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| KINTORE PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLETIN NO 1 |

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to a new session at Kintore School. The summer has been warm, even if a little wet at times and the children have returned glowing with health and ready to go.

Many thanks for ensuring the children are wearing school uniform and colours – they all look so smart.

A big thank you to the families who volunteered to keep an eye on our school garden over the Summer – not the easiest of task this year but the garden is looking good and we even have some produce.

A warm welcome too, to the staff and pupils of Midmill School who will be with us for a few months. They are hoping to move into their school after the November In-Service days, followed by the Kinellar pupils on Friday, 18 November.

**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!
* **Fair Trade Tuckshop –** This is under review and in line with the ‘Golden Carrot’ scheme, children should bring their own free choice snack on Fridays.

**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 be accompanied by an adult. There are plenty of bike racks for children to leave their bikes and we do advise that they lock their bikes. 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 ie late, been to an appointment etc ***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.

**Assessments**

This session, alongside other Aberdeenshire Schools, we will be assessing pupil attainment in literacy and numeracy as follows:-

August - P1 Baseline Assessment

October - P5 Assessments

January-February - P7 Assessments

February-March - P3 Assessments

May-June - P1 Re-Assessments

Pupils work individually at the computer for these and results will be collated in such a way that individual as well as year group progress can be monitored. We are also considering testing at P2, P4 and P6 to further inform us of pupil progress.

Please note that this is not our sole means of gathering information on pupil progress. Teachers use their own judgment, gather evidence from a number of sources and may also use testing for diagnostic purposes.

**School Meals and *myaccount***

The cost of a school lunch is £2.15 (£10.75 per week).

Aberdeenshire Council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount*on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

*myaccount*is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councilors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

For those parents not already registered with *myaccount* full instructions of how to do so are on their way home to you shortly, explaining how to register and pay online for school meals.

**School Transport**

We assume pupils would 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 diarrhea 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 diarrhea.*

**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.

Our office, because it is accessible to all, tends to be very busy dealing with queries etc and we would appreciate if these disruptions could be minimised.

**Primary 1**

Pupils will begin full-time attendance on Monday, 29 August 2016. There will be an induction curricular event **for parents** at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 31 August 2016.

**P2-P7 Open Afternoon**

Parents of pupils in P2-P7 are welcome to visit their child’s class on the afternoon of Friday, 26 August 2016 between 1.45 pm and 2.45 pm.

**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 Nethybridge 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, 22 AUGUST 2016.***

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

Monday P5 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P2 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P6 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Wednesday P3 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Wednesday P7 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Thursday P4 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Friday P1   6.00 – 7.00 pm

All of these sessions will be held on the Astro.

***October - March***

Monday P5 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P2 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Tuesday P6 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Wednesday P3 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Wednesday P7 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Thursday P4 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Friday P1   6.00 – 7.00 pm

These sessions will be held indoors.

**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 2016-2017 should complete the attached Permission Slip (one per child) which should be given to the Coach.

**Basketball P4 – P7 – Thursdays - 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm**

Coaching will resume on Thursday, 1 September 2016. The dates for Term 1 are: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 September and 6 October. For Term 2 the dates are: 27 October, 3, 10, 17, 24 November and 1, 8, 15 December. Please return the attached slip should you wish your child to attend, even if they attended last year. Children should be dressed appropriately and are expected to behave at all times.

**Netball – P4 – P7 – Mondays - 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm**

Netball will re-start on Monday, 5 September 2016. Please complete the attached slip and return to school ASAP. For those who attended last year and completed a Returners Slip you DO NOT need to complete the attached slip – your place has been reserved. Places are limited so please return your form ASAP.

**Extra-Curricular**

Details of all other Extra-Curricular activities will be issued shortly.

**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

**Spree Books**

These should now be home/on their way home with the children and are due back in the office by Tuesday, 30 August 2015. 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 recently received a cheque for £15.21 – 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**

Active School have organised coaching sessions in Tennis and Hip Hop this term. These sessions cater for P2 to P7. For more information please contact your Active Schools Co-ordinator Lynsey Coutts on 07909 875 461 or lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk - alternatively check out the active schools webpage [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/activeschools](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/activeschools).

**Staffing**

We have a number of staff changes/additions this session.

Miss Hannah Ratcliffe – Hannah has joined the team in P7 classes, recently moved from Skene School.

Mrs Jennifer Flett – Jennifer is an experienced teacher having previously taught in Aberdeen.

Mr Andrew Musselwhite – a few years ago Andrew was our PE teacher but he has recently converted his qualification to primary teaching.

Mrs Foster and Mrs Strand - will be providing teachers with their non-contact time.

Mrs Morag Cooper – Morag joins us as a probationary teacher in P2.

Miss Scott has returned as Mrs Paterson – we wish her every future happiness.

Miss Sharon Harries – joins the nursery team (she did so briefly before the end of the session).

Mrs Diane Lamb – joins our support team as teacher in the Learning Hub.

Ms Karen Low – joins our administrative staff in the office.

Miss Kerry Armstrong - will be with us as PE specialist on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ms Susan Cree – Susan will begin her maternity leave in late September and until then will be working across several classrooms.

We welcome Nicola Cousins and Hazel Allan, our new PSAs.

Mrs Young - gave birth to baby Oliver in July – both doing well.

**Holidays for 2015/2016 Session (for those who like to plan ahead!)**

Tuesday, 16 August 2016 - Session 2016-2017 Resumes

Monday, 10 October 2016 – Friday, 21 October 2016 (Inclusive) - October Holidays

Monday, 14 November 2016 - In-Service Day

Tuesday, 15 November 2016 - In-Service Day

Thursday, 22 December 2016 – Wednesday, 4 January 2017 (Inclusive) - Christmas Holidays

Monday, 13 February 2017 - Holiday

Tuesday, 14 February 2017 - In-Service Day

Wednesday, 15 February 2017 - In-Service Day

Monday, 3 April 2017 - Monday, 17 April 2017 (Inclusive) - Easter Break

Friday, 14 April 2017 - Good Friday (No School)

Monday, 1 May 2017 - May Day Holiday

Monday, 5 June 2017 - Local Holiday

Friday, 30 June 2017 - Last Day of School before Summer Break



**WILMA WALKER** 17 August 2016

Head Teacher ***TYPED BY K LOW***

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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 ………………………………………

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**Basketball Training**

I hereby give permission for my child to attend Basketball 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 …………………………………………………………………………………….

My child will be collected from Basketball

My child will walk home from Basketball

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

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

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**Netball – P4 - P7 – Mondays - 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

I would like my child to attend Netball Coaching.

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

My child will be collected from Netball

My child will walk home from Netball

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

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

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

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