Dear Parents/Carers

It has been quite a week!  Icy conditions around the school and in the community have been like nothing I have seen in 30 years in Portlethen.  Thank you for being supportive of changes to drop off and pick up arrangements.  We have certainly honed our penguin walking skills this week, but I think it is safe to say we are all ‘so over’ this kind of winter weather!

**Wed 1st Feb Fishermoss School ‘Show & Tell Curriculum Event’ 4-6:30pm**. 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 block** in their child’s class or in each of their children’s classrooms.

As before for Parent Events, you must be signed up to Parents’ Portal.  On Monday 23rd January you will receive a Parents’ Portal email to book your 30-minute block.  You will receive 1 email per child.  There will be 4 blocks to choose from:

* 4-4:30pm
* 4:40-5:10pm
* 5:20-5:50pm
* 6-6:30pm

The 10-minute gap is to allow for parents to leave the building, or move to their next child’s class, before the next cohort of parents arrive.

Parents are to select 1 x 30-minute block for their child.  Within each 30-minute block there are 10 available spaces.  So, for example, if you select the 4-4:30pm block, the booking system will show times such as 16:01-16:02, 16:02-16:03 etc all the way to 16:09-16:10…. ignore these very specific times as this was the only way to create 10 time slots in each 30-minute block.  Just select any and it means you are booked for that 30-minute block.  As each of the 10 slots are booked, they will disappear in the booking system.  This all sounds complicated but when you go in and do it all will become clear. The last date for booking is Monday 30th January.  Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office for any help you might need.

As previously stated, the event is arranged in 4-time blocks as potentially for each block there could be 10 pupils and 2 adults per pupil making 30 people in the classroom at any one time.  If we did not organise the event in this manner, we could potentially for a class of 28 pupils have 84 bodies in a classroom at once.  This would not make for a meaningful or enjoyable show and tell curriculum event.  Please therefore do attend for the 30-minute block you book.  If you have booked for more than 1 child, please do not go to your next classroom until your next booked time slot.

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 23rd 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.  We very much enjoyed welcoming parents of Primary 3/4 to school this week and next week will see parents of pupils in Primary 6/7 and Primary 7 come to join us.

**Ukrainian Day**……Portlethen Church is organising a Ukrainian Day on **Sunday 22nd 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 Tel: 01224 782883.

Please do take care out there on the ice this weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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