



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

November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust you all had a lovely October break and am delighted to be in the midst of a very exciting term 2. Thank you for attending Parents' Evenings to discuss how your wonderful children are getting on at school.

Please remember that schools are still subject to mitigating measures and I appreciate the very high level of parental compliance in only entering the playground when it is absolutely necessary, keeping a safe distance from other adults and allowing responsible siblings to collect their younger Primary 1 and 2 siblings.

The dark morning and nights are now upon us and the cold winter weather is not very far off. Please "Be Safe, Be Seen".

## **Covid Symptoms**

Please do not send your child(ren) 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

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 Gate Parking**

Recently, a number of parents have raised concerns about inconsiderate and illegal parking as well as dangerous driver behaviour around the school gates. Please ensure the area is safe for every child to get to and from school safely by parking and driving appropriately. Parking a little further from the school makes the area around the school much safer for pedestrians.

## **Guy Fawkes – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

What a lovely morning was had as each class participated in toasting VERY BIG marshmallows. Some classes chose to listen to scary or funny stories as we sat round our new firepits. It was fun!

## **Children in Need Day – 17<sup>th</sup> November**

It's tomorrow! Looking forward to seeing the array of children (and staff) attire tomorrow! Primary 7B has a number of fun activities planned.



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## **In-Service Days - 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November**

I hope you and your child(ren) enjoy some fun family time on In-Service Days. The staff will be attending training by the Educational Psychologist, taking next steps on our Making Thinking Visible philosophy and attending Big Writing Training. Teaching staff will review progress of the School Improvement Priorities and Pupil Support Assistants will be trained on Motor Skills Development and Sensory Preference Training.

## **Virtual Christmas Fair - 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December**

The children have begun planning and designing their products for the virtual Christmas Fair. They are learning lots of skills in relation to sales and marketing, advertising and profit and loss to name but a few. The website is shaping up to be even better than last year and I am very much looking forward to seeing the finished products.

## **Nativity Performance - Primary 1 and 2**

The children have begun rehearsals for the nativity "Hey, Ewe! It is so heart-warming to hear the angelic voices coming from the upstairs classrooms as they learn their songs. Unfortunately, we cannot have parents as the live audience this year but we will ensure that you have a chance to see the recorded performance.

## **Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day - 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Jumper Day has been changed to take place on the same day as the school Christmas lunch. We might even have a special visitor popping in that day to say "Ho, Ho, Hello" to the younger classes.

## **Tempest Photos**

Any children who were absent and missed their individual and/or sibling group photos will have them taken on 25<sup>th</sup> November. There is still time to order your photos online and receive them in time for Christmas. Class photos will also be taken on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## **Youth Music Initiative "Mistakes Are Cool" Project**

Our P3 and P4 children are taking part in a music project funded by the Youth Music Initiative. "Mistakes are Cool" is a fun jazz-based learning programme delivered by Richard Michael who is a professional jazz musician and educator. The children and staff were blown away by the session in September and are excited about Richard's next visit on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Light The North**

We are proud to have been part of the Clan "Light the North" Lighthouse trail. Our little lighthouse is returning to the school today as a lasting memento to display in the school foyer.



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## Portlethen Primary Together

Portlethen Primary Together have been busy behind the scenes. Our club100 is set to go live at the start of December, but there's still time to get in touch for your numbers! Christmas card orders are on their way, and the Ahoy silver challenge was well supported - thank you so much.

We have secured funding from Magic Little Grants and been selected as a Co-op local cause for this year. This will go towards improvements for the playground. Watch this space for more info! We're also part of the Asda green token giving until the end of November, so please keep voting.

We're delighted to be funding the buses for the panto trip and contributing to the Christmas parties too. We're always looking for more helpers - please contact [portlethenpt@gmail.com](mailto:portlethenpt@gmail.com) if interested.

The best way to keep up to date is to follow us on Facebook and keep an eye on your Xpressions messages. We are now on Instagram too! This will double up our Facebook messages. Search for Portlethen Primary Together.

Please enjoy the in-service days after a very short week at school.

Kindest wishes

Sandra McKechnie  
Head Teacher

## School holiday dates:

School closes	School re-opens
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		
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
11 & 16.11.21	Parents' Evenings
<span style="background-color: yellow;">17.11.21</span>	Children in Need Day
15-19.11.21	Anti-Bullying Week
<span style="background-color: yellow;">25.11.21</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Tempest photos for children who were absent on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October</span>
26.11.21	Assembly P5A
24.11.21	Portlethen Primary Together Meeting, 6.30-8pm
8.12.21	Panto HMT – Beauty and the Beast. Whole school attends.
<span style="background-color: yellow;">1-10.12.21</span>	Christmas Fayre (online shopping only)
13-17.12.21	Christmas Carol singing in the community, P4-7
16.12.21	Christmas Lunch <span style="background-color: yellow;">and Christmas Jumper Day</span>
<span style="background-color: yellow;">16.12.21 - 21.12.21</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Christmas Parties</span>
21.12.21	Christmas Service led by Rodolphe, 9.45am (via Teams – pupils only)
10-24.1.22	Scottish Poetry Recitals Competition
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
<span style="background-color: yellow;">25.03.21</span>	<span style="background-color: yellow;">Assembly, P7B</span>
28-3.21-1.4.21	P7 Abernethy Trip



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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
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
24.5.22	Tempest Class photos – nursery and school
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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