



Newsletter – March 2021

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

Dates for the Diary					
Wednesday	3 rd March	P7 Virtual Transition session	Friday	26 th	Easter Competition (homework)
Thursday	4 th	World Book Day class activities	Thursday	1 st April	Last Day of Term 3
Friday	19 th	P4/5 assembly (virtual)	Monday	19 th April	1 st day of Term 4

Dear Parents,

We hope that you are all safe and well during these difficult times. P1-3 have returned to 'in person' schooling, which we are delighted about. We remain hopeful that this is the 1st step towards a full return for all of pupils and we await positive news soon. P4-7 continue to learn online, and we must say that some of our older pupils have really impressed us in terms of taking responsibility for their own learning and time management.

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 in person yet, 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.

Procedures for those attending

For our P1-3 children and those attending in the hub, procedures remain rigorous in school. P1/2, P3/4 and the hub will be treated as 3 separate bubbles to reduce risk and contacts. All staff will be wearing masks and maintaining 2m distance from other adults. Rigorous cleaning procedures also remain in place. A reminder that children should not be bringing additional or unnecessary items from home and cloakrooms remain out of use.

1/2 children should line up at their usual spot, in the front playground for a 9am start. They will be collected by Miss McWilliam and she will escort them into the playground at 3.15pm to be collected. Parents should wear a mask and maintain 2m distance from one another at drop off and collection.

P3/4 children should line up at their usual spot for a 9am start, where they will be collected by Miss Buchan. She will continue to escort them to the gate to be collected at 3.15pm. We have arranged for Miss Buchan to have additional time out of class to maintain online contact with her P4 children and she

will organise learning packs, which can be collected from school. We will be in touch to arrange this. Parents should wear a mask and maintain 2m distance from one another at drop off and collection. Please do not congregate around the gate, organising a 'meeting point' away from the gate will ensure the pavement does not become blocked, forcing our youngsters to walk on the road. Please be mindful of safety.

Our P4-7 children who have been attending our hub provision should now line up at the P6 door, where they will be met by the teacher in charge of the hub that day. Details of this are in the table below. Our hub remains open for Category 1 and 2 key workers who have been attending, as per Aberdeenshire Council guidance.

	Teacher in Charge
Monday	Miss Walker
Tuesday	Miss Lawson
Wednesday	Miss Simpson
Thursday	Mrs Sutton
Friday	Miss Lawson

For those children still accessing online learning, please be aware of the day that your class teacher is in the hub. They will be overseeing online learning in class and will not be available online that day.

Online Learners

Until further notice, all other children will be continuing to engage with online learning, set by their class teacher. Most children in these classes are now managing to access work successfully, thank you for your support and patience with this. Please remain in contact with your class teachers on a regular basis. If there is any child who is not engaging or the teacher hasn't heard from/seen any work, you will receive a call or a message to check everything is ok.

P7 Virtual Transition

Mintlaw Academy now have primary school channels on the Transition TEAMS page. The page is called 'Mintlaw Academy P7-S1 Transition 20-21' so it should hopefully be straight forward for the P7s to find and access for their introductory session on Wednesday 3rd March at 1.40pm. At the scheduled time, a meeting link will be visible in the Maud school channel.

This will be a short, 10 minute session as academy staff are 'visiting' all P7 classes across the cluster.

World Book Day

World Book Day 2021 is on Thursday 4th March this year. All classes will be engaging in some activities to mark the occasion and celebrating our love of books!

P4/5 Assembly

P4/5 will be planning and filming a class assembly to share with their parents this month. The finished assembly will be sent to P4/5 parents on Friday 19th March.

Easter Competition

Easter time brings our annual egg decorating competition. However, due to on-going restrictions we have decided to make the competition a homework activity for the week ending 26th March. All entries

should be sent in via TEAMS (P1/2 via the school inbox) by the 26th and creations will be judged in school and prizes awarded in the last week of term. All entries should be the work of the child. Enjoy!

Support/Useful Links:

NHS

For all the latest Covid 19 information 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.gcah.org.uk)
[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre \(gcah.org.uk\)](https://www.gcah.org.uk)

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 March will continue to be 'Happiness'. 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.

Charter Champions

Charter champions have started again for both younger classes as they have returned to school. Charter champions will resume for all other year groups when they return in due course.

Well done to our first Charter champions of the term! (It feels really strange saying that in February!):
Week beg 22.2.21 - Jay and Cameron C.

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: