Dear Parents/Carers

Today we welcomed back our pupils who were self-isolating, and we are so very grateful that they have returned to school having kept well.  Thank you for your continued support and understanding and for your compassion and concern for those directly affected.

As previously shared, we will be facilitating indoor **PE** from Monday, although we are still very much encouraging classes to be involved in outdoor learning as much as possible when weather permits.  Please note that on Wednesday 2nd December our hall will be used for delivering the **Flu Immunisation Programme**, therefore PE will be outdoors that day, weather permitting.  Also, as previously shared, **Violin and Piano** **Tuition** will be delivered in our Music Room also from Monday.

**Primary 1 Pupils**……a wee reminder that from Monday we would be delighted to have our Primary 1 pupils line up in the morning round the back in their daytime lining up spot.  As usual, should any of our Primary 1 pupils wish to remain with their parents outside the playground they are of course welcome to continue doing so. They should enter the playground on the first bell.

**Thank you** as always for your continued support and efforts to follow the government’s latest guidance! Please let’s keep remembering the importance of all of us making the right choices.  We know how difficult the current restrictions are for us all, especially where we can’t go into each other’s homes.  We are all being asked to remember, at all times, when we are out and interacting with other people, the FACTS rules:

* face coverings
* avoid crowded areas
* clean hands and surfaces
* two metre distancing
* and self-isolate and book a test if you have symptoms of the virus

**Thank you for continuing to remember the following…….**

**What should I do if my child is unwell?** If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. If they have one of the three common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus) - a continuous cough, a fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia) - please follow the latest advice via <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus> and book a test. This website includes advice on what’s considered to be a fever in children.

If your child is unwell but they are not displaying symptoms of coronavirus, please keep them at home until they are back in good health. For vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as per normal circumstances, they should remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed. This now also relates to a fever or high temperature (alongside a negative coronavirus result) and they should not return to school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed

Please continue to remember:

* **Staff or pupils who are, or who live with someone who is, symptomatic or a confirmed case of COVID-19 cannot attend school until self-isolation is over, or a negative test is received.**
* **Staff, pupils and parents/carers should not come to school if they or someone in their household has developed symptoms (new persistent cough or increased temperature)**

Lovely to see Christmas Trees going up in the community! We look forward to our own school tree going up next week!  Plans are well underway for Christmas activities at school and these will be undertaken following careful planning, assessing all possible risks. Activities and events will be a little different this year but lots of fun nonetheless!  Our Parent Staff Council have been incredibly busy and proactive with all sorts of exciting things.  Do please refer to their e mails sent out this week.

Class parties will be going ahead and they will be for individual classes as we will be unable to mix classes.  We will not be making the usual requests to parents for donations of food for parties. Thanks to our Parent Staff Council, pupils will be receiving individual party bags with various treats for their parties, but keep it a secret! We will also have a virtual trip to the cinema or the pantomime this year.  There are also some other little surprises along the way!   Dates for parties and other information will follow shortly. The menu for our School Christmas lunch on Wed 16th Dec was issued earlier this week.

As is always the case, we discourage pupils from bringing in piles of Christmas cards to school to share out amongst their class. Reasons being, some children are not included and made to feel upset, cards are often left discarded in the classroom, cloakroom or playground and we are an Eco school!  In addition, this year sharing things in this manner is discouraged.  A nice alternative for anyone wishing to give a card to pupils in their class is for them to make one card for their class and this can be displayed on the classroom wall for all to enjoy. Thank you for your understanding here.

Finally, I am delighted to say that Santa will have finished his period of quarantine in good time for visiting Portlethen next week, since travelling from the North Pole. One of his Elves arranged a special delivery of chocolate coins to school this week for our pupils, whilst wearing a mask of course!  The coins are all individually wrapped and have been left for more than 72 hours in my office.  These will be handed out to pupils on Thursday, the day Santa comes to this end of town!  Staff of course wash or sanitize their hands before handing anything out.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Please continue to take care!

Kindest regards

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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