



## Newsletter – January 2021

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

Dates for the Diary					
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Term 3 begins	Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Scots Poetry Competition
Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council meeting, 6.30pm			

### **Dear Parents,**

Welcome back to term 3, albeit not the way we had planned to reunite after Christmas. We hope that you all had a lovely break over the holidays. Staff are all well rested and ready to tackle the new challenges that are coming our way.

### **Welcome**

Welcome to Mr Murray, our new Pupil Support Assistant. We look forward to working with him as he joins our staff team.

### **New Procedures for those attending**

School is open for children of key workers (category 1 and 2 only) who have applied via the online application and identified vulnerable children only. 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.

Children who are attending will be completing their online learning, already set by their teacher. They may not be in their usual classes or with their usual teacher. Staff will be 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 and Mrs Urquhart
Tuesday	Miss Lawson and Miss Simpson	Mrs Murray and Mrs Mckay
Wednesday	Miss Lawson and Miss McWilliam	Mrs Reid, Mr Murray and Mrs Urquhart
Thursday	Miss Lawson and Mrs Sutton	Mrs Reid, Mr Murray and Mrs Urquhart
Friday	Miss Lawson and Miss Buchan	Mrs Reid, Mr Murray 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**

All other children will be engaging with online learning, set by their class teacher. Children in P3/4- P7 will have work set via Teams (via their glow account) and we will supply some guidance on how to do this at home. All children in these classes, are able to log into their glow account and do this in school. P1/2 online learning will be issued via the school office and Miss McWilliam can be contacted by e-mailing [maud.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:maud.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) and Mrs McCarthy will be on hand to forward messages onto her.

Online learning will be more structured this time around as we need to endeavour to progress the learning, despite the lack of 'in person' teaching. However, this time around, there may be some 'live' interaction online. You may find that there are more lessons in a day and lessons may be more varied but children are used to a fast pace of work in classes so don't let them fool you! If you are having any issues, please contact class teachers in the first instance.

### **Parent Council**

Please e-mail the school inbox for a link to join our Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm. It's so nice to see familiar faces during our online meetings and a great way to touch base.

### **Baby News!**

We are delighted to let you know that Mrs McCue and her husband are expecting their second baby, due in June! We pass on our congratulations to the McCue family at this exciting time! In light of this news and in the current climate, there may be times where Mrs McCue is unavailable for direct contact as we ensure her safety during the Covid crisis.

### **Scots Poetry Competition**

As is school tradition, we will be continuing with our Scots poetry competition again this year. We kindly remind our parents, that the learning and reciting of poetry is a key part of the curriculum and therefore, is not an optional activity. However, this year, our teachers will endeavour to source Scottish or Doric poems rather than the more complex Burns poems. Children can recite their poems to their parents, siblings or via a FaceTime with Grandparents! We are happy to accept a few lines or a verse being learned if the whole poem is too tricky. The main focus is the presentation, reciting and effort levels and on this occasion, will not be judged. We stress, once again, that all children will take part, at their own comfort level.

### **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 January is – 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 January 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.

### **Charter Champions**

Well done to our recent Charter Champions:

Week beginning 30.11.20 - Tommy, Reece, Georgia, Kacey and Nathan

Week beginning 7.12.20 - Ella C, Ronie, Charlie, Amie and Ethan

There will be no further Charter Champions until school resumes for all children.

### **Good News!**

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

### **A Message from Maud School Football**

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances, there will be no football training until further notice. We will continue to follow guidance from both the government and the SYFA. An email will be sent out to all footballing parents once we are allowed to 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: