Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a joy this week to join in on a number of ‘Google Meets’ with some classes. So lovely to see your children’s smiley faces!  I did mention that I wondered what parents would put in a ‘home report’ about their contributions to household chores.  There were some interesting expressions following that suggestion!

The First Minister’s announcement this week had some encouraging news in terms of a possible phased return to schools from the 22nd of February, however this is very much dependent on continued good progress in tackling the virus.  A final decision on a phased return to schooling will be announced on the 16th of February.  There are significant staffing implications for schools as we are required to ensure there are sufficient members of staff in school to teach and provide the childcare elements of provision for children of key workers as well as having sufficient staff working remotely to support home learning. As per the letter from our Director of Education to parents this week, once we receive further guidance, and plans have been developed, we will of course share this with you.

This week is **Children’s Mental Health Week**.  Please see link below to some resources you may find helpful.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/#:~:text=Children%27s%20Mental%20Health%20Week%20Children%E2%80%99s%20Mental%20Health%20Week,school%2C%20for%20home-schooling%2C%20online%20lessons%20or%20independent%20learning.>

**Self-esteem Garden - Learning opportunity**….Please find attached details for the self-esteem garden programme which the Community Learning and Development Service will be running at the beginning of March.  The programme runs for six sessions, all taking place on google-meet, lasting 1-1.5 hours.

**ASDA Meal Plan**…..I have been asked by Portlethen Asda Community Champion to share the attached meal plan produced by the Community team at Asda as an example of the meals that could be produced with the Free School Meals £15 vouchers. The plan might be of some use to families in our community that may be struggling financially as well as those who are looking for ideas.

You may recall last week I made brief mention of scams in relation to **vaccine fraud**.  Please follow the link below to vaccine fraud awareness.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-for-raising-awareness-about-vaccine-fraud>

Mrs McRae, one of our class teachers, has created a fantastic **Fishermoss Home Learning Website**.  Here you will find links to a variety of ideas, resources, websites and apps. Just click on the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/as.glow.scot/fishermoss-home-learning/home>

The link will also be available on our school website by following ParentsàHome Learning Links.  The outdoor Learning section has lots of super ideas to keep everyone amused during the mid-term holiday with links to the National Trust for Scotland’s ‘50 things to do before you’re 11 ¾’ and Learning through Landscapes.

A wee reminder that Fishermoss School will be closed to all on Friday 12th and Monday 15th February for the mid-term holiday. School will also be closed to all pupils on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th for Staff In-Service days. Teachers will not be providing remote learning and teaching during this period, or Class Google Meets.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Stay safe!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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