



Head Teacher: Mr Michael Spence

Children's Services

Aith Junior High School
Aith
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17 August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to a new school year. I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable summer. We are returning to school with the hope that we can have as normal a year as possible. However, we are still living through the Covid-19 pandemic and the school has in place some mitigations to try and help us all.

COVID-19

The most recent information on Covid-19 is available on the NHS website [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

Lateral Flow Tests

All School staff and Secondary Pupils are asked to take a lateral flow test twice a week for this term.

Pupils can pick up the testing kits from the school office when the consent link has been completed.

Click here for the [Consent form for COVID-19 testing](#)

The government has an online service where anybody aged 11 or over can request a lateral flow home testing kit. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus please contact the NHS immediately for a test and follow their advice on self-isolation.

To self-refer for testing if you have Covid-19 symptoms please click on the link below and complete the form.

[UK Government COVID-19 Testing Programme Referral Form - NHS Shetland](#)

If you are unable to access the form and don't have someone who can help you with it you can phone a dedicated phone number to self-refer on 01595 532030 between 9-12.30 and 2-5pm, Monday to Friday or email shet-hb.ukgovcovid19testscheme@nhs.net.

Self-isolation

There have been changes to self-isolation procedures where the blanket self-isolation of whole classes will no longer be routine. Test and Protect tracing will be carried out if any staff or children test positive and close contacts may be identified and should self-isolate in line with advice.

Symptoms at school

Please note there will be zero tolerance of Covid-19 symptoms and anyone who feels unwell must not come to School or Nursery. Those arriving at the school or nursery displaying any Covid-19 symptoms will be asked to return home. Anyone who develops any of the Covid-19 symptoms throughout the school day will be taken to an isolation room and parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child immediately. They are not allowed to travel on School transport.

Face Coverings

For the first six weeks of the term, arrangements around face coverings are as follows:

- In secondary settings, face coverings will continue to be required to be worn by all staff and all pupils, unless exemptions apply, in the school building throughout the school day.
- In primary and early learning and childcare settings, face coverings should be worn by adults where they cannot keep two metres from other adults and /or children and young people. Face coverings should also be used by adults when not working directly with children, for example when moving around settings.
- Any primary aged child wishing to wear a face covering can do so but this is not a requirement.
- Face coverings should be worn by parents and carers and other visitors to the school site (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents and carers at drop-off and pick-up points.
- There is a supply of face-coverings in the school office if any pupil requires one.

Health and safety measures

Other health and safety measures that were in place in school and Nursery prior to the end of last term will also continue, including:

- The use of hand sanitisers throughout the school day.
- Daily hand sanitisation for all children and young people on arrival at their setting.
- Enhanced daily cleaning and further cleaning undertaken daily at the end of each pupil day.
- Careful monitoring to ensure the appropriate level of ventilation and adequate air flow throughout school buildings. CO2 monitors will continue to be deployed, monitoring the level of CO2, and temperature in classrooms.

Primary classes for the year ahead.

Primary 1/2	Mrs Frances Moffat
Primary 2/3	Miss Hannah Chance (Miss Nicola Leask – Wednesdays)
Primary 4	Mrs Mandy Anderson (Miss Nicola Leask – Tuesdays)
Primary 5	Mrs Ingrid Smith (Mrs Kirsten Smith – Tuesdays)
Primary 6/7	Mr Mark Balfour

PE

At present, we are continuing with no use of changing facilities for PE. We are asking that pupils come to school on PE days with suitable clothes for indoor PE.

Pupils will be issued their new timetables on their return to school. On Wednesday the classes that will have PE are:

- P3/4/5,
- P2/3,
- S4 Core PE,
- S3 national PE
- P1/2 (afternoon lesson)
- S2
- S4 National PE

SQA Results 2020-21

Our Secondary four cohort received their SQA certificates at the start of August. We wish them every success in the future and I would like to thank our staff and parents who supported them throughout their time in school.

Tuckshop

We stopped our tuckshop last year due to the pandemic. We are hoping to get this up and running again, starting next week. More details will follow.

Annual Data Check

Your son/daughter will have a Data Check form home with them soon. We would appreciate if you could review and amend where necessary then return to the school as soon as possible even if there are no changes.

Attendance

Parents/Guardians are reminded that it is their responsibility to contact the School Office before 9.30am on each day of a pupil's absence unless prior notice of absence has been given. 01595 807400.

If your child becomes unwell during the school day, you will be contacted, and appropriate arrangements will be agreed.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent from school, we would ask you to complete 'An Application for Leave of Absence by Pupils'. You can request this form from the School Office.

Please note that any unexplained absences have to be followed up by office staff.

Dinner Money & Milk Money

School dinners for the year are £2.20 per day for Primary pupils and £2.60 per day for Secondary pupils.

Milk money for Primary pupils is £8.00 for this term.

The payments for School lunches and milk is through Parent Pay, <https://www.parentpay.com/>

All new pupils in the school and all S1 pupils will be issued activation login details.

ParentPay is an online payment service, which allows parents/carers to make safe and secure payments online for school meals and milk. ParentPay allows you to make payments online in weekly or larger payments. You can view your account statement and payment history and check when payments need to be made online.

Schools Service require you to opt your child/ren in or out for school meals on a termly basis. The exception will be for any school absence and your account will not be charged. All children will be automatically opted in for school meals and milk. **Please let the school office know if you wish to opt out of school meals or milk.** Special meals, such as Christmas lunch, is still available to all pupils.

If you require any further information, please phone the office on 807 400.

Primary 1 – 4 meals. If your child/ren is in Primaries 1, 2, 3 or 4 then their school lunches are free as funding is provided by the Scottish Government. However, you still need to pay for their milk.

Home Economics Payments

The Scottish Government has made a commitment to no additional costs to access the curriculum.

There will no longer be a charge for Home Economics or Hospitality lessons.

Online Protection

For information about online protection for your child, you may like to look at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's website.

The direct link is:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Absence Period for Sickness or Diarrhoea

NHS advise is that the absence period for sickness or diarrhoea should be 48 hours after the last episode.

Further information on absence periods is available at the following link:

[infection-prevention-control-childcare](#)

Appendix 3 – Page 20 has a table with recommended absence periods.

Communication

We would encourage parents that the best way to receive information from the school is through e-mail. This ensures that information or letters do not remain in pupil bags unnoticed. It also saves the school a significant amount of photocopying and the cost associated with that.

On occasion, we do send home information with paper copies, which require parental signature and return.

The school has a Facebook page. If you search "Aith Junior High School" you should find this page. However, if you have any queries or questions please contact the school directly either by phone or email.

National Parent Forum of Scotland

The National Parent Forum of Scotland <http://www.npfs.org.uk> has a very good website for parents and for learners explaining the Broad General Education and National Qualifications.

Medication in School

The Policy on Health Care Needs in Schools is available from the school office

If your child needs any medication while at school there are some forms that require to be completed.

Form ii – Parental Request for pupil to carry their Medication

This form is to be completed if your child carries their own inhaler/tablets and does not need the school to administer.

Form iii – Parental Request for School to Administer Medication

This form is to be completed if you want the school to keep your child's medication in the Office.

Free school meals/clothing grant

Information on free school meals and/or clothing grant is available on the council website, or from the school office. Families who received free meals last session must reapply for this session.

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp>

All pupils in Primary 1 to 4 will receive School Meals free of charge. However, these pupils should still be included on application forms if they wish to apply for Free School Milk and/or a Clothing Grant.

Application forms are available on the council website at www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp. Paper application forms are also available on request from Children's Services, Hayfield House on 01595 743844. Completed application forms can be e-mailed to childrensservices-finance@shetland.gov.uk or posted to: Children's Services, Hayfield House, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0QD.

If you have a query about entitlement to clothing grants or free school meals, you can contact the Children's Services Department:

- By telephone: 01595 743844
- By email: childrensservices-finance@shetland.gov.uk

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Some pupils, when they turn 16 years old may be eligible to claim an Education Maintenance Allowance. Please follow this link for more information.

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/EMA.asp#educationmaintenanceallowance>

Free Period Products

Free Period Products are available to all young people attending School. Pupils can complete an order form linked on the Shetland Islands Council website to sign up to a 3 monthly subscription or for a trial one-off 3 month supply.

<http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/Periodequality.asp>

Instrument Instruction waiting list

As of this new school year, there are no charges for Instrumental tuition. If your child is interested in receiving music tuition in the school, please contact School's Service directly using the following link: [Instrumental Instruction – Shetland Islands Council](#)

Easy Fundraising

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/aithjhsf/>

If you shop online there is an easy way for you to help support Aith Junior High School Fund.

The school has raised more than £1200 from this website. This money is always put to good use providing resources and experiences for pupils that we may not otherwise be able to offer.

Holiday & Term Dates

- Holiday and Term dates up to 2024-2025 can be found on the School Service website.
- http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/term_dates.asp

For 2021-22

Term 1	Wednesday 18 August 2021 to Friday 8 October 2021
Term 2	Wednesday 27 October 2021 to Tuesday 21 December 2021
Term 3	Thursday 6 January 2022 to Friday 1 April 2022
Term 4	Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Friday 1 July 2022

Occasional Holiday Dates	In-Service Dates
Wednesday 26 January 2022	Monday 16 August 2021
Friday 25 February 2022	Tuesday 17 August 2021
Monday 28 February 2022	Monday 25 October 2021
Monday 18 April 2022	Tuesday 26 October 2021
Monday 23 May 2022	Wednesday 5 January 2022

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL SPENCE
Head Teacher

AITH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2020 - 2021 School Calendar

August '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

October '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '20						
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29	30					

December '20						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January '21						
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31						

February '21						
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28						

March '21						
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28	29	30	31			

April '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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May '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- School Closed/ Holidays
- In-Service Day
- Occasional Holiday