Dear Parents/Carers

I feel we have had it all these past 7 days……early school closure, full day closures and delayed openings!  Thank you all for being so incredibly supportive this past week throughout it all.  It means so much!  I am sure we all feel like lying down in a darkened room this weekend!  Sadly, for many in Aberdeenshire darkened rooms have not been through choice as so many are still without power.

I hope you managed to enjoy the Santa Run last night and I know the chocolates provided for our pupils were appreciated. Another welcome distraction this past week has been hearing all the excitement and chat about opening advent calendars and chocolate at breakfast time, in addition to hearing about the antics of elves that have been appearing in several homes!  Well done for your creativity!

Lovely to see Christmas Trees going up in the community and indeed at school in our hall and classroom areas! Plans are well underway for Christmas activities at school.  Lots of fun to look forward to!  Our Parent Staff Council have also been incredibly busy with preparations for this Sunday’s **Fishermoss Christmas Fayre** to be held at Portlethen Church Hall 1-4pm.    Fishermoss staff have put together an amazing bumper Christmas hamper for the Fayre raffle to add to the many prizes that can be won. Thank you all sincerely for your support of this event, for your incredible donations and for purchasing raffle tickets.

**Fishermoss Christmas Fayre Raffle Tickets……**Anyone who wishes to purchase raffle tickets in advance of the event can do so by paying into the PSC PayPal account (details below). Tickets will also available on the day to purchase at the door!

1 Ticket = £1

Link To Pay: paypal.me/fishermossprimary

\*\* Please remember to state your Name & Contact Number in the PayPal Notes \*\*

\*\* PLEASE SELECT THE PAYING FRIENDS & FAMILY OPTION WHEN PAYING \*\*

**Class parties**……Thanks to our Parent Staff Council, Pupils will be receiving individual party bags with various treats for their parties.  Keep it a secret!  Further information about class parties, dates etc will appear in next Friday’s update!

Our Primary 1 pupils are working hard preparing their **Nativity** performance and a recording will be shared with their families week beginning 13th Dec.

We look forward to our **School Christmas Lunch** on Wed 15th Dec and we will have a virtual trip to the **Cinema** or the **Pantomime** on the last day of term.

We know at this time of year pupils are tempted to hand out lots of cards to pupils in their class.  A nice alternative for anyone wishing to give a card to pupils in their class is for them to make one card for their whole class and this can be displayed on the classroom wall for all to enjoy. Sometimes some children are not included in the pile of cards and can be left feeling upset by this so a card to the class is a thoughtful alternative and good for the environment!  Thank you for your understanding here.

**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. **We really appreciate all you are doing here!**

**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)

Finally, **Danscentre**…… are launching a Boys Academy and after the success of their first taster class on the 13th November they are offering another on the 11th December. Danscentre is located on 89-91 Hutcheon Street, Aberdeen.  Please see the attached poster for further information.  This is a great opportunity!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services

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**‘Being the best we can be’**

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