

Dear Families

I'm a wee bit late in welcoming you all back to school this year and this term. I do hope you all had a good holiday and are bearing up with the cold, wind and rain that is January in Scotland. At least we have dodged the snow for now! In my last bulletin I mentioned Severe Weather policy and indicated a few wee changes this year.

PKC have adapted central plans for severe weather a little. Previously, staff who could not attend their own place of work were meant to go to their nearest school (in the hope they could attend there safely and provide 'cover' for the staff who couldn't travel to their own workplace). This is now no longer the practice in PKC. Instead, where a school cannot open due to weather conditions and staff not being able to get to their work, children should stay at home and staff will provide some remote learning for them. This would be shared with children on Learning Journals. Communications from school would come in the usual forms: EduSpot (the App) or Groupcall Emails (depending on which you are signed up for). Do get in touch with Mrs Beattie in the school office if you want to check your comms preference.

Learning Journals – reminder of Abernethy School/Nursery practice

Up to 2 parents can have access to Learning Journals. We have, in line with Teachers' Working Time Agreement, an expectation that teachers send home 1 'observation' and 2 'stories' over a 2 week period of time. In Nursery, there are the same expectations.

An observation is more likely to feature work/learning/personal targets your child is working on and should inform you of their skill levels here, sometimes with ideas for the child to keep working at or for you to support your child with at home. A story is a more general post which lets you know of other things your child is doing currently in school. We would ask that you 'like' the posts as you see them then we'll know you are able to access Learning Journals. If any parent is having issues with Learning Journals do please get in touch with Mrs Ellis, in the office, as she is our main contact with the Learning Journal company who iron out problems for us. Learning Journals does cost quite a bit of money, paid for by our Parent Council fundraising, so we really want it to work properly for us.

Primary 1 registration for August 2026

This is a reminder for any parent who wishes their child to be registered for Primary 1 next session, to do so this week. If your child is already 5 or turns 5 by 18 August 2026 then they should be enrolled for school. If you are not sure about registering your child for school do please get in touch with us. Here is the link for registering your child to Primary 1 [Primary and secondary school enrolment - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

As we gather the list of children preparing to join P1 in August, we also begin early transition activities. Those who are going into P1, and who are already at our Nursery, will be more involved in activities such as Assemblies, playing in the playground during breaktimes, visits into the P1 classroom to play with the current P1 etc. We will have a full timetable of specific transition events, to help your child prepare for school, from Easter onwards. But in the meantime, we will be dabbling here and there in a

more relaxed manner from January onwards. We'll share this with the parents of those children via Learning Journals.

School uniform and indoor shoes

We would really appreciate if parents could provide an indoor pair of shoes for children to wear. The weather and muck outside in the playground is causing quite a bit of mess in classrooms. Many children sit on the carpet for key learning so indoor shoes will keep the place a lot cleaner. Indoor shoes can stay here all week, or go to/from school in bags. While slippers are comfy, they're possibly not the safest thing to wear as there's a lot of movement in a learning day (toes are better protected in something more sturdy). A reminder too, that for PE lessons, children should be wearing gym shoes or trainers (not the trainers they wear outside). We will be reminding children that our school jumper colour is red (and not black). Parents, please do your best to help children remember this. We have A LOT of spare red jumpers/cardigans at lost property which you are welcome to FOC if you don't want to buy any new ones.

Burns Poetry competitions

It's that time of year again, where all P1-7 children will be learning Scottish poetry for their homework. Please do support your child to give this their best 'go'. P4-7 children get together on Friday 30th Jan where 5 children recite to the bigger school audience for prizes. Our House Captains will also be planning a little Scottish Fun and Frolic afternoon, with their leadership bonnets on, where all children will get a chance to celebrate the Bard's birthday at the end of the month. On Friday 30th it's WEAR SOMETHING TARTAN DAY.

Dates for your diary

A reminder that...

Wednesday 28 January 6.30pm is a Parent Council Meeting – everyone is welcome to attend in GP room (a warm welcome and usually some nice things to eat!)

Wednesday 11 February is an Inservice Day (no pupils in Nursery or School)

Thursday 12 and Friday 13 February are local holidays.

Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 March are parent contact meetings for P1-7 with Nursery having the whole week to meet with parents at various times

Friday 27 March there will be a Spring Disco in the School, to raise funds for the Parent Council

Friday 3rd April is the first day of the Easter Holiday

Future bulletins will return to Fridays 😊

Kind regards

Fiona Whittet, HT