Dear Fishermoss Family

I hope this finds you all keeping warm!  Great excitement at school today with the arrival of snow and the added thrill for the pupils of an early closure…. although the big concern was what would happen to Golden Time! The early closure was due to the Red Weather warning and as instructed by Aberdeenshire Council.

**Portlethen Santa Run……** is back for 2021! This is being organised and run by the Portlethen Town Association in conjunction with Fishermoss School, Portlethen Primary and Hillside Primary.  As always, all schools and the chosen charity will receive equal share of the total collection amount.  This year’s chosen charity is the Larder & Covid Support Portlethen & surrounding areas.  The run will take place on the dates advertised, Tue 30th Nov, Wed 1st Dec, Thu 2nd Dec & Marywell Fri 3rd Dec, unless the weather is against them, or they are short of helpers.  A chocolate coin and sticker from Santa will go home with each of our pupils on Thursday 2nd Dec this next week as this is the date Santa is expected in the Fishermoss catchment area!

**Reading for Enjoyment……**With thoughts turning towards Christmas, I wanted to share some website links which you may find useful if books are going to feature on letters to Santa.  Your children may have already shared with you that we are looking at enhancing our classroom libraries to further encourage **Reading for Enjoyment** and pupils have actively been involved in choosing new titles with their class. I shared with classes at assembly the following website [www.thereaderteacher.com](http://www.thereaderteacher.com) This is a great website for finding age-appropriate book ideas for Christmas presents/stocking fillers as I know some parents aren’t always sure what are recommended and age-appropriate books for their child/ren.  This can be the case for many of us too especially changing teaching stage, new titles coming out all the time…difficult to keep up!  Another helpful website with lots of reviews is  [Children's Book Reviews | Toppsta](https://toppsta.com/)  As shared at Parent Staff Council, Literacy is a focus on our School Improvement Plan so anything we can do to actively encourage our pupils to be reading more for enjoyment is valuable.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to promote the following website ‘Kincardine and Mearns Communities’ <https://kandmcommunities.com/local-resources/> as there are really useful links in relation to **Who, Where and How to get in touch with someone who can help locally** in the ‘Local Resources’ section.  There are supportive contacts in relation to **Money Matters, Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Community Larders, Pantries and Foodbanks** amongst many other helpful links.  Do please share wider as you feel appropriate.

**Messy Church……** Please find attached a flyer from Portlethen Parish Church who are holding a ‘Messy Church’ event next Saturday in Portlethen Church Hall.  This looks, once again, like great fun with arts, crafts, music and storytelling followed by a yummy supper!  A brilliant way to spend Saturday afternoon.

**COVID booster and ‘flu jabs – have you booked yours?**......People across north-east Scotland, eligible for their COVID-19 vaccine booster and flu jabs, are being encouraged to book their vaccination appointments via the online booking portal.  The portal opened on Monday 15 November, for those aged 50 to 59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, to book their vaccination appointment online.

To date, 10,144 have already booked appointments. They estimate there are approximately 50,000 Grampian citizens in these eligible groups who have not yet registered for a booster appointment.  For all eligible groups, at least 24 weeks should have elapsed from the second dose being administered, before the booster is given…although this time period seems to be changing?

The online booking portal is available at [nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/pZrmCnZmKu3RGjyC9H-sL?domain=nhsinform.scot" \t "_blank) and those without online access can book an appointment through the National Helpline on 0800 030 8013.  To use the online portal, individuals will need their unique vaccination username which can be found on any previous appointment letter. If this is not readily available, it can be located or reset on the NHS Inform “recover username” page.

The portal is also available for those aged 60 and above, or in other eligible groups (such as health & social care staff) to use. In addition, community pharmacies in Grampian are offering weekend vaccination clinics. Information on this [can be viewed here](https://www.covidvaxgrampian.com/new-options-for-flu-and-covid-19-booster-vaccination-in-grampian/). The Grampian vaccination centres are in Aberdeen, Elgin, Huntly, Inverurie, Banchory, Peterhead, Macduff, Fraserburgh, and Stonehaven.

**As always……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. Please do not send unwell children to school to see how they cope.  Do keep them at home until you are sure they are fit and well.** **Please continue to err on the side of caution.**

**Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to the school site,** whether entering the building or otherwise, **including parents at drop-off and pick-up.**

For vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as per normal circumstances, pupils 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.

**To help reduce the risk to your family and to help reduce the likelihood of spread of coronavirus in school and the community, please:**

* Undertake the recommended twice weekly lateral flow testing as this can catching infections early.
	+ Free at-home LFD test kits are available for you and your primary-school aged children by collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. More information can be found at: [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms).
	+ Please ensure that all test results, whether positive, negative or void, are recorded on the online portal at: [www.covidtest.scot](http://www.covidtest.scot) OR by phoning 119.
	+ Lateral flow tests should not be undertaken if an individual has tested positive for coronavirus in the last 90 days.
* Arrange vaccination as soon as possible, if you or anyone eligible in your family have not yet been vaccinated. Information can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine). Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell.
* Wear a face covering in line with guidance, keep your distance, keep rooms ventilated, and wash your hands with soap and water regularly.

**What to do if you or your child develop symptoms**

If you or your child develop a new continuous cough, or high temperature, or a loss of/ change in sense of taste or smell, your child must not come to school. The symptomatic person should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible, and the whole household should stay at home until the test result comes back.

PCR tests can be arranged at [**www.nhsinform.scot**](http://www.nhsinform.scot)at your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at [**Gov.Scot**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/covid-symptoms/) or go to [**COVID Testing (nhsgrampian.org)**](https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-testing/)

Further information on testing and self-isolation can be found at [**www.nhsinform.scot**](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

A wee reminder that donations of chocolate and bottles for the Christmas Fayre would be greatly appreciated. These can be dropped off at the school office or pupils can take them to their class, as appropriate.

Take care and stay cosy!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



**‘Being the best we can be’**

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