

Dear Parents/Carers

Bliadhna Mhath Ur! Happy New Year!

We hope you managed to enjoy making precious memories with family and friends. We really do feel for the significant number of you who were unwell over the festive period, and we hope you will make up for it over the coming days!

**Plastic Free Fridays @ Fishermoss.....**As part of the whole school **Global Warriors**, Primary 6 have launched Plastic Free Fridays. They have challenged pupils to sign up to try not to bring single use plastic with snacks or lunches on a Friday. They have done this to reduce plastic use and wastage and are hoping that people will try to cut down on the single use plastic they use on other days too. Snacks and lunches can be brought to school in reusable boxes or bags instead or some fruit like a banana would be good because that comes in its own packaging. Primary 6 really hope that you support their idea and get involved.

**Date for your diary.....Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb Fishermoss School 'Show & Tell Curriculum Event' 4-6:30pm** at school. This will be an opportunity to visit your child's/children's classroom(s) to find out more about the experiences your child is having at school this session. Our pupils have a lead role in this event as they will be responsible for sharing their learning with you so we need them to attend too as they will be your guide! The event very much takes the form of an informal '**show and tell**'. To manage the number of individuals in the building at any one time, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for a **30-minute slot** in their child's class or in each of their children's classrooms. Further information will follow about how to do this.

To ensure that learners make continuous progress in their learning, reporting opportunities need to be regular, meaningful, purposeful and on-going throughout the academic year. As much as possible our pupils should be involved in the reporting process through on-going reflection and dialogue about their learning. It is also important that reporting fully involves and values the role of parents and carers, as we know that parental engagement has a significant impact on learners' progress. Pupils will share their Learning Celebration Books & Folders with parents at this event and parents are encouraged to add comments and to support their child to include wider achievements. This term pupils will also receive an interim pupil report in their homework diaries week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Approaches to reporting to parents takes many different forms at school including written reports, children presenting their learning through class assemblies, parent/teacher consultation meetings and ongoing oral discussion. Several classes will be presenting their class assembly this term which we very much look forward to. Assemblies are held every Wednesday afternoon this term and as parents, you will be invited to attend your child's/children's '**Class Assembly**' where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of the assembly. Details will appear in class

newsletters as appropriate. For children in Primary 1, this took the form of their Nativity last term.

**Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 Admission.....Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 20th January 2023.** All children who reach their fifth birthday by 29th February 2024 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2023. Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2023 should now register their children for the appropriate local primary school. To register for a primary school place, for a school within your catchment area, please complete the online application which can be found at:  
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForSchoolPlace>.

It is usual practice for children to attend their local catchment primary school, however, you have the right to apply to place your child in a school other than your local school. Please complete an out of zone placing request. (You should still register your child in a school in the area you live in until you know the outcome of your application) Out of Zone Request form can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/out-of-zone-school/>

Please email the following documents, or alternatively present them at school:

- the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth and;
- evidence of the parent/Carer's home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).

All schools in Aberdeenshire have the same start date, in the middle of August each year. You will be informed of this year's start date at the time of registration at school.

Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services makes no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

**Opportunities in School Catering.....**How would you like to join the school catering teams? Looking to get back to work but need to fit in with the children then it could be we have the job for you! Aberdeenshire are looking for staff in all areas of the Shire, Within the south areas which includes Aboyne, Banchory, Stonehaven, Portlethen and Laurencekirk they are looking for catering assistants, relief catering assistants and catering support officers. For catering assistants no previous experience is essential as full training will be given. If you are hardworking and enthusiastic then you will make a great addition to the team, with term time work and great staff to work with.

Catering Support Officers do need to have catering experience and qualifications, but you will enjoy being part of a great team with each week being different and you will build up a great rapport with an amazing catering team.

Please get in touch for further details Linda Smith 07795013338

Email [linda.f.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.f.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

For vacancies across all areas please check Aberdeenshire website vacancies.

**Ukrainian Day.....**Portlethen Church is organising a Ukrainian Day on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**. There will be a service in the church at 10.30am followed by a Ukrainian lunch from 12 noon to 2.00pm. There will be musical entertainment during the lunch by musicians from Portlethen Academy. The lunch will be a fundraising event and donations will be given to Christian Aid Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Please share this information with any Ukrainian families you may know. All are welcome to the Service in the Church and Lunch in the Church Hall. Those interested in attending the lunch should call or leave a message at the Church Office: [portlethenpc@btconnect.com](mailto:portlethenpc@btconnect.com) Tel: 01224 782883.

**Messy Church.....**Portlethen Parish Church are holding a 'Messy Church' event tomorrow, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 3-5pm in Portlethen Church Hall. This looks like great fun with arts, crafts, music and storytelling followed by a yummy supper! Do go along and join them free of charge! A super way to spend Saturday afternoon.

**Police Scotland.....** As we begin 2023, Police Scotland have started a new monthly newsletter to further promote their partnership work with schools, and to positively support children and young people during their educational journey. The topic this month is **Internet Safety**. Please find the attached document which covers guidance for Parents. This contains lots of helpful information about social media, social media apps and appropriate ages for use, in addition to understanding your digital footprint.

**Aberdeens City Music School.....**free concert being held in the Music Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 5pm. Please see the attached poster for further information.

**Finally.....**much as we all tell pupils to look after their belongings, we continue to have a significant number of items of clothing left behind at school, including expensive jackets. Some of our pupils must have incredible wardrobes when an expensive jacket can be left behind at school unnoticed. Amongst others, there is a black Trespass jacket aged 9-10 which had been left in the mud in the playground before Christmas which we have had laundered...smelling fabulous now! Please do come and check our lost property box in our school reception area. It is helpful when items of clothing are named so we can trace them back to their owner.

With my very best wishes for a healthy and happy 2023!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**  
**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services



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