Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you all well.  Primary 2B/C Assembly, Pancake Day, Online Safety Workshops for Senior Pupils and World Book Day have been just some of the many highlights at school this week. We have much to be thankful for!

**School Catering Follow-up Questionnaire**

School Catering are conducting a follow up questionnaire to the one that was sent out last year.  The purpose of the questionnaire is to gauge if the changes they have made have been successful and to ensure their menu and service meets the needs and priorities of pupils and the nutritional guidelines.  They have also included questions about their offer so they can continue to make improvements.  To facilitate this, they are asking schools to distribute to Parents in Primary Schools. There are 3 sections to be completed one for the pupil, one for the parents/carers and one for general comments.  Please see the link below for access to the questionnaire.  They would be grateful if you could support your child/ren to be involved as appropriate.  The questionnaire should take no longer than 10 minutes.

[Primary Pupil and Parent Questionnaire](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC7PS6jrBn4ZDhVqy32M8MYNUREI1RVpNWUhMSDZMWlVVOVNZRTdQVjhTWS4u)

**Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres**

Our school will next week be receiving a visit from the ALEC (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres).  ALEC works in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and is a delivery partner of Coram Life Education, the leading provider of health and wellbeing education across the UK. ALEC educators are teachers who have undergone additional training to deliver sessions under the strapline “Helping Children Make Healthy Choices”.  Coram Life Education takes a three-strand approach - addressing children’s knowledge, skills and attitudes, and programmes are aligned with the Curriculum for Excellence.  Children’s experience of ALEC sessions is fun, engaging and memorable. Children meet Harold the Giraffe puppet and friends, have discussions and watch short films about healthy eating, the body and how it works, friendships and their influence, legal and illegal drugs and their effects, and how choices and behaviours can affect children’s health and education outcomes.  ALEC’s interventions include challenging social norms – misperceptions of peers’ engagement with risky behaviour – to engender more positive behaviours. Under normal circumstances ALEC would invite parents and carers to an information session in school.  However, for the time being ALEC have put together information, including a short video presentation, for parents and carers on their website…

<http://alec.org.uk/parents/>

**School Dental Inspections**

It is a statutory obligation that children undergo a routine dental inspection. Last year we were not able to undertake the dental inspections due to the pandemic. In consultation with the Chief Dental Officer at Scottish government and Directors of Education the programme is remobilising and plans to inspect **Primary 1 and Primary 2** children. The decision to inspect P2 children rather than P7 children was made because they missed out on the P1 inspections last year and are at a critical age where a dental inspection is beneficial. This inspection programme will ensure that the majority of this age group will receive a school dental inspection where we will pick up oral health needs and through the Public Dental Service be able to signpost to appropriate dental care.  The National Dental Inspection Programme has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for COVID-19 and a risk assessment tool. Staff will follow strict Infection Prevention control measures. The protocol and paperwork have been agreed with the Education Department and there is a short video: <https://youtu.be/kwuHs_7jsbE> to show staff and parents/carers what to expect.  Notification is issued to parents prior to the proposed visit, **please find attached for Parents/Carers of Pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2**.  Unless written refusal is received by the school, the child will be inspected.  NDIP teams are aware of the ever-changing picture for COVID and local variation and will be in touch with the school 24 hours before the visit to check there are no outbreaks that require the team to rearrange the visit.

**Messy Church**……Please also find attached a flyer from Portlethen Parish Church who are holding a ‘Messy Church’event tomorrow in **Portlethen Church Hall**.  This looks like great fun with arts, crafts, music and storytelling followed by a yummy supper!  A brilliant way to spend Saturday afternoon.

**THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD……**Please see below for a link to the Spring issue of **Raring2go!** If youare seeking things to do, places to go, baking, crafting and making the most of our City and Shire…this magazine is for you!

[**https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/aberdeencityandshire/spring/**](https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/aberdeencityandshire/spring/)

Finally, keeping with the theme of dental inspections, teeth and great smiles, a wee reminder that we have the **School Photographer** comingto do **class photographs** on **Wednesday 9th March!**

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Take care.

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



**‘Being the best we can be’**

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