Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to all who attended the **Portlethen Reading Blether** held last night.  Unfortunately, there were only approximately 9 attendees from across the cluster schools….an approximate number as there could have been more than one person to each device.  Please find below a link to an evaluation form for those who attended.

<https://forms.gle/ByYnUvRHNHxSAezx6>

Your feedback would be very much appreciated. We would also be grateful for feedback from those who didn’t attend to share any barriers we could consider for future events e.g. time of the event.  We are aware everyone has very busy lives and teatime perhaps didn’t work. Please find attached a copy of the slide presentation from the event for your information.

**World Book Day 3rd March……**next week pupilswill be bringing home a ‘World Book Day Voucher’ which they can either put towards the cost of a book or exchange for a ‘World Book Day’ book.  More information can be found on the voucher.  Classes will be making reference to World Book Day as part of their literacy work this coming week.  Vouchers are valid until 27th March.  The following link has further information and links to a range of books that cost just £1 so perfect for making maximum use of the voucher!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

**The Active Schools Run4Fun Cross Country Series is back for 2022!**   
They have 5 events in the series, with spaces open to P1 – S6 pupils. The events take place across South Aberdeenshire, kicking off in Aboyne on Monday 7th March. Each person who completes 2 out of the 5 events will receive one of our NEW Run4Fun participation medals! There will also be awards on the day for those finishing 1st/2nd/3rd in each age group, boys and girls.  These are fun events so why not grab some friends, sign up and some along to take part in the challenge.  Please see the attached poster for all details.  You can sign up here:  <http://bit.ly/asabevents>

**Strategic framework-testing transition plan**

The [First Minister’s statement to Parliament](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-tuesday-22-february-2022/) on Tuesday 22nd February set out the key elements of the Scottish Government’s new [strategic framework](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/), and explained what it means for our collective response to COVID, now and in the months ahead.  The First Minister noted that, barring any adverse developments, it is reasonable over time to move away from mass, population wide, asymptomatic testing, towards a more targeted system focused on specific priorities. She said that those priorities would include surveillance; rapid detection of and response to new variants; effective outbreak management, particularly in high-risk settings like care homes and hospitals; and ensuring access to care and treatment for those who need it.  In March, a detailed transition plan for Test and Protect will be published, setting out our priorities in more detail, and describing the scale of infrastructure that will remain in place for the longer term.  We will provide updates on the transition plan, and any implications for the schools testing programme, as soon as we are able to do so.  In the meantime, the schools testing programme remains in place.

**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.

As previously shared, please refer to the **NHS Self-Isolation & Testing Flowchart**…**Living Safely this Winter.**  Thank you for 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.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**