Dear Parents/Carers

It has been good to see pupils who have been absent returning to school this week but we are sorry to hear of so many still unwell.  It is not just COVID we are struggling with at this time of year but the usual colds and another C has made an appearance…Chickenpox!  Something else to look out for!

As shared last week, 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. Please remember for symptomatic cases please arrange a PCR and isolate pending results.  LFD is for asymptomatic testing.

**Parentsportal……**Parentsportal.scot is a digital service to help replace the traditional school bag run by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing selection of online services.  Once signed up Main Contacts are able to update their child’s information i.e. emergency contacts, change of telephone numbers etc.  School receives notification to approve changes that are made.It is the preferred option that Main Contacts use this process for updating their Annual Data Check which happens after the summer holidays to ensure that the data we hold on pupils is accurate and up to date.  Parentsportal will reduce the need for paper copies of Annual Data Checks which will reduce the risk of data breaches. We are obligated through GDPR to ensure the data we hold on pupils is accurate and up to date and it is essential we have up to date information.

**If you have not already signed up for parentsportal.scot can you please do so as soon as possible.**  Instructions are attached.  If you have any problems linking to your child please contact the school office Tel 01224 472875 for help.  As a reminder, Main Contacts are the only people who will be able to view and edit the Annual Data Check within Parentsportal.  Other contacts will only be able to see their own information within Parentsportal.

**Orthoptic Vision Screening**……Pupils in our Primary 1 classes are due to have Orthoptic Vision Screening on Tuesday 22nd February at school.  Please look out for consent forms in School bags today.  These screenings were due to take place in their pre-school year but due to COVID they were unable to deliver the programme, hence why the consent form refers to Nursery!  Forms should be returned to their Primary 1 class teacher as soon as possible.  We have been informed of pupils who have already had vision screening tests.

**Portlethen Parish Church** are holding a ‘**Messy Church’** event Saturday 5th February 3-5pm in **Portlethen Church Hall**.  Advance notice of a fun afternoon with arts, crafts, music and storytelling followed by a yummy supper! They hope some families from Fishermoss School will be able to join.

**Library Services……**A great free resourceto support learning and **reading for enjoyment** at all ages is to use your library to access digital materials.  You can access eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers for FREE with a library membership.  Please see the attached leaflet for further information.  As previously shared, **Literacy** is a focus on our **School Improvement Plan** so 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.

**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.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

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

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**‘Being the best we can be’**

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