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| KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLETIN NO 1 **Session 2017 – 2018**  |

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to a new session at Kintore Primary School. As usual holiday time seems to fly by quickly but I am sure all the children had both an eventful and restful time.

The children have returned looking very smart in school colours and seem eager to learn.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the children who turned up for the BBC filming session dressed in school uniform on what was the warmest day of the summer – they performed beautifully. We hope to receive a CD of the programme before it is scheduled. A big thank you is also due to the families who kept an eye on our garden and produce over the summer; their help is much appreciated.

**Being Prepared!**

I just thought you may find it useful to be reminded of:

* **Gym Kits -** Many pupils failed to bring these last year; kits should be in class all week. All classes have “spare” gym kits which can be used by the forgetful!
* **Book Bags –** To protect reading books we would ask that they be kept separate from packed lunches etc; book bags may be purchased from the office but any waterproof bag would suffice.
* **Water Bottles –** Filled bottles should be brought to school daily; please do not fill with juice.
* **Jackets –** Please ensure your child has a jacket each day; lessons will often take place out of doors.
* **Lost Property -** Please name everything and as the year progresses check that it hasn’t worn off. The school is open most evenings and all lost property is stored in the café area – feel free to claim!
* **Healthy Snack –** We are continuing with our “Golden Carrot” award scheme and appreciate your support in ensuring children have a healthy snack. One word of warning though – wasps are beginning to hover around and chopped fruit etc. is best kept in a tub or sealed bag - anything to prevent stings!

**Playground – Arrival and Dismissal**

Please note that the playground is for pupils only and as the P1 children settle in parents should start to keep to the outside of the playground ensuring the entrances are clear for pupils to enter. Please note the following:-

* P1 and P2 pupils will line up in the quad.
* Younger pre-school children should not enter or play in the playground.
* To ensure all pupils go home immediately on dismissal we ask that all pupils do not access the Adventure Playground. Similarly this area should not be used by school or pre-school children prior to 9.00 am.
* Please keep dogs well away from the playground and its entrances.

I appreciate that all of the above sounds restrictive but we do want to ensure children can enter the playground freely and that all have left school safely.

**Bike Friendly School**

Please note that we are a Bike Friendly School and we encourage children to take their bikes to school. However, they should only cycle to school alone if they have sat their Bikeability Test or are accompanied by an adult. There are adequate bike racks for children to leave their bikes and we do advise that they are locked. We also ask that pavements remain safe for pedestrians especially at the beginning and end of the day.

**Late Arrivals**

Please note that **ALL** Late Arrivals should report to the school office. Any child who is arriving late at school for whatever reason (e.g. slept in, been to an appointment) ***MUST*** sign in at School Reception.

**Annual Calendar**

We hope to produce our annual calendar soon which should help with your planning. Please note major holiday periods are always on the Aberdeenshire Council website and the school website and that the October holiday is a little later than usual this session.

**Assessments**

You will be aware that the Scottish Government is introducing new assessments in Literacy and Numeracy this session.

Testing at a national level will take place at P1, P4 and P7. The timings of these have still to be agreed at a local level and once this has been clarified you will be informed of the procedures.

INCAS will still take place in P3 and P5 and as a school we will review what assessments will be suitable for P2 and P6 if finance allows.

**School Meals**

The cost of a school lunch is £2.20. If you misplaced your ipayimpact login details, please contact the school office.

**School Transport**

We assume pupils will use their entitled transport routinely at the end of the day. Any change to the routine should be made in writing. However, a phone call to the office would be appreciated as pupils often forget to hand in notes. The drivers often work to a tight schedule, leaving us very little time to telephone etc.

**Pupil Absences**

Should your child be ill please inform us by leaving a message on the telephone answer machine. If you can indicate the length of the absence you do not need to phone in daily. We are now obliged to follow-up any unreported absence to ensure pupil safety – this we will do by phone or text.

*NB If your child is absent for sickness or diarrhoea then they must be kept off for 48 hours from their last “episode”. This rule also stands if your child has been sent home from school due to sickness or diarrhoea.*

**School Office**

Whilst we are always happy to help out, the office staff constantly find themselves running errands such as returning forgotten homework, gym kits, packed lunch boxes, water bottles, play snack etc. to pupils. As pupils move around the school it can take some time to track them down and then the class is disrupted.

We can easily organise a school meal, which can be paid at a later date, and pupils should be able to accept responsibility for forgotten homework.

However, we accept we are here to help!

**Primary 1**

Pupils will begin full-time attendance on Monday, 4 September 2017. There will be a Curricular Induction event **for parents** at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 6 September 2017.

**P2-P7 Open Afternoon**

Parents of pupils in P2-P7 are welcome to visit their child’s class on the afternoon of Friday, 1 September 2017 between 1.45 pm and 2.45 pm. Class Teachers will issue invites.

**Parent/Adult Helpers**

As you know we are indebted to the many parent helpers who assist us in a wide range of activities. We need various types of support, some on a weekly basis and some when the need arises. A reduction in the number of staff means we may need some additional support to run Excellence Time. However, this won’t resume until the P7 pupils are back from Inverclyde so details of this will follow later.

Occasional support in terms of expertise, eg computing, crafts and gardening would also be welcome. If you would like to help in any way please return the attached slip as soon as possible.

**Football Training**

***NB – ALL FOOTBALL SESSIONS WILL START WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY, 28 AUGUST 2017.***

***August – October AND April - June***

Monday P6 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P3 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P7 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Wednesday P1 6.00 – 7.00 pm *(P1 only start once they are in full days)*

Wednesday P4 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Thursday P5 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Friday P2   6.00 – 7.00 pm

All of these sessions will be held on the Astro.

**P1 Children at Football**

All P1 parents to make sure their child goes to the toilet before dropping off. Children can only attend if a permission slip has been returned and they must be signed in and out each week. Shin guards are recommended for training. Extra helpers may be required depending on numbers.

**General Information for all Children attending Football Training**

Football boots should not be worn on the Astroturf – trainers are recommended. Shin guards should also be worn. Parents should check that there is a Coach at the session and not just drop off and drive away. **All** children attending football for Session 2017-2018 should complete the attached permission slip (one per child) which should be given to the Coach.

**Aberdeenshire Council Instrumental Music Service: Violin Opportunity for P4**

Any P4 pupil interested in learning to play the violin please collect a form expressing your interest from the school office or foyer.

**Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service Events**

The Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service has a variety of events and activities taking place in September. Have a look at their website [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and- culture/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-%20culture/)/ranger-service for more information. A copy of their programme can also be found on the school website.

**Head Lice**

Now and again these little darlings make their way into school and find their way onto the cleanest of heads. Things can be kept under control if:-

* Pupils do not attend school until their hair has been treated.
* Buy the most up-to-date treatment; lice build up resistance meaning treatment has to change regularly. The pharmacist will advise and most treatments are free.
* Check the whole family’s hair regularly following treatment as re-infestation can occur. Re-treat with something different if necessary.
* Treating hair that is free from lice is not advisable.
* Using a fine comb and brushing in a range of directions helps as does applying conditioner (makes the hair slippy).

**School Book Bags / Gym Bags**

School Book Bags and Gym Bags are available from the school office. Prices as noted below:-

Book Bags = £4.50

Gym Bags = £3.50

**Internet**

Over the last session we have had a good reason to have concerns around inappropriate use of social media and just how vulnerable our children are if this is misused.

We have decided to buy in some support in this and hope to deliver workshops to senior pupils, staff and to parents.

The parent session will take place here in the school on Thursday 5 October. Hopefully we will have a good response.

**Spree Books**

These should now be home/on their way home with the children and are due back in the office by Friday, 15 September 2017. Please return any Spree Books/money for Spree Books to the school **as soon as possible** otherwise the school will be charged for any outstanding books.

**Easy Fundraising**

Many thanks to those of you who support us with this. We have most recently received a cheque for £76.68 – every little helps! This is a very easy way to raise funds whilst ordering goods over the internet. Visit the website for more details - [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). This now also includes the GROUPON vouchers.

**Active Schools Clubs**

There are a number of spaces available at a couple of Active Schools Clubs this term. P2-3 Hip Hop takes place on Fridays from 4.15 pm – 5.15 pm. Morning Tennis, 8.00 am – 8.45 am, on Fridays is open to P3 and P4 pupils. If you would like to sign your child up, or find out some more information, then please contact your Active Schools Co-ordinator Lynsey Coutts on lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**Bikeability**

As intimated last session, P6 pupils will commence this term. This can only go ahead if we have sufficient parent support. Plans are still being finalised, partly because I made an error when booking the trainer, who is now on holiday, but I should have this rectified next week.

Parent training is likely to take place either Thursday 31 August or Friday 1 September (am).

The other tentative plans are:

* Monday 11 September - bicycle check
* Every following Monday, Thursday, Friday (1.20 pm – 2.45 pm) bicycle training – initially on school grounds
* Friday 6 October – Assessment

Parent helpers are key to the success of this and any help is welcome – you don’t have to be a P6 parent and you don’t have to attend every session – just do what you can.

Further details will be issued next week.

**Staffing**

There are a few changes for the start of the session:

Mrs Tracy Lewis, who has lived in Aviemore now for a few years, has a job there and will finish with us in a few weeks time. Tracy has been with us for eight years and will be sorely missed.

Miss Jessica Stewart is moving to the Lothians and has a post in Duns Primary School; she too will complete her period of notice in a few weeks time.

Mrs Nicola Cousins, Pupil Support Assistant, resigned during the holiday due to family commitments. We have advertised her post alongside the temporary PSA posts.

All the above will be missed by both the children and their colleagues – we wish them well.

We have a number of new staff to welcome to our merry band:

* Mr Steven Munro, Mr Richard Davidson and Ms Jessica Airlie; all probationer teachers.
* Ms Pauline Donnelly who will be working this term across a number of classes.

**Forthcoming Events**

Friday, 1 September 1.45pm – 2.45 pm - Open Afternoon P2-P7

Monday, 4 September - P7 trip to Inverclyde

Wednesday, 6 September - Curricular Induction P1 parents

**Holidays for 2017/2018 Session (for those who like to plan ahead!)**

Monday, 16 October 2017 – Friday, 27 October 2017 (Inclusive) - October Holidays

Monday, 13 November 2017 - In-Service Day

Tuesday, 14 November 2017 - In-Service Day

Friday, 22 December 2017 – Friday, 5 January 2018 (Inclusive) - Christmas Holidays

Monday, 12 February 2018 - Holiday

Tuesday, 13 February 2018 - In-Service Day

Wednesday, 14 February 2018 - In-Service Day

Friday, 30 March 2018 - Friday, 13 April 2018 (Inclusive) - Easter Break

Monday, 7 May 2018 - May Day Holiday

Monday, 4 June 2018 - Occasional Day

Friday, 6 July 2018 - Last Day of School before Summer Break



**WILMA WALKER 25 August 2017** ***TYPED BY M Meyer***

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**Bulletin No 1 Parent Comments**

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**Extra Curricular**

I would be happy to organise/help out with …………………………………………………………………………….

*(Please specify)*

Name …….…………………………………………………………….. Telephone Number ………………………………………

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**Parent Helpers**

I am able to help by (please tick).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Working in classrooms |  | Days …………….…………………………. Times ……..………….…… |
| Running after school club/lunchtime club |  | in (subject) …………………………………………………………………. |
| Being a parent helper on school trips |  |  |

Name …….…………………………………………………………….. Telephone Number ………………………………………

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***\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE THIS SLIP ALONG TO THE FIRST TRAINING SESSION AND HAND TO THE COACH\*\*\****

**Football Training**

I hereby give permission for my child to attend football training. I acknowledge that I am responsible for my child travelling to and from coaching.

Child’s Name ……………………………………………………………………………………….. Class ……………………………………..

Home Phone Number ………………………………………………………………….........

Mobile Phone Number ……………………………………………………………………….

Email Address …………………………………………………………………………………….

Pupil Medical Information ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Parent/Guardian Signature ……………………………………………………………… Date ………………………………………