Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you all coping following the storms of last weekend, in addition to all the other things we are trying to cope with just now!  Praying for good weather at the start of next week as we are due to have playground markings installed!  We are very excited about the arrival of a caterpillar, solar system, hop scotch, snakes and ladders, noughts and crosses, 8-point compass, basketball court markings, Numicon graphics in addition to a running track! Thank you to our Parent staff Council and Primary 7 pupils for sourcing and securing funds to make this possible!

At the start of this week, I delivered an assembly presentation to our Primary 4 to 7 pupils on the subject of **‘Respect and Relationships Online’** and **‘Our Digital Footprint’**.  The following link may be of interest to you all as it provides information about online wellbeing, and talking to your child about online safety, in addition to information on parental controls.  With the current pandemic many of our young people are spending more time online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

As previously shared, please see attached **NHS Self-Isolation Flowchart** which many of us are finding useful.  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…… 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.**

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.

**Orthoptic Vision Screening**……A wee reminder that pupils in our Primary 1 classes are due to have Orthoptic Vision Screening on Tuesday **22nd February** at school.  Consent forms were sent home via school bags last Friday…or if your child was absent they will have been put home this week.  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.

A reminder that **Portlethen Parish Church** are holding a ‘**Messy Church’** event tomorrow Saturday 5th February 3-5pm in **Portlethen Church Hall**.  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.

**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.

**A reminder of the following holiday dates……**

Thu 10th, Fri 11th & Mon 14th February - Mid Term Holiday-**School closed to pupils and staff.**

Tues 15th & Wed 16th February-Staff In-Service Days-**School closed to pupils**

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and mid-term holiday!

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**