Dear Fishermoss Family

My final Friday update of this academic year!  Phew I hear you all say.  This one is short as my newsletter is attached so grateful if you could read that too please!

At this moment in time, we are anticipating that mitigations and Risk Assessments currently in place in our schools will remain after the summer holidays.  We are a well-oiled machine at Fishermoss, and pupils and staff will continue with current routines in August until we are advised otherwise. We have shared with individual classes where they will be lining up in August and Miss Anderson and I will continue to support pupils and be present in the playground as our pupils arrive at school.

**Expected approach to mitigations post-summer……**The approach to mitigations in schools in the period after the summer holidays reflects the following broad principles/assumptions:

* The approach to planning for mitigations in schools post-summer must reflect the current uncertainty around the path of the virus, and in particular remaining uncertainty around variants of concern, the impact of the easing of restrictions in wider society on transmission within schools, and the effects of vaccination on case numbers in staff and children and young people.
* Mitigations that are necessary and proportionate to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, children and young people should be maintained in schools.
* Any negative impacts of mitigations on children and young people’s educational experiences should be minimised at the earliest opportunity when it is safe to do so. As restrictions are eased in wider society, the expectation is that comparable restrictions may be eased in schools unless there is a clear justification for not doing so.
* The organisational and operational challenges that schools face in implementing and removing mitigations in the period immediately after return should be taken into account.  Removal of some mitigations is relatively simple; reintroduction can be complex and time consuming. Requiring schools to remove mitigations too early, and to then reinstate them, would have a detrimental impact on their ability to focus on the delivery of education to children and young people. This approach takes account of the fact that current mitigations do not restrict attendance capacity in school buildings.

Please see the attached documents with information about **Digital Mental Health Services** for Aberdeenshire residents.  From the **21stJune**, children, young people and adults living in Aberdeenshire can access online digital services to support positive mental health and wellbeing.  Please share with others you feel may also benefit.

Please continue to remember the following:

* Meet outdoors as much as possible. No environment is ever entirely risk free in any sense - but in relation to Covid, meeting people outdoors poses less risk than meeting indoors.
* If we are meeting others indoors, we should stick to the limits and make sure the room is as well ventilated as possible.
* Continue to follow advice on physical distancing, handwashing, face coverings. Basic measures to prevent transmission are really important.

Wishing you all a lovely summer!

Please continue to take care.

Kindest regards

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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**Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking**