Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you all enjoying the beautiful weather we have continued to experience this week!

I shared earlier this term that I delivered an assembly presentation to our Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils on the subject of **‘Respect and Relationships Online’** and **‘Our Digital Footprint’**.  Every one of us has a digital footprint that stays with us for life.  We will all be aware of cases nationally where many years later social media posts have come to light that have serious consequences for the person concerned.  We all have a duty as Parents, Carers and Staff to reinforce the message of a digital footprint with our young people to ensure that they do not post anything that they will later regret. Even by pupils liking posts that are inappropriate also adds to their digital footprint, and this is also open to interpretation.  Inappropriate posts should be reported to the relevant authorities.

All social networking platforms (or social networking apps, if on a smartphone) have age limits. Some social networks use technologies that may not be right for some ages or engage with communities that are made up of people much older than your child.  The minimum age on popular social networking platforms is generally 13 years, with **What’s app being 16 years.**  The responsibility for monitoring a child’s use of social media, or the internet in general, lies with Parents and Carers.  All must ensure that any content uploaded to any social media site is appropriate.  Your child being part of a group chat means you have no control over who else gets invited. Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are.

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.

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

**Reporting to Parents Calendar**……Do look out for Effort/ Attitude/Behaviour comments in homework diaries which will appear by the end of next week.  This is also an opportunity for Pupils and Parents to have their views recorded too.  We would really appreciate you sparing a few minutes during the Easter Holiday to record your comments in the homework diaries, in addition to encouraging and supporting your child to reflect on their thoughts regarding their own Effort, Attitude and Behaviour at school this first term. Thank you in anticipation! As previously shared, our Reporting Calendar for session 21-22 can be found on our website under the tab EventsàReporting Calendar.

**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.  **It is our intention going forward to explore making use of Parents Portal Parent/Teacher Consultation Booking System so worth signing up now!**

**COVID-19 and children**

For most children, COVID-19 is a mild illness that may require some time off school but rarely leads to complications. For a very few, the symptoms may last for longer than the usual two to three weeks. A few children will be very poorly and have to go to hospital. Getting the vaccine will help to protect children against COVID-19. Although most children usually have mild illness, they can pass on their infection to others in their family and those they come into contact with.

**Who is offered the COVID-19 vaccine?**

NHS Scotland is offering two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to all children aged 5 to 11 years.  The vaccine is recommended for children who have health conditions that put them at higher risk from COVID-19. Parents of other 5 to 11-year-olds may also choose to have their child vaccinated, although the benefit is less than it is for children at higher risk. Children aged 5 to 11 years will be offered a second dose of the vaccine from 12 weeks after their first dose.

The vaccine currently licensed for children aged 5 to 11 years is the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Children aged 5 to 11 years will be given a child-sized dose, which is one third of an adult/adolescent dose. Children aged 11 years old will receive the child-sized dose of the vaccine for their first and second doses, even if they turn 12 years old before their second dose is due

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years, visit nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccinechildren or call 0800 030 8013 (available 8am–8pm, 7 days a week)

As previously shared, please see attached **NHS Self-Isolation Flowchart**.  Thank you for all you are doing by 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.

**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**

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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**