



## EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent/ Carers

### **Mid-Term Update**

Welcome back to Term 3. After the excitement of Halloween and Christmas in Term 2, this tends to be a much more 'business-like' term where learning is happening full-tilt.

### **Adverse Weather / Late Opening / Snow Closure**

Making a decision about closing a school is one of the most challenging decisions for a Head Teacher. There is a myriad of considerations to take in to account. Part of the challenge is that, for every parent who questions a late opening or a school closure, there is another questioning why we open in such conditions!

Essentially, we have a duty to our learner,, to parents who need to attend work and to those entitled to free school meals. Consequently, the school will be open if it is at all possible to do so.

We are keen to avoid a late opening due to the logistical challenges for you and for us but it remains the best compromise if conditions are uncertain / poor to avoid a full closure. Indeed, the option of a full closure was an active consideration until around 9am yesterday.

We do have a few teaching staff and a number of support staff who can be here for an 8.50am start on the day of a late opening so, in the event you have **no other option** for childcare (e.g. for work reasons), we can help out.

### **Snowy Weather Clothing**

During periods where we have lots of snow, we try to use a mix of indoor and outdoor breaks. As such, it would be good if pupils could come with appropriate footwear and clothing for the conditions. If your child comes in wellies or snowboots, it would be really handy if they had a change of shoes with them to change into during class time. Slippers, whilst comfortable, are probably not the best in the event of a fire drill!

## **Parents' Evening Appointments**

With the exception of Miss Mitchell's class, you will get a chance to meet with your child's teacher on either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow.

We are moving to an online booking system. To be able to book appointments, you must be signed up to ParentsPortal. Currently, only around 40% of our parents are signed up.

For you to be able to access this, the details you enter must match what we have on our database. If you are having a problem creating an account, this will most likely be due to the details not matching. Please phone the school in the event of this happening so we can cross reference details.

Details of how to create an account are contained in the link below

<https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/request/ParentsPortalLink>

## **Xpressions**

If you have not already done so, please download the app and create an account. Xpressions is the quickest, cheapest and most efficient way for us to communicate with you.

Similar to ParentsPortal, issues with creating an account will often be due to a mismatch between the details you have entered and those which we hold. Please contact us in the event of a problem.

Please search Groupcall Xpressions on your app store to find the correct app.

## **Allergies**

We recently had to complete a risk assessment for a pupil who has a nut allergy.

As of now, we respectfully ask that you refrain from adding certain nut based products to your child's packed lunch box or for their snack. Anything peanut-based should certainly be avoided. Hazelnut and almond based products have been assessed as low risk so Nutella sandwiches or Bueno chocolate, for example, would still be ok.

## **Achievements**

If your child has achieved something out of school (big or small), you are welcome to send us an e-mail with brief details of that achievement along with a photo if you can. We can then share with their classmates and at assembly. Please use the admin e-mail address.

## Forthcoming Dates

Date	Event
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 @ 6.30pm	Frog Squad Meeting (Community Room)
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Cosy Clothes Swap
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> and Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	School closed for mid-term break
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb @ 2pm	P6s – Scottish Opera performance
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Childsmile in school
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> and Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dental inspections for all pupils
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening Appointments

Yours sincerely



**Head Teacher**