



March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Term 3 is nearing its end and the children and staff have had a very productive term in school. Storms, snow and Covid haven't dampened the children's enthusiasm for learning and having fun! The teachers are in the midst of writing the children's school reports and I have the great pleasure of reading each and every one. I am very proud as I read about how your children are getting on at school and the different strengths that they all possess. I am sure you will be delighted to read about your own child(ren)'s achievements when reports are shared with you after the Easter holidays.

Covid

- Symptoms

Please do not send your child(ren) to school if they are suffering from Covid symptoms. These symptoms are:

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

Please follow Scottish Government guidelines if you are a positive case or have been identified as a close contact.

- Changes in Restrictions

Restrictions have been eased in school and the children are no longer in allocated areas in the playground. There were screams of delight and some animated dance moves when it was announced that everyone can now enter the more exciting areas of the playground!

We have now moved to face-to-face assemblies. There are now two assemblies on Fridays, one for primary 1 to 4 and the other for primary 5 to 7. It is intended to revert to whole school assemblies when it is deemed appropriate. It is so lovely to have a live audience, especially when a class are performing their assemblies.

After the Easter holidays, the school will revert to whole school morning and afternoon breaks and there will be minor changes to lunch breaks. The new timings will be:

School starts:	9am
Morning break:	10.30-10.50am
Lunch P1-4:	12.15-12.55pm
Lunch P5-7:	12.25-1.05pm
Afternoon break:	2-2.20pm
School finishes:	3.20pm



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Please note that the finish time will now be 3.20pm for all pupils. Please continue to only have one parent of P1 or P2 children or children with additional support needs enter the playground. Responsible siblings will still be able to collect their siblings, but this will now be at 3.20pm.

Important Reminders

- **Reading Books**

Please ensure children bring reading books to school **every day** and that all books are returned to school. Unfortunately, some reading lessons have been missed because of not having enough books. There is a £5 charge for any lost or damaged reading books.

- **Lost Property**

I would appreciate if all clothing is labelled with your child(ren)'s name and class. Children are reminded at school that it is their responsibility to take care of their clothing and I know that this will be reinforced at home too. When found items are labelled, they are returned to their owner. We do not keep lost property so items found that are unnamed are disposed of after a short period of time.

- **Punctuality**

Please help your child(ren) and others in their class to get off to a good start every day at school by arriving on time. Children become upset if they are late and it can cause significant disruption to class lessons.

- **Lunches**

I would be grateful if you could discuss the school menu in advance of your child(ren) coming to school. We are unable to offer choices other than those on the menu so if your child(ren) do not like anything from the menu, you may want to consider providing a packed lunch.

- **Water**

The school allow children to drink water as they wish during the school day and families should provide water bottles for this purpose. Children may bring juice (non-fizzy) in their lunch box and they may drink this whilst having their lunch. Please do not provide juice for drinking during the day as children will not be permitted to drink it.

Fairtrade Fortnight: 21st February to 6th March

As usual, the pupils of Portlethen participated in Fairtrade Fortnight. The children learned about how Fairtrade ensures that farmers across areas of the world get a fair price for their products and how climate change affects the farmers, workers and their products. We are participating in The Rice Challenge where we aim to sell 90kg of rice. At present, we are half-way there, having sold 45kg already! 1kg bags of rice can be purchased by paying £3.50 per bag into the school bank account (80-12-06 00694484).

World Book Day: Friday 4th March

The children had an amazing day as we celebrated World Book Day dressed as characters from our favourite books or wearing their pyjamas. Classes participated in a range of fun activities which encouraged the love of reading and Primary 2LI entertained us with a fun assembly. It was so lovely that all children received a gift of a book from our parent/staff group, Portlethen Primary Together. It was a very kind and well received treat for everyone!

Inclusion Day: Friday 11th March

We celebrated the diversity of our school and community through the school's annual Inclusion Day. Children chose to dress as they pleased (or not, as some prefer to wear school uniform). A super



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Inclusion assembly was delivered by Primary 1/2L and the children participated in a range of activities. At Portlethen we ensure that everyone has equality of opportunity no matter their own characteristics.

Red Nose Day: Friday 18th March

Primary 3/4A is leading this week's Red Nose Day. The children are getting very excited about this and I am too. I've had some sneaky peeks at the preparations!

Easter Bonnet/Egg Box Decorating Competition: Friday 1st April – P1-6

The children are invited to design an Easter Bonnet at home and wear it to our parade OR to design an egg box at home to enter into the competition. We will get together in the school hall and judge the entries on the last day of term. Egg boxes can be provided for children who wish to participate. A winner from each class will receive a small prize. What a busy term with lots of learning and celebrations!

Primary 7 Abernethy Trip: Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April

I am delighted to say that, after many peaks and troughs of uncertainty, the Primary 7 trip is planned to go ahead. We have made all the contingency plans that we possibly can to mitigate for Covid-19. This is the school's first residential trip since 2019 and I know that the children and staff will have an absolute blast!

Whole School Sponsored Walk: Friday 22nd April

With the help of some enthusiastic children, the whole school sponsored walk route has now been planned for the afternoon of the above date. Parents are very welcome to join us on the walk with your child(ren)'s class(es). Let's hope for some great weather and that we raise some much needed funds for the school!

Dec Appeal

The recent events in Ukraine have rightly seen many people here want to help those who need assistance in the ever-worsening humanitarian crisis. In order to speed up the emergency response, you may want to contribute to the DEC Ukrainian appeal.

How will my DEC donation help people in Ukraine?

Your donation will be used to reach people in urgent need, including:

- Providing food
- Providing first aid and medicines
- Providing clean water
- Providing shelter
- Providing heat
- Providing warm clothing
- Providing hygiene parcels
- Providing comfort for children
- Providing sim cards and mobiles to help people stay connected
- Supporting hospitals and healthcare facilities
- Supporting fire fighters and civil protection units
- Training people up in life-saving first aid



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- Helping families stay in contact with each other
- Educating people on the risks of explosives
- Repairing vital infrastructure
- Helping to repair homes, healthcare centres, schools and community centres

Here is a link to the DEC website: <https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Portlethen Primary Together

PPT has had a great response to our book gifts on World Book Day. It was lovely to see the children so happy.

We've been busy planning more events behind the scenes, and we can't wait to get the school community together!

Ice Cream Fridays will be coming soon - keep your eyes peeled for updates.

29 April will be a Dress as you please day. We are asking for donations for our Rainbow Raffle - more details to follow.

11 June will be our Summer Fun Day! Activities, stalls, food and drink for all the family. Get the date in your diaries now!

Thanks to those who've already volunteered to help, we're always looking for more folk so drop us a line at portlethenpt@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get the up-to-date info.

Portlethen Primary Together

Staffing

Mrs White, Additional Support for Learning Teacher, will return from maternity leave on Monday 21st March. She will be working with the P1 and P2 pupils. On that date Mrs Philp will then work solely with the P3-5 classes.

I want to let you know in advance that I am planning to begin phased retirement in August, reducing my working week to three days per week. The recruitment process to find a head teacher for the remaining two days per week will begin shortly. I will keep you posted.

Finally, we have had a significant number of staff absences recently but thankfully, have managed to find cover for the classes so have not had to send any classes home. One supply teacher made a point of seeking me out at the end of a three- day stint with us. She felt it was important to share that she had found the children and staff in the school to be brilliant to work with and that she had really enjoyed the positive ethos and relationships within the school. It was a very proud moment and one that I shared with the children at assembly. Be very proud of your lovely children!

Kindest regards

Sandra McKechnie
Head Teacher



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School holiday dates:

School closes	School re-opens
Friday 1.4.22, 3.20pm	Monday 18.4.22, 9am
Wednesday 1.6.22, 3.20pm	Monday 6.6.22, 9am
Friday 1.7.22, 3.20pm	Tuesday 23.8.22, 9am

Dates for your diary:

 Change or additional information  Parent Helpers Required

Date	Event/Item
18.3.22	Red Nose Day
25.03.22	Assembly, P7B
28-3.21 - 1.4.22	P7 Abernethy Trip
31.3.22	World Autism Awareness Day (Saturday 2 nd April)
1.4.22	Easter Assembly (Bonnet/Egg Box Decorating Competition)
22.4.22	Whole school sponsored walk
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
2 & 3.6.22	May Day (re-assigned from 2.5.22) and Queen's Platinum Jubilee
8.6.22	Primary 7 School Show
9.6.22	Sports Day New P1 Parents' Evening
10.6.22	Assembly, P1C
14.6 & 16.6.22	New P1 Visits
15 - 17.6.22	P7 – 3 day academy visit
21.6.22	Sports Day (if original postponed due to adverse weather)



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24.6.22	Meet the Teacher pm
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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