



Alehousewells School Newsletter 03

October 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:

Tue 6 Oct – Virtual Parent Council AGM, 6.30pm.

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly at the end of this first term: this is week eight of this nine-week term, where has the time gone! Therefore, there are several items I'd like to share with you in this newsletter.

COVID

Can I please remind you of the following?

I have noticed that some measures are not being followed by all and I want to ensure that we do not become complacent. The virus is still out there.

In order to reduce the number of adults gathering in the playground, we request that **only P1 and P2 parents/carers (1 adult per pupil) come into the playground, please wear a face covering and keep a 2m distance from all other parents/carers and staff. Please do not start a conversation with teachers unless they approach you but call the School Office with your message instead. Seesaw can also be used for messaging the teacher. If it is not a parent who is collecting your child, but a child minder, friend or other relative, please also make them aware of this information.**

P3-7 parents are kindly asked not to enter the playground at all.

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter to ensure we keep everyone safe at Alehousewells school.

Homework

A number of parents have been asking when we might be able to start up Homework again, albeit virtually, so I have issued a short electronic questionnaire to gather your views on this subject. I would really appreciate if you could spare a few minutes to complete the form by next Tuesday, 6 October in order to inform our next steps. Many thanks.

Virtual Assemblies

We are of course having to do things differently because of the COVID restrictions, and one of these is Assemblies. They are a central part of school life, so we have started having virtual Assemblies on a Monday afternoon. Sometimes the technology is a challenge, but we are working hard to overcome any issues in order that we can still enjoy a sense of community. The pupils tell me they enjoy them very much which is lovely to hear.

PE

PE still takes place outside due to Covid restrictions on using the School hall. Please ensure your child comes to school dressed in suitable PE kit (we would encourage trousers/leggings now the weather has turned cooler) and outdoor trainers. Many thanks.

Staffing

We recently celebrated a great achievement; Mrs Brooks has worked at Alehousewells School for 25 years! We thank her for her devotion and commitment to the children and families here over the years and look forward to the years ahead with Mrs Brooks as part of our fantastic team.

Dress as you please day

The last day of term, Friday 9 October, is a Dress as you please day, as a thank you for looking so smart in school uniform the rest of the term.

Light the North

We are very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of CLAN's Light the North Sculpture trail. This will include 45 lighthouses which have been individually designed and painted by some talented artists. The finished pieces will be on display across the North East of Scotland. We, along with many other schools, are taking part by designing our own little lighthouse sculpture, which will be on display in a museum, library or gallery or leisure facility for 10 weeks. Then it will be ours to keep forever. All P1-7 pupils will be involved in designing what they think our Lighthouse should look like. CLAN have chosen a lighthouse as the symbol for this project because it is a shining light in the dark to boats and ships at sea or a beacon in a storm. It helps them find their way to safety and gives them hope in the same way that CLAN Cancer support provides help and hope for anyone affected by cancer.



Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 have also received a Worry Muncher as part of the curricular work that schools can access alongside this project which includes Emotional Wellbeing in children. The idea is that children draw or write down their worry and pop it into the Worry Muncher's mouth where it can then gobble it up. Each worry muncher is a 12-inch soft pouched creature with arms and legs, a kilted body, a furry head, googly eyes and a chunky zip mouth which collects children's worries.



Changes at home

Please let us know of any changes at home that may have an impact on how your child is in school. This could be that the family pet is ill, or there has been a new baby or a family separation. We will treat the information in confidence, but it may help us to better support your child through what will hopefully be a temporary situation.

Virtual Parent Council AGM

We are holding a virtual Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 6 October at 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams to which all parents and carers of children attending Alehousewells school are invited. Please contact the school by 4 October if you would like to be sent the link to attend or if you wish to submit any items of business for inclusion on the agenda. Many thanks.

Seesaw

There are still a few families who have still to connect up to Seesaw. We think it is a great communication tool, but don't just take my word for it. Here's what some members of the Parent Council had to say about Seesaw:

"Seesaw is so easy to use, having the app on my phone means I can communicate with teachers and my kids love showing me the work they've been doing in class too. It's nice to have a connection with school, especially this term when things are so different than we're used to. I really like that it's paper free - notes or reminders don't get lost! It's so simple to download and use."

"I would say it's very easy to install as gives step by step instructionsif I can do it, anyone can! It also means you can send a message direct to the teacher instead of going through the school office (or calling in). I used it one day to let the teacher know my child was upset about something in the morning so it's a 2-way communication tool."

"The Seesaw app is brilliant. I used it at the start of lockdown until the summer holidays with my youngest who is at a school in Aberdeen city. It's really easy to use for students and parents, the interaction from the teachers was excellent too - videos could be made and submitted, along with reading and writing tasks. Numeracy was also used on a regular basis. When my daughter was doing the work that was set by the teacher, I could see the pride in her when she got the positive feedback on the work that she submitted, and she could also show me what she'd done.

The teacher would give out a timetable for the week so that there was a clear plan of action so to speak which made it a lot easier for the kids to stay on course and hand in work on time.

I don't have anything negative to say about seesaw really!"

Supporting learning at home

If your child is unable to attend school or nursery, or if you would like to access other resources currently, we would like to share a useful resource which we hope will help you to support your child learning at home.

Each fortnight Education Scotland publishes **Scotland Learns**, a newsletter for parents and carers. These newsletters provide links to activities in maths, literacy, health and well-being and themed learning.

To access the activities, click on the following link and choose the latest newsletter.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/a-weekly-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers/>

Download the newsletter and click **View Activities** in each area and choose the activities aimed at your child's age and stage.

We hope you find this resource useful while you support learning at home.

Parents' evening

We will be unable to hold our traditional Parents' evening appointments any time soon whereby meetings are held face to face in school. Therefore, we will need to devise an alternative which can be done virtually. This will probably take the form of phone call appointments, but the finer details are still being discussed with school staff. I will keep you posted with the plan for this as soon as it has been agreed at our end.

Lost property

Since returning in August, we already have a collection of unnamed clothes that cannot be returned to their owners.

Sweatshirts – 1x 5-6, 1x 6-7, 1x 7-8, 1x 11-12.

Plain red sweatshirt with no labels so no idea of age x1

Cardigans – 1x 6, 1x 7-8, 1x 9-10.

Please, please name your children's belongings. Many thanks.

Medication - Inhalers

We have several pupils who have Asthma recorded on their file, but we do not have an inhaler for them in school. It is very important that you update us if they no longer have asthma or need an inhaler, as is the case for all medical conditions. If they do still need one, please ask the GP if they can issue a spare to be kept in class which will be available as an extra on top of their own one, which we assume is kept in their bag. Many thanks for your co-operation in ensuring we are equipped to keep your child healthy while at school.

Annual Data Check

We are still waiting on some forms to be returned. It is vital we get these back ASAP to ensure we have the correct information on file for your child.

Many thanks especially to all the pupils who have coped fantastically well with such a different return to school this term. They have all been amazing and really deserve their two weeks holidays to rest, relax and have fun.

Happy holidays when they come!

Yours Sincerely

Carol Hughes.

Carol Hughes

HEAD TEACHER

✂ _____

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, October 20

My name _____

My child's name and class _____

Medical Information Update

Pupil: _____

Class: _____

Medical Condition:

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

