Dear Parents/Carers

Thinking especially of the significant number of families we have isolating in our school community this week.  We were told to anticipate a peak in numbers in schools at the start of the new term, and it has certainly happened across Aberdeenshire.  Our hearts go out to you all!  Please see attached **NHS Self-Isolation Flowchart** which you may find useful.  This is certainly, easier to navigate than some of the text I have shared with you over recent weeks!  Thank you for all you are doing by regularly testing your children to detect asymptomatic cases and for keeping a close eye on any changes in your child’s health and testing accordingly.

As previously shared, **Literacy** is a focus on our **School Improvement Plan** and anything we can do to support our pupils with developing their reading skills and to encourage reading for enjoyment is invaluable.  Therefore, we would be delighted if you would be able to join us for a **Portlethen Reading Blether** on the **24th February from 6pm until 7pm.** All parents of Primary Pupils within the Portlethen cluster are welcome to join. We aim to share information about how you can support your child’s reading at home and the benefits of sharing stories through discussion. We hope to answer any questions you may have and provide some support within these areas of reading. We look forward to virtually seeing you there.  A link will be sent out separately to this communication closer to the date.

**Reporting to Parents……**Pupils in P1 to P7 will receive their Interim Pupil Report over the course of next week via their homework diaries.  If your child is absent, they will receive this when they return to school.   In addition, for pupils in P3 to P7Learning Celebration Books will also be sent home over the course of next week.

**Free bus travel for young people (under 22s) in Scotland**

Please find attached information regarding the free bus travel for young people (under 22s) in Scotland scheme.  The communication provides information on the free bus travel scheme and the application process. Applications are now open to all young people and children aged 5-21 years who can apply for their new or replacement NEC or Young Scot NEC to access the scheme from 31 January. **However, they are asking that only those for whom bus travel is essential apply at this time, because of work, education, health or care reasons, for example, in line with restrictions relating to Covid-19.** All other eligible applicants will be encouraged to apply at a later date through a national marketing campaign.

**Parental Employability Support Fund**

If you are a parent or carer in employment or looking for work in Aberdeenshire and you are struggling to make ends meet every month, then the Parental Employability Support Fund (PESF) could help you.  They can support you to achieve your goals of progressing in your career, change jobs or secure employment.  They can help to remove your current barriers, please send queries to the email address on the attached flier (PESF Promotional A4 Poster)

**Are you looking for school age childcare or activities for your children?**

As part of this year’s CivTech Challenge, [Caerus](https://www.caerus.scot/) is working with Scottish Government to better understand supply and demand of school age childcare in communities .The Caerus Team aims to use this information to develop a one stop shop that will give families a quick and secure platform to find and book clubs and activities in their area.  Any information you provide will only be shared with the Scottish Government and no other third parties. Please sign up to <https://parents.caerus.scot/> to submit your views – it will take a maximum of 5 minutes to complete.  If you use any informal clubs or activities, including: swimming clubs, football or sporting clubs, martial arts, dancing, drama etc then please sign up and complete the questionnaire via <https://unregprovider.caerus.scot/>. The more providers in the system the better it will be for parents.

**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.

**Finally,** Fishermoss is keeping the show on the road!  Following on from last term’s Nativity performance delivered by our youngest pupils, we now have our most senior pupils delivering a Burns themed performance!**Primary 6/7 & Primary 7** have been busy preparing and recording their **Burns Assembly.** We are delighted this can happen this year as this time last year we were in Lockdown!  Pre COVID we would invite Senior Citizens from our school community to come and join us for our Burns Coffee Morning at school with Burns themed entertainment! Parents of pupils in Primary 6/7 and Primary 7 will be able to access the Burns Assembly via Google Classroom from Monday next week after school. As a school, we very much look forward to enjoying their recorded performance at assembly on Monday afternoon!

Do continue to take care.

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

Fishermoss School

Berrymuir Road

Portlethen

Aberdeenshire

AB12 4UF

Tel:  01224 472875

Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



**‘Being the best we can be’**

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