Dear Parents/Carers

**Industrial action within schools – 6th, 7th & 8th September……**As previously shared in an email to parents on Wednesday 31st August, Industrial action involving school support staff is due to take place across Aberdeenshire.  While the full impact of the action will not be known until the dates outlined above, we have undertaken risk assessments to determine our ability to open to pupils on those days.

In terms of the school’s operation on these dates, Fishermoss School will remain open to staff and primary pupils on September 6th, 7th & 8th. We will work with parents/carers to make sure that appropriate and alternative arrangements are made for pupils with specific needs where required.

There may be some service disruption resulting in adjustments to the school day on these dates, such as changes to the school menu.  Staff absences due to the industrial action will impact on some aspects of the school day but we hope to operate as close to normally as possible.

**Early learning and childcare……**All council-run early years settings will close on September 6th, 7th & 8th as it is not possible to guarantee that enough staff would be available.  This is due to the higher adult to child ratios required for younger children and the need to ensure appropriate staffing level to appropriately manage risk and health and safety requirements.

**School lets……**All school lets in the building will be cancelled for 6th, 7th & 8th September due to the strike action.

**Free School Meals for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils……**The Scottish Government has paused the roll out of free school meals to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.  The government’s decision was made to allow further work with COSLA, the national association of Scottish councils, and all local authorities to fully assess the financial and infrastructure challenges that have been highlighted for the final phase of the expansion plans. We will be in touch with further information when a decision is taken by the government to progress the roll-out to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

**Asthma Trials……** Please find attached a letter regarding recruiting participants for a new trial involving asthma care being undertaken by Professor Turner and his team at Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital – a trial that they have just received funding for and really could make a huge difference to childhood asthma.

**Lost property……**The following jackets have been left lying in the playground this week by pupils:

* Pink jacket with warm cream lining and fur on the hood age 7-8 by George
* Olive green and black heavy jacket age 12-13 by George
* Black padded jacket with fur on the hood age 12-13 years by Mackenzie
* Grey and black waterproof age 6-7 by George

We do go round classes with items, but no one has claimed the above. It would be really helpful if pupils could have names on belongings as this makes it so much easier to have items returned. The jackets are in our Lost Property Box in our reception area at the main office.

**Finally, some ideas for weekend fun……something for everyone……**

**Autumn issue of Raring2go**…… the ‘Go To Guide’ for families in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire…. things to do, places to go, fun to be had this Autumn!  Please use the link below

<https://bit.ly/R2goAutumn2022>

**Creative Orchestra Taster 18th September……sound*****festival****,* based in Aberdeenshire run monthly creative music workshops for school children. They are hosting a Creative Orchestra taster session aimed at children aged P4-7 with the intention of merging them with the current Creative Orchestra if they would like to continue attending throughout the year.The workshop is for children who have been playing their instrument for a minimum of six months and can play a variety of different notes with ease.  Youcan register your child at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfchOrcYuVEAjtnCzM-GA5R1oBJTy2_WxtJY3iov96QOuBXRA/viewform?usp=sf_link>

**Date: Sunday 18th September**

**Time: 1:30pm - 2:30pm**

**Location: King’s Pavilion, University of Aberdeen, AB24 3UB**

**Tour Of Britain: Aberdeen to Glenshee Ski Centre Sunday 4th September……** Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire will host the Tour of Britain Grand Départ for the first time ever on Sunday 4 September 2022 departing Union Street @11am .  The eighth Scottish Grand Départ in modern Tour history will mark the furthest north the race has ever started.  Stage one will begin in Aberdeen city centre, where a full weekend of activities is planned.

**Portlethen Parish Church Sunday School**……starting this Sunday 4th September 2022.  Sunday School is every Sunday at 10.00-10.30am in the church (Donaldson Lounge), for P4-P6 children. Parents are required to be present during the class. This is led by Rev. Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal, minister at the Church.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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