



**T**rust **T**eamwork **R**espect **A**chievement **I**nclusion **N**urture

August/September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust your families had an enjoyable break and hope that lots of fun was had by all! I wish our pupils and staff a happy return to school and I am very optimistic that we will have a more settled school session 2021-22. It is so lovely to see the smiling faces of our children. Team Party welcomes our new Primary 1 pupils and we wish our Primary 7 pupils best wishes on their journey to Academy. Primary 1 pupils have settled very well already and are learning new routines and making friends.

You will have the opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at Meet the Teacher chats through Microsoft Teams on week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> August. If you have more than one child and your children's meetings take place at the same time, it is advisable to attend the meeting of your youngest child. I trust you will find the meetings informative and helpful.

The delivery of our curriculum was altered both during lockdown and on return to school, placing a much greater focus on the area of Health and Wellbeing. Whilst Health and Wellbeing remains a priority, the curriculum this session will be more balanced with other priorities of Literacy and Numeracy being given greater emphasis. The staff are already busy putting into practise their wonderful ideas to make this a very exciting school session. The calendar at the end of the newsletter provides an overview of the session and will be updated throughout the year.

## **Covid Matters**

As you are aware, restrictions still exist within schools and your cooperation in adhering to the mitigations in place is very much appreciated. The school will send regular reminders of the mitigations in place and hopefully these will be lifted in the not too distant future.

Please do not send your child to school if anyone in your household is suffering from Covid symptoms. These symptoms are:

- a new persistent cough
- fever
- loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Instead, please self-isolate, the person suffering should take a PCR test and household members should await the outcome of the test and act on medical advice.

## **School Meals**

The Scottish Government has extended entitlement to Free School Meals to include Primary 4 pupils from August 2021 and Primary 5 pupils from January 2022.

An online resource has been launched by Aberdeenshire Council's School Meals Service, which will help with making healthy meal choices displaying allergen and nutritional content of primary school meals. It is particularly helpful for pupils with special dietary needs including allergies and Type-1 Diabetes. <http://ourshireremenu.mysaffronportal.com/>.

Please discuss each day's menus in advance with your child so that they make informed choices.



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## **School Uniform**

What a super sight to see the children looking very dapper in their school uniforms! Under the current circumstances, children may wear appropriate PE clothing for the whole day on days that they are scheduled to have PE. It would be much appreciated if parents ensure that all of your child(ren)'s clothing is labelled appropriately. We do not keep found property in school so will have to dispose of any found property that is unlabelled. Portlethen Primary Together have registered the school with Stikins, a label company who gives 30% sales commission to schools.

## **Attendance**

Good attendance and punctuality are very important for children's wellbeing and to ensure that every opportunity to meet their full potential is offered. We are very proud of the attendance rates at Portlethen. Absences due to illness and other reasons are unavoidable and these should be reported to the school office as early as possible.

## **Inhalers**

If your child requires an inhaler, please supply two. One will be kept in the classroom and the other in the medical area. Forms are available from the office and will be forwarded to you by email.

## **Medication**

A permission form must be completed and medication brought to school in its original packaging. Please phone or email the office to make arrangements. "As and when" medication will not be administered by staff.

## **Food for Thought Funding**

I am delighted to advise that the school has been awarded a grant of £3,000 from Education Scotland's Food For Thought Fund. A huge thank you to Mrs Philp and Mrs Saum who prepared and submitted the bid on behalf of the school. We will now be able to buy a new cooker, provide cooking boxes for use in each classroom and have lots of lovely plans for the children's Food and Health Education. We will keep you advised of the project as it develops.

## **Portlethen Primary Together (PPT)**

PPT is the body who represent the views of the parents on all school matters. At Portlethen, we have worked together to solve issues that are important to us all. It is also lots of fun! Please join the next meeting so that your views and ideas are heard. A few words from our Chairperson:

Portlethen Primary Together - what's that all about? Why not come along to our AGM on Monday 30th August at 6.30pm and find out? The AGM is a chance to look back over what we've achieved in the past year and look to the future. We'd love to see you there - everyone is welcome! We don't elect our committee at the AGM so you won't be pounced upon, don't worry. Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/portlethenprimarytogether> for our regular updates and keep an eye on messages from school about the venue.

Anne  
Portlethen Primary Together





## Evening Express and Press and Journal Time Capsule Project

During last term, our school submitted entries to the above project. Time Capsules are locking away pupils' memories of the pandemic so that future generations can discover what the pandemic was like to live through. I am very proud to say that our Pupil Equity Group's (PEG) entry was chosen from thousands across Aberdeenshire. Here is the very touching letter written by the PEG which demonstrates what we can still achieve during periods of adversity. Enjoy!

Dear children of the future,

It is May 2021. We are writing to you tell you about our experiences during the global pandemic of 2020 and 2021, and how we managed to live through it. In March 2020, we were all sent home from school as the Corona virus was very infectious. We spent many months away from school.

It was a very scary, confusing and upsetting time. We were very emotional and worried about what was happening. We spent lots of days at home, we learned to use technology really well and we did a lot of online learning. We would meet our teachers and our classmates online in lots of online meetings, but we couldn't meet up and play with them, which is what we really wanted. The first lockdown was really sunny when we were off, so we missed our friends even more during this strange time. We found it much harder to learn online as our teacher wasn't beside us to help us. Over the year when we were mostly at home, it became very lonely and even a bit depressing. Using a computer all day became normal and wearing masks outside became normal too.

There were some good sides to being at home too, though. We got to spend lots of time with our family because, before the pandemic, we were all very busy and didn't get to do things together very often, like playing or helping each other. We got to go on the trampoline a lot, help with the gardening, go for family walks, did lots of baking and we even got to decorate our bedrooms. There was a lot of playing outside – we even got new puppies who helped us through lockdown too.

When we did get back to school, we were all part of our school Pupil Equality Group and we worked really hard to earn our school LGBT Silver Charter. The Charter lets everybody know that Portlethen Primary School is a very inclusive, accepting and welcoming place to be. We thought that we wouldn't be able to achieve this, but we were really proud when we managed to do this, even when schools had been closed for ages.

You are probably wondering what an LGBT Silver Charter even is – we really hope that you don't need to achieve this when you read this because we hope that by the time you read this in the future, everybody will be accepted and welcomed for who they are and that there won't be any homophobia or racism.

We have also been wondering what it will be like for you in the future – we hope that you don't need to use computers as much as us, and that social media is not allowed – we want to meet our friends and be together, and not meet them online. Our mums and dads always tell us that it was much more fun without devices when they were children!

We hope you enjoyed reading this letter.

Yours faithfully

**Lily, Malakai, Rori, Cameron and Emma (the Pupil Equality Group).**

What can I say? I am always very **"Proud to be Porty"**!



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## Finally

As most of you know, I also live within the Portlethen community very close to the school. I absolutely love it when I hear locals talk positively about our children (and I hear it a lot). I also find myself witness to many occasions where parents and children help the school, putting in efforts which could easily go unnoticed.

During these summer holidays I happened to pop into or past school and have witnessed some great work, all on a voluntary basis! Close to the start of the holidays I observed a pupil and her dad busily picking up litter that had gathered during the first two weeks of the holidays. They collected four bags of rubbish! Charlotte had decided to do this act of community spirit for her Cubs badge. Well done Charlotte and thank you so much for choosing your school as the beneficiary of your good deeds! You are a credit to the school and your family.

I am also extremely grateful to the parents and children who kept the planters so well maintained, which look absolutely amazing and to those who kept the weeds in the school grounds at bay. I even observed a late Sunday afternoon session! Thank you to Jasper and Chloe for helping your parents to do a super job and to Matthew who earned his Cubs badge in the process. And another thank you to the parents of the PPT group who also ensured that there were many opportunities for families to buy pre-loved uniform during the holiday period. Community pride and spirit at its best!

Kindest wishes

Sandra McKechnie  
Head Teacher

## School holiday dates:

School closes	School re-opens
Friday 15.10.21, 3.20pm	Monday 1.11.21, 9am
Tuesday 21.12.21, 3.20pm	Wednesday 5.1.22, 9am
Friday 1.4.22, 3.20pm	Monday 18.4.22, 9am
Friday 29.4.22, 3.20pm	Tuesday 3.5.22, 9am
Friday 1.7.22, 3.20pm	Tuesday 23.8.22, 9am

## In-Service and occasional dates:

In-Service	Occasional	Mid-Term
Thursday 18.11.21 and Friday 19.11.21	Monday 27.9.21	
Tuesday 15.2.22 and Wednesday 16.11.22	Thursday 10.2.22 and Friday 11.2.22	Monday 14.2.22





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## Dates for your diary:

 Change or additional information  Parent Helpers Required

Date	Event/Item
26.8.21	Primary 1 pupils school lunch
30.8.21	Primary 1 pupils in all day
30.8.21	Portlethen Primary Together AGM, 6.30-8pm (remote meeting)
31.8.21	Meet the Teacher (Teams – 3.45-4.15pm OR 4.30-5pm)
24.9.21	Harvest Assembly (Donations to The Larder, Portlethen)
28.9.21	Portlethen Primary Together Elections, 6.30-8pm
30.9.21	Abernethy meeting (Teams – 6pm)
8.10.21	Let's Learn Together
8.10.21	Assembly P4MM
15.10.21	Assembly P6C
2-7.11.21	Dyslexia Awareness Week (Scotland)
11 & 16.11.21	Parents' Evenings
12.11.21	Assembly P7B (Remembrance and Children in Need)
12.11.21	Children in Need Day
15-19.11.21	Anti-Bullying Week
26.11.21	Assembly P5A
24.11.21	Portlethen Primary Together
8.12.21	Panto HMT – Beauty and the Beast. Whole school attends.
9.12.21	Christmas Fayre, 3.30pm. In school and online shopping tbc
10.12.21	Christmas Jumper Day
13-17.12.21	Christmas Carol singing in the community, P4-7
13.12.21	Nativity Dress Rehearsal, P1-3
14.12.21	Nativity, P1-3 – OAP and Community Performance
15.12.21	Nativity, P1-3 Family and Friends Performance
16.12.21	Christmas Lunch
17.12.21 & 20.12.21	Christmas Parties
21.12.21	Christmas Church Service led by Rodolphe, 9.45am
10-24.1.22	Scottish Poetry Recitals Competition



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# Portlethen School News



26.1.22	Scottish Poetry Recitals Judging
28.1.22	Assembly, Scottish Poetry Recitals Winners
31.1.22	Portlethen Primary Together Meeting, 6.30-8pm
31.1-3.2.22	Techfest Planetarium Dome (as part of whole school Space topic)
4.2.22	Coffee and Tea with SLT (Senior Leadership Team), 8.50am Let's Learn Together, 9.15-9.45am
7-13.2.22	Children's Mental Health Week
4.2.22	Assembly, P7CR
21.2-6.3.22	Fairtrade Fortnight
25.2.22	Assembly, P5/6R
3.3.22	Abernethy Information Evening
4.3.22	World Book Day Celebration and Assembly, P2LI
11.3.22	Inclusion Day Assembly, P1/2L
31.3.22	World Autism Awareness Day (Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April)
1.4.22	Easter Assembly (Bonnet/Egg Box Decorating Competition)
29.4.22	Assembly, P3/4A
3.5.22	Pupil annual reports to parents
3-6.5.22	P7 Abernethy Trip, subject to confirmation of date
10 & 12.5.21	Parents' Evenings, 3.30-6pm
16-20.5.22	STEM Week
20.5.22	Coffee and Tea with SLT, 8.50am Let's Learn Together STEM, 9.15-9.45am
25.5.22	Portlethen Primary Together Meeting, 6.30-8pm
27.5.22	Assembly, P3V
8.6.22	Primary 7 School Show
9.6.22	Sports Day New P1 Parents' Evening
10.6.22	Assembly, P1C
15-17.6.22	P7 – 3 day academy visit
21.6.22	Sports Day (if original postponed due to adverse weather)
W/C 27.6.22	P7 treat this week
29.6.21	Volunteers' Afternoon Tea
1.7.22	End of term assembly, including Rodolphe, 9.45am



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