

# September Newsletter



Trust Teamwork Respect Achievement Inclusion Nurture

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a fantastic summer break and are delighted to report that the children and staff have had a happy and safe return to school. This session we have 10 classes within the school as well as our Enhanced Provision class. We welcome thirty-eight new Primary 1 pupils as well as four new pupils from Primary 2 to 7. We are delighted to have you join Team Party! Our former Primary 7 pupils have now moved on and we wish them the very best as they embark on their secondary school careers!

We continue to deliver a curriculum which includes Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing as well as covering the five other curricular areas of Social Studies, Expressive Arts, Science, RME and Languages (including English, French and Spanish). The staff are already busy building this session's curriculum to ensure a broad range of fantastic learning experiences for the children. The calendar at the end of the newsletter provides an overview of the session and will be updated throughout the year.

The school could not function without the amazing support we enjoy from our parent group, Portlethen Primary Together (PPT). The PPT will be in touch very shortly to arrange a date for their AGM.

## School Meals

The Scottish Government provides free school meals for all Primary 1 to 5 pupils and income based statutory free school meals for Primary 6 and 7 pupils for families who are eligible. Parents of children in Primary 6 and 7 can opt to pay for school meals and, of course, all families have the choice to provide a packed lunch.

Aberdeenshire Council's School Meals Service has an online resource which will help parents and children make healthy meal choices displaying allergen and nutritional content of primary school meals. It is particularly helpful for pupils with special dietary needs including allergies <http://ourshiremenus.mysaffronportal.com/>.

Once children make their choice of meal on arrival at school, there is no option to change their mind as the kitchen then cooks to order each day. Please discuss each day's menus in advance with your child so that they are happy with their choices.



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## Northsound Cash for Kids - Coat Appeal and Cost of Living Grants

Applications are now open for the Planet Radio Coat Appeal and Cost of Living Grants. Applications to these appeals must be made by a professional governing body, ie, Head Teacher, GP, etc. If you would like us to apply for any of these funds on your behalf, please do not hesitate to in touch.

## School Uniform

As a school we promote our Portlethen Primary uniform which gives our pupils a lovely sense of identity. Just a reminder that we have pre-loved uniform available for a small donation to the school. We are an Eco School and try to reduce, re-use and recycle where we can.

## Water Bottles and Snack

All children should be provided with a water bottle to bring to school so that they can drink water throughout the day. School policy is that only water should be contained in these bottles and it is especially important to be hydrated during this warm weather. We have a small selection of Portlethen Primary water bottles which can be purchased for £2 from the Office.

We are also aware that a number of children are not bringing a snack for morning break and some are expressing that they would like to have a snack. Please provide a snack, preferably healthy, if you wish your child to have one.

## Lost Property

It is vital that all school clothing is named with your child's name and class. Named property can be returned to its rightful owner. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to retain lost property at Portlethen School.

## Attendance and Punctuality

It is so important for children to attend school regularly and arrive on time and we are pleased to enjoy high attendance and very low exclusion levels at our school. Of course, absence cannot be helped if children are ill, and they should remain at home if this is the case. We ask that pupils who have sickness or diarrhoea are kept at home until 48 hours after their last episode.

## Meet The Teacher

We were delighted to see so many families and friends join us for our Meet the Teacher session on Tuesday. We hope you found this a worthwhile activity and enjoyed



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seeing your child's new classroom, meeting their teacher and seeing some of the learning activities they have already been involved in.

## Medication and Inhalers

If your child requires medication, please bring the medication to the school office in it's original packaging and complete a medication form. Staff will not administer "as and when required" medication.

If your child requires an inhaler, please supply two. One will be kept in the classroom and the other in the medical room.

## Parking and Road Safety

We have received several reports from concerned parents regarding road safety around the school and continue to ask parents to park considerately when picking up and dropping off their children. We have several families who require access to the disabled spaces at the turning circle and ask that you only use these spaces if you are a Blue Badge holder. Where at all possible, we encourage parking and striding.

## Drop off and Collection of Pupils

Due to the P1 pupils leaving via the same door as the P2, P3 and P3/4 pupils, we have been experiencing congestion and difficulties associated with this at the beginning and end of the school day. As of Monday, we will have P3 and P3/4 pupils lining up beside the main door as they will now be entering and leaving via the office, in the hope this will ease some of the congestion at the infant door.

We also ask that parents remain back from the school building to enable staff to see you and allow children to come to you.

## Assemblies

We love to share the successes through weekly celebrations assemblies. T-TRAIN certificates are issued to pupils who demonstrate our school values of Teamwork, Trust, Respect, Achievement, Inclusion and Nurture. We also like to share good news about outside of school achievements. If your child has something exciting to share, please let their class teacher know or email the school office.

## Staffing

The Head Teacher job-share arrangements are: Mrs Christina Hardie, Monday to Wednesday and Miss Karen Cormack, Thursdays and Fridays. This new arrangement is working very well as Miss Cormack is in school all week and assumes her role of Depute Head Teacher on a Monday to Wednesday.



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We welcome Miss Jodie McGovern to the school as probationer teacher. Miss McGovern will be teaching P5 this year supported by Mrs McArthur.

We are very much looking forward to a successful school year, as always, we are all Proud to be Porty! We operate an open-door policy should you need to discuss any issues you have or any help you require.

Christina Hardie and Karen Cormack  
Head Teachers

## Pupil school holiday dates:

Holiday	School closes	School re-opens
October	Friday 13.10.23, 3.20pm	Monday 30.10.23, 9am
November in-service	Wednesday 15.11.23, 3.20pm	Monday 20.11.23, 9am (to pupils)
Christmas	Friday 22.12.23, 3.20pm	Monday 08.1.24, 9am
February mid-term	Wednesday 7.2.24, 3.20pm	Thursday 15.2.24, 9am (to pupils)
Easter	Thursday 28.3.24, 3.20pm	Monday 15.4.24, 9am
May Day	Friday 3.5.24, 3.20pm	Tuesday 7.5.24, 9am
Summer	Friday 05.7.24, 3.20pm	Tuesday 20.8.24, 9am (to pupils)

## Dates for your diary:

 Change or additional information

 Parent Helpers Required

	Event/Item
20.9.23	Harvest Assembly (Donations to The Larder, Portlethen)
27.9.23	P7 Residential Meeting, 6pm
29.9.23	Macmillan Coffee Morning - led by P6, 9.30am (P6 parents only) PPT Uniform Sale, 3pm Friday Treat Stall, 3pm (proceeds to UK Sepsis Trust)
6.10.23	Tempest School Photos - individual & family groups
9.10.23	Tempest Nursery Photos - individual & family groups
11.10.23	Assembly - led by all P7s, 9.15am
13.10.23	Coffee and Tea with SLT (Senior Leadership Team) in school hall, 8.50am Choir performance, 9.05am



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	Let's Learn Together, 9.15am
01.11.23	Assembly - led by P6s from P6/7, 9.15am
09.11.23	Parents' Evening
14.11.23	Parents' Evening
15.11.23	Children In Need Assembly - led by P3/4, 9.15am Children In Need dress up
22.11.23	World Children's Day Assembly - led by P5
03.12.23	Choir Evening Performance, Evening Express Concert
04.12.23	Flu Immunisations (only for children with consent)
05.12.23	Christmas Fair, 3.30pm
06.12.23	Whole School HMT Panto Trip (afternoon performance)
11.12.23	Carol Singing in the Community begins
14.12.23	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
19.12.23	Family and Friends Nativity Performance, 9.30am
22.12.23	End of term Christmas Service, 9.45am
24.01.24	Scottish Poetry Recitals Assembly, 9.15am
06.02.24	Assembly - led by P4/5, 9.15am
07.02.24	Coffee and Tea with SLT (Senior Leadership Team) in school hall, 2.30pm Let's Learn Together, 2.45pm
28.02.24	Assembly - led by P1/2, 9.15am
07.03.24	World Book Day Assembly - led by P2, 9.15am World Book Day dress up
13.03.24	Inclusion Day
15.03.24	Red Nose Day
01.05.24	Pupil Reports Issued
02.05.24	Parents' Evening
07.05.24 - 10.05.24	P7 Residential trip
14.05.24	Parents' Evening
15.05.24	Assembly - led by P6, 9.15am
20.05.24	STEM Week
22.05.24	Assembly - led by P3, 9.15am



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24.05.24	Coffee and Tea with SLT (Senior Leadership Team) in school hall, 2.30pm Let's Learn Together, 2.45pm
29.05.24	Assembly - led by P1
05.06.24	P7 Show
06.06.24	Sports Day
11.06.24	New P1 Parents' Evening
12.06.24 - 14.06.24	P7 3 Day Academy Visit
18.06.24	Alternative Sports Day
05.07.24	End of Session Assembly, 9.45am



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