



Alehousewells School Newsletter 01

August 2020



Alehousewells School
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Head Teacher:
Mrs Carol Hughes

Emergency Contact
Details Update
Childs Name:

Class: _____

Emergency Contact:
Name: _____

Number: _____

Address: _____

Diary Dates:
Mon 24 Aug – P1 start full days now, 9am – 3.15pm.
Fri 9 Oct – Last day of term.
Dress as you please day.
Mon 26 Oct – Back to school after holidays.
Fri 20 Nov – School closed to pupils for In service day.
Thur 17 Dec – Dress as you please day.
Fri 18 Dec – Last day of term.
Tue 5 Jan – Back to school after Christmas holidays.

Medical Information Update

Pupil: _____

Class: _____

Medical Condition:

Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome back after the Summer Holidays and a huge welcome to all of our new starts, whether in Nursery, P1 or further up the school. I hope you will all enjoy being part of Alehousewells school.
It has been a very different start back to school for us all, but the pupils are all doing amazingly well in coping with our new rules and procedures. Things are changing all the time so bear with me while I try to keep you updated with any amendments. This will be the way of things for some time to come, but as long as we all work together and stick to the rules, then we are doing our best to keep everyone in the Alehousewells community safe and well.
Please follow this link which will take you to the up to date guidance for schools FAQs on Aberdeenshire Council’s website.

Aberdeenshire Council’s guidance for schools has been updated and the FAQs document can be [found on our website](#).

I have lifted this section from the guidance as it is of particular importance at this time.

What should I do if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell, please do not send them to school. If they have one of the three common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus) - a continuous cough, a fever or high temperature or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia) - please follow the latest advice via <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus> and book a test. This website includes advice on what’s considered to be a fever in children.
If your child is unwell but they are not displaying symptoms of coronavirus, please keep them at home until they are back in good health. For vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as per normal circumstances, they should remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed. This now also relates to a fever or high temperature (alongside a negative coronavirus result) and they should not return to school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed.

Staff news

Welcome to Miss Thom and Miss Thomson who have started with us as P3 and P6 teachers respectively. I hope you will settle into life at Alehousewells school very quickly.

Classes

All the classes are settling in with their new teachers. Here is a reminder of the classes and their teachers:
P1 – Miss Bremner
P2 – Mrs Binfield & Mrs Lindsay
P3 – Miss Thom & Mrs More
P4 – Mrs Brooks
P5 – Mr Swanson
P6 - Miss Thomson & Mrs Alexander
P7 - Mrs Fraser & Mrs Gell

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.

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 _____

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.

Labelling

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

School Office hours

Our school office is manned every day between 8.30am and 3.30pm, however there may be times when you call during these times and no one is available to answer your call. Please use the message facility in this instance or if calling outwith these times. You can also email the school at any time with a message and it will be picked up when staff are able to get to them.

Wet weather

If the weather is so bad that the children are kept inside at playtime or lunchtime, they can either access the items in the class wet weather box or you can send something up to occupy them to be kept in their tray. This could be a puzzle or colouring in book, but nothing electronic. Many thanks.

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 2020-21

Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 August	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 12 August 2020	Start of Term 1 (pupils)
Friday 9 October 2020	End of Term 1 (pupils)
12-23 October 2020	October holidays
Monday 26 October 2020	Start of Term 2 (pupils)
Friday 20 November 2020	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
Friday 18 December 2020	End of Term 2
21 December 2020 - 4 January 2021	Christmas holidays
Tuesday 5 January 2021	Start of Term 3
Friday 12 Feb 2021	Occasional Day – school closed to pupils
Monday 15 February 2021	Mid Term holiday
Tues 16 and Wed 17 Feb 2021	In-Service Days – school closed to pupils
1 st April 2021	End of Term 3
2 nd – 16th April 2021	Easter holidays
Monday 19 April 2021	Start of Term 4
Monday 3 May 2021	May Day holiday – school closed
25 th June 2021	End of Term 4
17 th August 2021	Start of Term 1

Helpers in school

Unfortunately, we are not allowed any volunteers in school until further notice.

Seesaw

P1-7 are now all using Seesaw, which is a classroom communication app, as a means of communicating with parents and carers about each pupil's behaviour and their learning. **We would be grateful if all parents could sign up to Seesaw as soon as possible so that we can start using it. If you are having issues, please contact the school and we will do our best to help. We also need you to return the Privacy notice before we can start to communicate with you.** Passports are no longer being used for P4-7. These changes are part of our interim Behaviour policy which was issued prior to the holidays and is available on our website to read. We will use the time between now and Christmas to consult with all parents, carers, pupils and staff before creating and adopting the revised policy.

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 1:15pm for P1-3 and 1:00pm 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.** Bikeability usually takes place in P5 and P6.

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. All children are recommended to bring their own filled water bottle every day. Water is also readily available 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.

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.

P.E Kit/Clothing

Current restrictions mean that we cannot do PE in the Hall yet so any PE will be done outside and can be done by just removing any jumpers or cardigans. If you are concerned about your child getting wet feet if the grass is still damp, then you can send a spare pair of socks to school which can be kept in their tray. We will let you know when to send your child's PE kit to school. There is an increased focus on outdoor learning at the moment, so we recommend that children are dressed appropriately to enable outdoor learning to take place as and when appropriate for each class. Teachers will usually plan when this will be but may also take advantage

of fine weather or if the class need an impromptu brain break and go outside. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We plan to let you know which days are outdoor PE days so that the children can come dressed in their leggings/joggers and trainers ready to be active outside. As we must have all windows in the school open for improved ventilation, it is important that all children come with a jumper or cardigan as it may feel colder than usual in the school.

Home Lunches

All children who are going home for lunch will leave via the front door. At the moment, we are discouraging Home lunches.

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.

Normally, the adult who is collecting any 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. Given current restrictions, please call the Office to say you are at the front door to collect your child (this would also apply if you are collecting your child for an appointment) and once your child is at the office, we will let them go once we can see you are there outside the door waiting for them.

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. Given current restrictions, online payment is preferred rather than cash.

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.

Charity of the Year

It is the time of year again when we usually choose the Charity that we would like to fund raise for throughout this school session. Last session we chose SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) but because we only had half a year to raise funds for them, and given the increase in Mental health issues, I hope you will agree with the decision to continue with SAMH again this year.

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.

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 20

My name _____ Child's name and class _____