



Newsletter – February 2021

Vision - ‘A Place Where We All Work Together To Be The Best We Can Be.’

| Dates for the Diary | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 3 rd Feb | Parent Council meeting, 6:30pm | Thursday | 11 th | Parent Appointments 6-7.30pm |
| Tuesday | 9 th | Parent Appointments 3.30-5pm | Friday – Wednesday (inclusive) | 12-17 th | School closed to all pupils |

Dear Parents,

We hope that you are all safe and well and coping well with home learning during these challenging times. The First Minister announced yesterday that the plan is for P1-3 pupils to return from the 22nd February but as yet there is no information regarding P4-7 children so online learning will remain in place for them until further notice. Details for P1-3 children will be confirmed in a few weeks.

We appreciate all your hard work during these strange times and of course that of our teachers and support staff who are working tirelessly to ensure that progress in learning is not hindered. Of course, the Health and Wellbeing of our pupils and families is vitally important too, so, if your child is not attending, please take a moment each week to check in with your child’s teacher to let them know how they are getting on. If your child is struggling, take a break, do something else and come back to it later. Let us know if we can help or support.

Welcome

Welcome to Mrs Johnstone, who also joins our team as a Pupil Support Assistant. This is a temporary post at present, which has been funded by the Scottish Government to assist with Covid recovery.

Procedures for those attending

School is currently open for children of key workers (category 1 and 2 only) who have via the online application and identified vulnerable children only. Applications for this service closed early in January and applications are no longer being accepted. School is open Monday- Friday from 9am – 3.15pm. As we work to keep everyone safe, please only use this service if you absolutely have to. The Authority state that numbers attending must be kept to an absolute minimum.

Children who are attending are completing their online learning, already set by their teacher. They may not be in their usual classes or with their usual teacher. Staff are on a rota for working in school and children will be supervised by a mix of teachers and PSA staff. Please be aware that if your child's class teacher is in school, they will not be on hand that day to respond immediately to any queries that you may have but they will endeavour to log in and catch up when they have a chance. Please see the table below for detail of staffing. This will remain the same each week.

| Day | Teachers | PSAs |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday | Miss Lawson and Miss Walker | Mrs Mckay, Mrs Urquhart, Mrs Johnstone |

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | Miss Lawson and Miss Simpson | Mr Murray, Mrs Mckay, Mrs Johnstone |
| Wednesday | Miss Lawson and Miss McWilliam | Mrs Reid, Mr Murray, Mrs Johnstone |
| Thursday | Miss Lawson and Mrs Sutton | Mrs Reid, Mrs Urquhart and Mr Murray. |
| Friday | Miss Lawson and Miss Buchan | Mrs Reid and Mrs Mckay |

All children attending should line up by the front door as they will be classed as 1 bubble when attending school. A member of staff will come out to collect the children. Breaks and lunches will be spent together and the children will be supervised by PSAs at those times.

Lunches are still available from New Deer kitchen but the menu will not be following the previously issued council menu. New Deer kitchen will endeavour to supply us with a week of menu choices in advance so that you can decide if you would like a packed lunch or school dinner option on the days your child is in school.

Online Learners

Until further notice, all other children will be continuing to engage with online learning, set by their class teacher. Children in P3/4- P7 continue to have work set via Teams (via their glow account). Most children in these classes are now managing to access work successfully, thank you for your support and patience with this.

Until their return to school, P1/2 online learning continues to be issued via the school office and Miss McWilliam can be contacted by e-mailing maud.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. Mrs McCarthy is still available to forward messages onto her.

Parent Council

The Parent Council meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday 3rd February at 6:30pm. Please contact the school if you would like the link to attend the meeting, which will be via Teams. It's so nice to see familiar faces during our online meetings and a great way to touch base.

Parent Appointments

Class teachers will be calling parents to have a 10 minute appointment, updating on progress made during terms 1 and 2 and a general catch up. Appointments will take place on Tuesday 9th February 3.30-5pm and Thursday 11th from 6-7.30pm. **Appointments will only take place if parents have completed and returned the Parent Agreement form sent home today. Appointments will not be rescheduled.** Miss McWilliam will also have phone calls on 1 additional day (Wednesday 10th February) to accommodate all of her P1/2 families.

Poetry Competition

Thanks to all of the children who shared their Scottish poems with their class! Class teachers were delighted with the response and some children even performed their own poetry! What a talented bunch we have in our midst. Well done to all of the children at Maud School.

Mid Term Break/Inservice Days

School is closed to all pupils, including children of key workers from Friday 12th February until Wednesday 17th February (inclusive). Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th are in-service days for staff who will be involved in online training, including further training in 'Emotion Coaching.' There will be no online learning set on these days and we hope you all manage to take some family time and re-charge

your batteries. School will reopen to our previously identified pupils **only** on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February.

Once the return for P1-3 pupils is confirmed in a few weeks, we will confirm procedures for all pupils from 22nd February. The announcement today has raised more questions that we will require guidance from the authority so watch this space and we thank you for your patience.

Support/Useful Links:

NHS

For all the latest Covid 19 informaton and advice:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Grampian Assistance Hub

[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre - This website is a focal point for information and assistance for anyone affected by coronavirus anywhere in Grampian](https://www.grampian.org.uk/coronavirus)
[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre \(gcah.org.uk\)](https://www.grampian.org.uk/coronavirus)

Educational Psychology Phonenumber

Available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9am - 3pm. Call 01779 403721

Family Nurture Leaflets

Educational Psychology Service has developed leaflets on key topics which contain tips and advice for parents and carers.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/family-nurture-leaflets/>

School Gates

A reminder that Laurence Findlay, Director of Education and Children's Services has instructed that all parents and carers should be wearing masks as they pick up and drop off at the school gates. We also remind all parents, who are still dropping children off, that we should maintain 2 metres distancing and not congregate around school gates as this can obstruct the paths and pavements for our children. We thank everyone who is trying hard to keep our community safe.

Indoor Shoes

As the weather changes, children may require to wear something more substantial and waterproof on their feet to school. Where possible, we encourage children to come to school wearing sturdy school shoes or boots that will keep their feet warm and dry throughout the day. Where this is not possible, children may bring a pair of small trainers or plimsolls to keep in their tray to change into at school. These should remain in school and be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please be aware that the cloakrooms are still not available and wet outdoor shoes if changed, will be stored in children's own classrooms. For younger pupils, please be aware that the class teacher will not be able to assist with the tying of laces or buckles, so please provide footwear that your child can change into independently.

Pupil Illness

We are now in the season where colds, sniffles and the sickness bug will be making an unwelcome return! A few points to remember;

Sickness/diarrhoea Bug

Please remember the 48 hour rule associated with the sickness/diarrhoea bug. This will help stop/slow the spread in school. Your child should only return to school 48 hours after the last episode.

Cold/sniffles

Unless your child is feeling very unwell within themselves, please don't feel that they must stay home with a cold. All staff continue to attend with a cold and children can too. Tissues will be available in classrooms. If we asked children to stay away with every sneeze or runny nose, they would never be here!

Covid-19 symptoms

Children and staff **should not come to school** if they or a member of their household develop **any of the symptoms** (increased temperature, a new, persistent cough or a change/loss to sense of smell or taste). If you are unsure if a test is necessary, we suggest you seek an assessment through your GP or 111, who will advise appropriately. If a test is advised, this should be arranged by the family and school informed. NHS will then give further advice on next steps, depending on the result of the test and who in the household is affected. Once again, please inform the school of the results.

Further advice can be found on the Test and Protect website:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

Adverse Weather

In the case of adverse weather, please remind yourself of the school closures telephone number and PIN numbers - **0370 054 4999 PIN 022190**.

A message will be left on the school closure line as soon as possible in the morning and information will also be available on the Aberdeenshire Council website. These are the only approved methods used by Aberdeenshire Council so other methods of communication will not be updated until later.

School Values

Our shared school values are: **Happiness, Respect, Responsibility, Keeping Healthy, Being Safe, Friendship and Honesty**.

We continue to use our 'Values Tree', in our hall, where we are promoting our school values, focusing on one per month. Children can look at any of the values and write on a leaf if they think that they are demonstrating them, eg, I asked xxxxx to join in my game (Friendship). They will also focus on the specific value of the month in classes.

Our value for February will continue to be **'Being Healthy'**. Due to the current situation, we encourage everyone to e-mail in photos or news of your healthy activities during the month of February and they will continue to be added to the values tree.

A reminder that anyone can be **nominated for the value of the month** but these should be for children who consistently demonstrate that value, as opposed to one off events.

Clothing

We can't stress how important it is at this time of year that children are sent to school appropriately dressed for the colder weather. All children **must** now bring a coat and additional items such as hats, gloves etc must be named. We will be outside in all weathers, whenever possible.

Children should also wear a jumper/cardigan as inside the building, it can be quite cold, especially as there is currently a requirement to leave all windows and doors open to encourage air circulation. Please contact the Head Teachers if you are having any difficulty with this, we may be able to help.

Parking

We remind all parents and visitors to be considerate and not to park over neighbouring driveways. We encourage families, where possible, to park away from the school and walk the remainder of the way. Traffic is becoming very congested around the bus pick-up points on the Avenue so try to avoid this route, if possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Good News!

Please remember to let us know of any good news so we can share it in the newsletter until all children return.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the content of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Steel/Mrs McCue
Head Teachers

Comments/Compliments/Suggestions: