

Fettercairn School

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Fettercairn

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05/10/2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we approach the end of term, I thought I would give you an update regarding a few things that have happened in school. We have had a successful return to the school this session and all is back to normal! The children have just started using the newly laid grass – it’s as if they have never seen grass before! I suspect all the children are beginning to get tired now and are looking forward to their break next week and ready for the busy Christmas Term and the return of the Christmas show!

**Parent Council Coffee Afternoon**

On Wednesday 12th October the Parent Council will be holding a coffee afternoon for any parent wishing to attend in the Adult Lounge of the school from 2-3pm. If you have time please come along.

**ALEC – Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres** [**http://alec.org.uk/**](http://alec.org.uk/)

The children will be visited by Harold the giraffe from ALEC on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd November. ALEC will also be offering a Parent workshop, if you want any more information about the programme. Keep a look out for further information.

**School Closure**

Next week school closes on Friday 14th October at 3.15pm and re-opens on Monday 31st October. Please also remember next Term we have two in service days when the school will be closed to Pupils on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th November. The term finishes on Friday 23rd December.

**Health/Sickness**

Please keep your child off school if they are not well enough to attend, no matter how much they want to come. School is not a good place for children when they aren’t well. **Remember too that if your child has sickness / upset tummy then 48hrs must be left between the last bout and them returning to school**. This is to prevent other children from getting it. Absences are recorded and, if we have not heard from you that your child will be off, it is our duty to telephone to check that your child is indeed at home. If you know that your child is going to be absent due to an appointment, please could you let us know in writing beforehand where possible.

**Harvest**

Thank you to all the parents that have supported Primary 1 with the Harvest collection. Primary 1 will be delivering the Harvest on Friday 14th October So if you would still like to donate then please send any products in by Thursday 13th October. Thanks.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs**

Our clubs got up and running again this session, with thanks to Miss Robbie, Miss Riley and Mrs Strachan. Next term there will be some slight changes to when the clubs run, so please watch out for these when the sign up opens. We will also be running our Art club and thanks go to Mrs Armstrong and Miss Gatherum for setting this up. Next term we will again be running our Children’s lunch clubs/

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lead by the pupils. I am led to believe that there are 10 different clubs ranging from a debating club to a Harry Potter Club!

The children will receive a sign up in school for those in the new term. A massive thanks to all those pupils who are offering to lead a club – it is a great opportunity for the leaders and those who take part.

**Free School Meals for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils**

The Scottish Government has paused the roll out of free school meals to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

The government’s decision was made to allow further work with COSLA, the national association of Scottish councils, and all local authorities to fully assess the financial and infrastructure challenges that have been highlighted for the final phase of the expansion plans. We will be in touch with further information when a decision is taken by the government to progress the roll-out to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

**Financial Support Information**

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some information on financial supports that you may find helpful, particularly in the current climate where we are experiencing rising costs for food, fuel and energy payments. I hope you find this useful and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can help you in any way.

Cost of Living Support Aberdeenshire council have a page on their website dedicated to providing support / links for energy bills, council tax, food banks and more. Access their page : <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communitiesand-events/cost-of-living/>

**Free School Meals and Clothing Grant**

Free school meals are provided to all Nursery – P5 children regardless of income. Children are eligible for free school meals if their parents (or carers) are in receipt of a qualifying benefit:

• Income Support (IS)

• Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

• Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)

• Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance

• Child Tax Credit (CTC), but not Working Tax Credit (WTC), and have an income of less than £17,005

• Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of less than £7,920

• Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

• Universal Credit with a monthly net pay from your employer of less than £660 (this is based on your actual net pay, not the figure determined by Universal Credit)

Further information and the application form can be accessed:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/assistance/free-school-meals/>

Worrying About Money? – Financial Advice and Support Leaflet. Please find attached a support leaflet that provides information on where you can access support within Aberdeenshire.

[Aberdeenshire - Worried about Money? (worryingaboutmoney.co.uk)](https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/aberdeenshire)

**Cash For Kids Emergency Fund**

This is a fund that we can apply for on your behalf, there is no limit to the number of applications that can be made by the school and it can be used to cover costs for essential items e.g. heating, food, clothes, phone and electricity top ups etc. Each application, if accepted, will receive a minimum of £100 depending on your circumstances and is usually provided within 7 days. In order to qualify for this funding you must be experiencing / affected by poverty and your children must be between 0-18 years/

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old and live in Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire. We would a require a brief explanation of what you would use this payment for and you will need to provide us with evidence / receipts of your spending.

**Free Bus Travel:**

All young people and children aged 5-21 years can apply for a card to access the Young Persons’ (Under 22s) Free Bus Travel Scheme, which began on 31 January 2022.

They will need a National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot NEC with the valid free travel entitlement with them whenever they want to take the bus – otherwise you’ll have to pay for the trip.

You can either apply online at [getyournec.scot](https://getyournec.scot/nec/) or on [parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot/home/).

Yours sincerely



I.Clarke

Head Teacher