



Alehousewells School

Newsletter

NL 1 -2021-2022



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 30 Aug – All P1 in all day from now on.

Tue 31 Aug – Covid safe performances of The Wizard of Oz by M and M productions for all children, free of charge, school to fund.

Tue 31 Aug – Virtual Parent Council meeting, via Teams, 6.30pm. All parents and carers welcome.

Fri 10 Sept – Photographer here to take individual and family photos (no children to be brought into school to join in photos). Further information to follow separately.

Tue 21 Sept – Parent Council AGM 6.30pm, virtually via Teams. All parents and carers welcome.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Summer Holidays and a huge welcome to all of our new starts, whether in Nursery or in P1. I hope you will all enjoy being part of Alehousewells School and Nursery.

The pupils continue to do amazingly well in coping with our rules and procedures. The Scottish Government has insisted that these are in place for the first 6 weeks of term for schools. I will keep you updated with any amendments, 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.

Staff news

Welcome to Miss Sharp and Mrs Bland who have started with us as P2 and P3 teachers respectively and also to Mrs Fraser who has joined us as a PSA. I hope you will all settle into life at Alehousewells school very quickly.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Miss Jones next week, who will work as a teacher two days a week across all classes, funded by the Scottish Government for Covid recovery. Similarly, we have a 24.75 hour PSA Covid recovery vacancy which will hopefully soon be filled and will also help to reduce the impact Covid has had on all our pupils.

Classes

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

P1 – Miss Bremner

P2 – Miss Sharp and Mrs More

P3 – Mrs Bland

P4 – Mrs Gell and Mrs Skinner

P5 – Mrs Brooks

P6 – Mr Swanson

P7 - Mrs Fraser & Mrs Alexander

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.

Labelling

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

Fri 15 Oct – Last day of term.
Dress as you please day with suggested donation of £1 for CLAN.

Mon 1 Nov – Return to school.

Thur 18 Nov and Fri 19 Nov – In service days, so school closed to pupils.

Mon 20 Dec – Dress as you please day with suggested donation of £1 for CLAN.

Tue 21 Dec – Last day of term.

Wed 5 Jan – Back to school.

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. Please use the message facility in this instance or if calling out with 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. Contact details are at the top of every newsletter.

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 and In-service days session 2021-2022

Term 1

- 16th August 2021 - in-service day
- 17th August 2021 - start of term 1
- 15th October 2021 - end of term 1
- 18th to 29th October 2021 - October holiday

Term 2

- 1st November 2021 - start of term 2
- 18th November 2021 to 19th November 2021 - in-service days
- 21st December 2021 - end of term 2
- 22nd December 2021 to 4th January 2022 - Christmas holiday

Term 3

- 5th January 2022 - start of term 3
- 10th February 2022 – local holiday (Occ day)
- 11th February 2022 – local holiday (Occ day)
- 14th February 2022 - mid term holiday
- 15th February 2022 to 16th February 2022 - in-service days
- 1st April 2022 - end of term 3
- 4th to 15th April 2022 - spring holiday

Term 4

- 18th April 2022 - start of term 4
- 2nd May 2022 - May Day holiday
- 6th June 2022 – local holiday (Occ day)
- 1st July 2022 - end of term 4
- 4th July to 19th August 2022 - summer holiday

Visitors to school

Although COVID restrictions are easing, we are still encouraged to limit school visitors to essential purposes only. Therefore, we are not allowed any volunteers in school yet. Last term we found that the number of parent/carers visiting the school was increasing (e.g. forgotten packed lunches, jackets, snacks etc) and we would therefore like to ask you to please ensure that your child has all their items with them when they leave in the morning for school. On a similar note, office staff are still having to work from home for some of the time and therefore manpower in the office is reduced. Can we gently remind you to check latest emails and newsletters for the answers to any queries you may have first before phoning the school to have these answered? Thank you for your understanding.

Marvellousme

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have signed up to Marvellousme already. We hope you are enjoying receiving positive news about your child. Please contact the school office if you have lost your join code or need any help in getting set up. P1 parents, please complete and return any paperwork you receive about Marvellousme as soon as possible and then you too can enjoy hearing the positive stories about your child. Please note that the purpose of Marvellousme is not as a communication tool between parents, carers and class teachers, but to make parents and carers smile with news about what your child has been learning and what they have done well. Teachers are no longer checking their Glow emails so if you wish to contact your child's teacher, please do so through the school office. Many thanks.

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 **1:30pm 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. If your child is in P1, please do not just knock directly on the P1 door if they are late. Please come round to the front door also.

P.E Kit/Clothing

Restrictions for PE were lifted before the summer so this means that we can continue to do PE in the Hall as well as outside. 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. An email was sent out on Wednesday detailing which days each class has PE this term. Children can come dressed in their leggings/joggers and trainers ready for PE on the relevant day as we are not allowed to have the children change in and out of PE kit yet. 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.

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 1.30pm for P1-3, especially on cold and wet days. (P4-7 lunchtime is 12.15-1.10 and P1-3 lunchtime is 12.45-1.40).

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.

Covid

Our updated Risk assessment can be found on our school website should you wish to refer to it at any time. We are still encouraging pupils to take limited amounts of items into school with them on a daily basis, so if a pupil wishes to take a pencil case, we ask that this is left in school. We will provide the required stationery if a pupil comes in without a pencil case. We ask that indoor shoes are left in school every day and that PE kits are not brought in and left on a child's peg yet. Many thanks.

Absences

If your child is to be absent from school, please contact the school to let us know. You can do this by calling the school and leaving a message on our answer service at any time or by emailing the school. Please let us know your child's name and class, the reason for their absence and the expected duration otherwise we will need to contact you to ask why your child is off. Many thanks.

Parent council meetings

Our first Parent Council meeting of this session will be on Tuesday 31 August via Teams from 6.30pm. Our AGM is on Tuesday 21 September via Teams from 6.30pm. If you would like to join either meeting, please contact the school office and we will send you the link.

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. P1-4 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. We would like to propose that CLAN be our charity for this year. We are part of their Light the North lighthouse trail so would like to contribute to their fundraising this year. We hope you agree with our proposal.

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.

Yours Sincerely

Carol Hughes

Carol Hughes

HEAD TEACHER

Alehousewells school aspires to be a safe and supportive learning community where everyone is respected and can realise their full potential within a friendly and caring environment.

✂ _____

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

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

