



Alehousewells School Newsletter 05

November 2020



Alehousewells School

Bremner Way

Kemnay

AB51 5FW

Tel: **01467 536910**

Emergency Phone line 0370

054 4999, Pin no. 021180

alehousewells.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher:

Mrs Carol Hughes

Emergency Contact Details Update

Childs Name: _____

Class: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Number: _____

Address: _____

Diary Dates:

Fri 20 Nov – School closed to pupils for In service day.

Fri 18 Dec – Dress as you please day. Last day of term.

Mon 4 Jan- Holiday.

Tue 5 Jan – Back to school after Christmas holidays.

Fri 12 Feb – School closed for mid-term break.

Mon 15 Feb – School closed for mid-term break.

Tue 16 & Wed 17 Feb – In service days so closed to pupils.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are into week four of this term already, so it is time for me to share some more information with you.

School closure for In Service day

Just a reminder that the school is closed to all pupils this Friday 20 November for an In-Service Day.

COVID

Since returning in August, school staff have been working extremely hard to ensure that in school we all comply with the Scottish Government guidelines that we are expected to follow to mitigate against transmission of COVID-19. Although the school has no jurisdiction over what happens out with school, I would appreciate if all parents and carers would follow the national message with their children to ensure we as a school community continue to have a safe environment in which we all learn and work. Everyone should reflect on the impact their actions could have, not only their immediate family, but also the wider school community if the rules aren't followed.

As you will be aware the transmission rate of COVID-19 within Aberdeenshire has spiked over the past week and unless we all work together, I am concerned that it will be only a matter of time before we have our first positive case within the school. The Scottish Government have now published a live local data checker where you can see daily updates on data affecting your own local area. This can be found by using the following link:

https://public.tableau.com/profile/phs.covid.19#!/vizhome/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Overview

- Choose View Cases by neighbourhood
- At the top of the page, choose your Local Authority area from the drop down
- Hover over areas for 7-day data.
- Similarly there is a postcode checker that details <https://www.gov.scot/check-local-covid-level/> what your local COVID-19 level is, but also what this means as far as the restrictions are concerned.

- **Reminder of symptoms of COVID-19**
- Can I please remind everyone that if any pupil displays any symptoms of COVID-19
- **High temperature**
- **Loss of, or change to your sense of smell or taste**
- **New continuous cough**
- they **should not** attend school but should seek advice from their GP or NHS helpline as well as contact the school as soon as possible.
- Any time there is a positive case identified within the school we will work very closely with the local NHS Health Protection Team to coordinate our response and will inform parents accordingly.

Adverse weather arrangements

It is coming to the time of year when we need to prepare for adverse weather and the possibility that the school may have to close. If this decision is made, you will be able to find this information by phoning the School Information Line (**0370 054 4999, Pin number 021180**. This information is always at the top of every newsletter.) You can also log into Aberdeenshire's website for a list of all schools that are closed, and can register to get email alerts for Alehousewells, which is very handy. Local radio stations also mention school closures. The decision to close the school will be made as early as possible, if possible, before 7am. Last week, you should have received an emailed Snow pack, which has a list of suggested activities that your child could work on in the event that the school is closed unexpectedly. Please keep this safe, as we will not be issuing it again this winter. If we must close the school during the day due to bad weather, we will send out an email/text to this effect, as well as putting the information on the phone line and the website. Please keep us informed if your emergency contact details change during the year. Many thanks.

Homework

Following on from the short questionnaire which we issued before the October holidays about restarting Homework, we have decided to issue Spelling and Reading homework only and have not gone down the online homework route. This is because only 3 of the 51 respondents said that they would not be happy if homework started again, and there were also concerns from some parents about having an available device at home for the children to use for any homework.

Staff have adapted their usual homework arrangements so that **jotters stay at home** to save bringing unnecessary items into school, and **reading books need to be returned on a Thursday** so that they can be quarantined for 72 hours before being issued to the next child, unless they are novels.

We really appreciate your support in helping your child to work on their spelling and reading at home, as any extra that can be done will obviously help them progress and achieve. Please let us know if any of this may be an issue. We are unfortunately unable to start up our Breakfast and Homework Club meantime under the current COVID restrictions.

Parent Teacher phone appointments

Many thanks to those who responded to say that they would like a call from their child's teacher in lieu of the usual face to face appointment we would usually offer at this time. We will sort out days and times this Friday and issue them to you by Monday of next week at the latest.

PE

We are delighted that we are now allowed to conduct PE inside. Pupils can continue to attend school in their PE clothes on PE days, as they have been doing up until now.

Sale of poppies

Thank you to P2 who organised the selling of Poppies this year and to everyone who bought one and donated money. We raised a magnificent £90 for the Poppy appeal this year, so very well done Alehousewells School.

Litter Less Campaign

Before the October holidays, Mrs Binfield, P2 teacher, applied to the Litter Less Campaign for the chance to be offered £200 funding towards reducing litter in school and our community. Litter Less are part of the Foundation for Environmental Education and the campaign is funded by Wrigley. The application involved justifying why we should be given the funding and what we would do with it if successful. Alehousewells has been chosen and will be one of only 26 schools in Scotland to receive the funding this year!!!

The £200 would be used to focus on two areas: reducing litter in our own school and in our village. The Eco Group would like to place recycling bins in the playground, as much of our rubbish from break times could be recycled. Therefore, we would need to buy recycling bins that can be protected from the seagulls that regularly visit our playground!

We would also like to buy litter pickers and litter picking hoop holders for rubbish bags that could be used to complete our community litter picking. This campaign led by P2 and involving the Eco group will start after Christmas, so look out for their great work around our school and the wider community in Kemnay.

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, November 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

