent council:

"We would really love to see more people participate in the Parent Council and would be keen to know what we can do to encourage greater participation from parents, carers and extended families. Please send us an email at avochprimarypc@gmail.com if you have ideas about what we could do to appeal to more people or what you would like to see more of from us.

~We would be very grateful for any of the following donations for the Christmas Fair please: filled jars, baking and items to include in hampers. Please hand these into the School Office. We'd also like to appeal for volunteers to help on the day to contact the APC email - even if you can only spare an hour it would be very helpful.

~We will shortly be sending home raffle tickets and it would be great if these could be purchased and return as soon as possible please. There are fantastic prizes: a night in the Jacuzzi suite at the Beaufort Hotel, a Fitbit Charge 3, a signed Ross County football and much much more! The Parent Council would like to thank all those who have generously donated so far.

~Lastly - look out for the latest APC newsletter - due in the next few weeks!"

SAVE THE DATE

A family Beetle Drive is to be held on Thursday 28th February in the evening. This will be organised and run by the P5 class to raise money for the school charity- Mary's meals.