Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new term!  We hope you all enjoyed the Autumn Holiday.  It has lovely to hear pupils sharing their happy holiday news this week. There has also been the added excitement of Halloween trick or treating and our PSC Halloween Discos this week. Thank you to all involved in giving up of their precious time to arrange the discos as our pupils had a super evening! It is great to be holding events like these at school again.

Speaking of events, the date is set for our whole school Christmas outing to the Cinema!  On Wednesday 21st December we will be going to Vue Cinema in Aberdeen to see Disney’s ‘Strange World’, due to be released later this month!  Advance notice so you can avoid booking tickets for this one before we get to see it as a school…. trying to avoid spoilers!  Pre-COVID, we went to Cineworld Queens Links but at the time of booking this year there were concerns regarding the cinema’s future, in addition to the films on offer being films many of us will have seen before.  Further details about our Cinema Christmas outing will be issued nearer the time.

**PSC Noticeboard……**You may have spotted our newPSC noticeboard at the side entrance steps by the public path at Bourtree Park!Many thanks to one of our dad’s Mr McKessar, better known as Keith, for putting this up for us.  A great job!

**PSC Christmas Shopping night Friday 11th November 6-8pm @ Fishermoss School……**with various local businesses showcasing their produce.  Entry fee of **£1** includes a free non-alcoholic mulled wine & mince pie!  We hope to see you all there!

**Cost of Living / Financial Supports and Information……**Please find attached information on financial supports that you and your families may find helpful, particularly in this current climate where we are experiencing rising costs for food, fuel, energy payments and more.

**As always……**If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are back to good health.  Please do not send unwell children to school to see how they will cope.  Thank you for all you are doing at home to encourage your children to have good hand hygiene, amongst everything else you are doing to keep us all as well as possible over the winter months.

**Norovirus**……sometimes referred to as the **winter vomiting bug**, is the most common cause of gastrointestinal outbreaks and can occur in the community-schools and nurseries in particular, especially at this time of year.

**What are the symptoms?**

The symptoms caused by noroviruses are usually a sudden onset of non-bloody, watery **diarrhoea and/or vomiting** which can be projectile, usually lasting 1-2 days.  Other symptoms may include abdominal cramps, muscle aches, headache, a feeling of weakness and a slightly raised temperature.  Staff/pupils can become symptom free then relapse with more symptoms a few days later.

Norovirus infection can occur throughout the year but is **most common from mid-October to April.** The virus is highly contagious; therefore,isolation is key in stopping the spread of infection by limiting the contact between sick staff/pupils and those who could contract the illness.  Staff/pupils who are sick should stay home from school until they have recovered.

Further information regarding preventing the spread of infection can be found on our website under the tab InformationàHealthcare & Medical with a link to: <https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Norovirus-Managing-Gastrointestinal-Infection-in-Schools.docx>

**Messy Church……**Portlethen Parish Church are holding another ‘Messy Church’ event tomorrow Saturday 5th November 3-5pm 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.

Wishing you all 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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**‘Being the best we can be’**

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