



Alehousewells School Newsletter 01

August 2019



Alehousewells School

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Kemnay

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Head Teacher:

Mrs Carol Hughes

Emergency Contact Details Update

Childs Name: _____

Class: _____

Emergency Contact:
Name: _____

Number: _____

Address: _____

Diary Dates:

Wed 28 Aug - Parent Council meeting, 6.30pm, all welcome. Please enter via the front door.

Fri 30 Aug – P1 and parent taster lunch, 11.30am.

Mon 2 Sept – P1 in all day as of today.

Wed 4 Sept – Dalguise meeting for P7s and parents at 6.30pm. Further information to follow.

Wed 11 Sept – Parent Council AGM at 6.30pm. Please enter via the Caterpillar Nursery door. All welcome.

Thur 19 Sept – Buddies Disco, P1-3 6.30-7.30, P4-7 7.35-8.50pm. More information to follow.

Mon 30 Sept – Home school folder goes home today. Further information to follow.

Tue 1 Oct – Parent Council meeting, 6.30pm, all welcome. Please enter via the front door.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Summer Holidays. I hope that you all had a lovely summer break (the weather was glorious for a change!) and that the children are suitably refreshed and raring to go for the new session. I would also like to extend a huge welcome to all of our new starts, whether in Nursery, P1 or further up the school. I hope you will enjoy being part of Alehousewells school.

Staff news

Interviews were held at the end of last session for a PSA post. I am pleased to welcome Miss Natalie Morrison as our new PSA who started this week. I would also like to welcome Mrs Mel Binfield, P3/4 teacher, to the school. I hope they both settle quickly into life at Alehousewells and enjoy being part of our team. Finally, three members of our staff have recently completed qualifications; Miss Alana Black, Early Years Practitioner, completed her SVQ 4 in Childcare Management, Miss Hailey Cook, Early Years Practitioner, completed her BA in Childhood Practice and Miss Lyndsey Wood, PSA, completed her BA(Honours) in Education Studies (Primary). Congratulations and very well done to them all for all their hard work!

Classes

All the classes are settling in with their new teachers. Here is a reminder of the classes and their teachers:

P1/2 – Miss Bremner

P2/3 – Mrs Gell & Mrs Skinner

P3/4 – Mrs Binfield & Mrs More

P4/5 – Mrs Brooks & Mrs Lindsay

P5/6 – Mr Swanson & Mrs Alexander

P7 - Mrs Fraser

Medication update

Some pupils will need to take medication (or be given it) at school at some time in their school life. Often this will be for a short period. Short term medication should only be taken to school when absolutely essential **and is prescribed**.

Where possible, parents of children requiring antibiotics should take into consideration dosage arrangements, which will allow the antibiotic to be taken before and after school. Parents should be encouraged to ask the prescribing doctor about this.

Pupils sometimes ask for pain killers (analgesics) at school, including Aspirin and Paracetamol. **School staff will not give non-prescribed medication to pupils.** They may not know whether the pupil has taken a previous dose, or whether the medication may react with other medication being taken. If a pupil suffers from regular pain, such as a migraine, the parent/carer should authorise and supply appropriate pain killers for their child's use with written instructions about when the child should take the medication.

In short, we are now only allowed to administer medication that has been prescribed by a GP and has the original label from the pharmacy with the child and dosage details. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Wet break times

It would be helpful if your child had something in their tray that they could use during a wet break time. This could be a colouring in, sticker or puzzle book, not something electronic. Thank you.

Labelling

Please ensure your child's belongings are clearly labelled. This should save any mix ups with shoes, jumpers, jackets and water bottles!

Mobile phones

If you wish your child to carry a mobile phone to school, we ask that they are switched off and either given to their class teacher or the Office for safe keeping at 9am. They should then collect it again at 3.15pm. We are not encouraging children to bring mobile phones, and they are the responsibility of the child before and after they are handed in to a member of staff, but are aware that some parents may prefer that their child have a phone if they are walking to and from home themselves. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Holidays / In-service Days Session 2019 – 20

Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 August	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 21 August 2019	Start of Term 1 (pupils)
Thursday 10 October 2019	End of Term 1 (pupils)
Friday 11 October 2019	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
14-25 October 2019	October holidays
Monday 28 October 2019	Start of Term 2 (pupils)
18-19 November 2019	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Friday 20 December 2019	End of Term 2
23 December 2019 - 3 January 2020	Christmas holidays
Monday 6 January 2020	Start of Term 3
Thursday 13 and Friday 14 Feb 2020	Occasional Days – school closed to pupils
Monday 17 February 2020	Mid Term holiday
Tues 18 and Wed 19 Feb 2019	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Friday 3 April 2020	End of Term 3
6-17 April 2020	Easter holidays
Monday 20 April 2020	Start of Term 4
Monday 4 May 2020	May Day holiday – school closed
Monday 1 June 2020	Occasional Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 3 July 2020	End of Term 4

Parent helpers

Before the summer, I mentioned that I would like to see as many parents as possible who would like to, being used more in the classrooms. If you are able to offer a wee bit of your time, whether this is to help during Excellence time, which will be Friday 2.10-3.10pm, or on school trips or in the classroom, please contact the school office. You would need to complete a PVG but the cost will be covered by Aberdeenshire council. Many thanks.

Library helpers

We have been very lucky for the past few years that volunteers have come forward to run our Library for us. This has meant that all the children can regularly access the Library and benefit from the range of books that we have on offer, thus improving their reading and furthering their enjoyment of books. We are again looking for volunteers to man our Library, so if you think this would be something that you could manage, please contact the Office. We usually need two half days for all classes to visit the Library once, but if we had enough volunteers, then you might only need to come in one half day a week. Have a think and see if this is something that you might be interested in as we would love to have you on board!

Excellence Time / Seesaw, P1-3 / Passport to Excellence, P4-7

Excellence time is an opportunity for each pupil to be rewarded for up to an hour on a Friday afternoon for following the school rules during the week.

P1-3 use Seesaw, which is a classroom communication app, as a means of communicating with parents about each pupil's behaviour and P4-7 use the red Passport to Excellence, which will be brought home on a Friday. This must be signed by a parent/carer and the child and then returned to school on the **Monday**. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Mon 7 Oct – Tempest here for individual and family photos. More information to follow.

Tue 8 Oct – Parents' evening, from 4pm. Further information to follow.

Thur 10 Oct – Last day of term. Dress as you please day.

Fri 11 Oct – School closed to pupils for In service day.

Mon 28 Oct – Back to school after October holidays.

Thur 31 Oct – Hallowe'en Disco. P1-3 6.30-7.30, P4-7 7.35-8.50pm. More information to follow.

Mon 18 & Tue 19 Nov – School closed to pupils for In service days.

Wed 27 Nov – Parent Council Christmas Shopping Night. More information to follow.

Sat 7 Dec – School Christmas Fair. More information to follow.

Mon 9 Dec – M and M Productions here to perform Aladdin (instead of a whole school trip to the Panto at HMT).

Thur 19 Dec – Dress as you please day.

Fri 20 Dec – Last day of term, Church service at Kemnay parish Church at 10am, all welcome.

Mon 6 Jan – Back to school after Christmas holidays.

Medical Information Update

Pupil: _____

Class: _____

Medical Condition:

Arrival at school

Parents/carers are advised not to send children to school before 8.40 a.m. Pupils are not supervised in the playground at this time of day, although a member of staff will always be available twenty minutes before the bell to assist pupils if they require support. At Alehousewells, this is a member of Office staff, or in their absence, the Head teacher. Children will have access to toilets but not to the school unless the weather is severe. Parents are reminded that children who come to school earlier than this time remain the responsibility of the parents. During inclement weather, your child should arrive at school just in time for the start of the school day at 9.00am. On these occasions pupils will be admitted to the School and supervised by available staff. Children who go home for lunch should remain at home until 1:15p.m for P1-3 and 1:00p.m for P4-7 especially on cold, wet days.

Safe parking

One of our neighbours from Kembhill Park has asked that parents refrain from parking in Kembhill Park right at the junction with Bremner Way. Parking on Bremner Way should be away from the junction. Also, parents should not park in residents' parking spaces, nor do U-turns in Kembhill Park. There is adequate safe parking in other streets, eg Waterside Court/Craigearn Park. **The school car park is for Staff only. Thank you for keeping our children safe on and near the road.**

Cycles and scooters to school

We are happy for children to come to school on their bike or scooter. However, we must insist that all children come off their bike or scooter as soon as they reach the playground and walk to the cycle racks. Also, it is their responsibility to ensure their bike is locked securely for the day. We would expect children to be wearing a helmet and that parents are either accompanying them if they are younger or have given their permission for them to travel by themselves if older.

Snacks and Packed lunches

We are a Health promoting school and as such try to encourage all the children to bring something healthy for their snack. Water is readily available from the water fountains and in the lunch hall. We are unable to ensure that packed lunches are kept chilled during the morning, so it might be worthwhile adding a small frozen pack to keep the contents fresh. We would ask that nuts, products containing nuts or nut products are not sent to school in case of allergy. Many thanks.

Achievements

We would like to continue to recognise our pupils for achievements earned out with school. If your child has done anything that you feel should get a mention, please let the office know so that we can include these in future Newsletters.

P6 enter the Doric Film Festival

Last session, our P6 class took part in the Doric Film Festival, where they performed, filmed and added sound effects to "The Boy who cried Wolf". While they didn't win, we are still extremely proud of their hard work in creating a 5 minute film, entirely spoken in Doric with the support of our Drama teacher, Mrs McGillivray. Their award is on display in the foyer.

Late arrivals and children leaving school for appointments

If your child has to come in through the front door because they have missed their line going in, this is classed as being late. We ask that pupils check in with Office staff so that they can be recorded as such, before they go through to their class. There is now a late book for this that **must** be completed on late arrival and for leaving/arriving back from any appointments within normal school hours.

Newsletter Via E-mail

At Alehousewells Primary we like to save paper and the environment as much as possible. If you do not receive newsletters by e-mail at the moment, please provide us with an e-mail address so we can add you to our mailing list.

Child's name _____

Class _____

E-mail address

Improvements to the school

You may have noticed that we had solar panels installed in the summer holidays. Look out for the display panel above the office window! We also had two new gates fitted and one replaced to make our playground more secure. Finally, today our Learning Arena is being installed, which we are looking forward to using so as to expand our Outdoor Learning.

P.E Kit

Each class will be getting P.E. this year.

Indoor PE Kit consists of – T shirt which tucks into shorts, standard length shorts, socks, gym shoes (preferably with Velcro or elastic fastening for younger pupils) all kept in a gym bag.

With regard to safety, the wearing of jewellery (which we actively discourage) is not permitted during PE lessons. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure they can remove and replace earrings by themselves. Any child wearing earrings that cannot do this will be asked to put surgical tape over them for PE lessons. (Parents should provide a named roll of surgical tape for this purpose.) Shoe string strappy tops are also discouraged for safety reasons as they can catch on gym apparatus. Neither are crop tops suitable.

The school requests that football team tops and designer garments are kept for home use.

Please also tie back long hair on PE days for safety.

Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Home Lunches

All children who are going home for lunch will leave via the front door.

Children, who are deemed old enough to walk home and back on their own, will be asked to sign themselves out in our Home lunch book at the Office. We would suggest P4-7, as a rough guide.

The adult who is collecting younger children will be asked to sign them out in the Home lunch book at the Office. This would apply to P1-3, as a rough guide. We will not let a P1-3 child leave without an adult, unless you have made prior arrangements to say you are happy for your child to walk home themselves.

Children should remain at home until 1pm for P4-7 and 1.15pm for P1-3, especially on cold and wet days. (P4-7 lunchtime is 12.15-1.10 and P1-3 lunchtime is 12.30-1.25).

On their return, children should enter via the Office, in order for their return time to be added into the Home lunch book. They may then join their friends outside in the playground until their bell rings.

Online payments for school meals

Parents and carers of school pupils in Aberdeenshire can pay for school meals via the Aberdeenshire Council website (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk). Simply click PAY and then School Meal Payments. Once registered, you can pay securely and access a range of services including notifications of school closures and school transport changes, using a single name and password via your myAberdeenshire account. P1-3 do not have to pay for their meals.

Free School Meals

If you think your child may be eligible for Free school meals, please either call 08456 080149, email benefits@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or ask for a leaflet from our school Office.

Communication for parents *Is this still up to date and accurate?*

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 handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

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.

Charity of the Year

It is the time of year again when we choose the Charity that we would like to fund raise for throughout this school session. Last session we chose CLAN and before that it was the Cash for Kids. I have asked staff and will ask the pupils as well but wanted all parents and carers to have an opportunity to also make a suggestion. This can be done by email, phone, in person at the office or by completing the comments slip at the end. Many thanks.

Head Lice

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly to avoid outbreaks within the school. Please inform the school if your child has head lice.

Active Schools - Volunteers Wanted!

The start of a new school year is the ideal time to get involved in our Active Schools programmes, and help us to offer a wide variety of sport and physical activity opportunities to our pupils. If you have a sporting interest or hobby that you would love to share with the younger generations, then please get in touch with Lynsey, the Active Schools Coordinator, and we can get a session set up. Just an hour a week over a short school term is all that's required to bring different experiences to the pupils of Alehousewells - it would be great to get more going on!

We are hoping to get an after school Running Club up and going at the school, so if you have an interest in this or would be willing to lend a hand/help supervise, then please do also get in touch.

Contact Lynsey direct via lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk for more information or to offer your services.

Active Schools - Fun Fitness Club

Fun Fitness sessions with David will be returning to Alehousewells School this year. We have re-jigged the timings of the sessions to hopefully allow more children the opportunity to attend. The club will take place on Wednesdays, with a P4-7 group from 3:30pm-4:15pm and a P1-3 class from 4:30pm-5:15pm. Sessions will take place in the school gym hall, and costs £12 for the first 6 week block up until the October holidays. There are a number of spaces available in each group, so please sign up today if you are interested in your child attending. Contact Lynsey direct via lynsey.coutts@aberdeenshire.gov.uk for a consent form or for more information.

Parent Council Summer Challenge

Along with the last Newsletter in July, your child received a tube of Smarties to enjoy, which we then hoped that you would fill with 20ps and return to school the first week back. Any funds raised were to help support the purchase of new Reading books and online support materials. Many thanks to the families who have already returned their Smarties tubes. If there are any more still at home, please hand them in to the Office. Thank you.

I'm sorry that this first newsletter has been so long but there were many items I wanted to share with you. I will continue to try and put out a newsletter every fortnight so this should keep them to a more manageable length!

Carol Hughes.

Carol Hughes

HEAD TEACHER

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You are invited to comment on the return pro-forma on any aspect of school whether as a comment/suggestion, compliment or concern. These are responded to as and when necessary.

Comment/Suggestion, Compliment or Concern, August 19

My name _____

My child's name and class _____