



Alehousewells School Newsletter

NL 1 -2022-2023



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:

Wed 31 Aug – P1 and parent lunch 11.30am. Please enter via the Office.

Fri 2 Sept – Tour of Britain Active Travel day so all pupils encouraged to walk, cycle or scooter to school.

Mon 5 Sept - P1 in full days from today, 9am - 3.15pm

Wed 7 Sept – P7 Dalguise residential trip meeting 6pm, please enter via the back door nearest P7.

Mon 3 Oct – Tempest photographer here to take individual and family photos. Further information to follow. Home school folder sent home today. Further information to follow.

Wed 5 Oct – Parents' evening (phonecalls)

Thur 6 Oct – Parents' evening (face to face). Further information to follow.

Fri 14 Oct – Last day of term and dress as you please day.

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.

Staff news

Due to a change in circumstances, Miss Pirie will not now be joining us as the P2/3 teacher. I have managed to source our own part time teachers to provide some continuity for the children until the vacancy is filled and the new teacher can start, which I hope will be very soon.

Classes

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

P1/2 – Mrs Bland

P2/3 – Mrs Alexander, Mrs Skinner, Miss Sharp

P3/4 – Mrs Gell & Mrs More

P4/5 – Mrs Brooks & Mrs Alexander

P6 – Mr Swanson

P7 - Mrs Fraser & Mrs Lindsay

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 and hopefully avoid the large amounts of lost property we had last session.

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.

Mon 31 Oct – Return to school after holidays.

Thur 17 Nov and Fri 18 Nov – School and nursery closed for In service days.

Fri 23 Dec – Last day of term.

Mon 9 Jan – Return to school after holidays.

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 2022-2023

Term 1

- 22nd August 2022 - in-service day
- 23rd August 2022 - start of term 1
- 14th October 2022 - end of term 1
- 17th to 28th October 2022 - October holiday

Term 2

- 31st October 2022 - start of term 2
- 17th and 18th November 2022 - in-service days
- 23rd December 2022 - end of term 2
- 26th December 2022 to 6th January 2023 - Christmas holiday

Term 3

- 9th January 2023 - start of term 3
- 9th/10th February 2023 – occasional days
- 13th February 2023 - mid term holiday
- 14th and 15th February 2023 - in-service days
- 31st March 2023 - end of term 3
- 3rd to 14th April 2023 - spring holiday

Term 4

- 17th April 2023 - start of term 4
- 1st May 2023 - May Day holiday
- 5th June 2023 – occasional day
- 7th July 2023 - end of term 4
- 10th July to 18th August 2023 - summer holiday

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. For the last two sessions, we chose CLAN. I have asked staff and they have suggested **Friends of Anchor**. I 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 be completing the comments slip at the end. Many thanks.

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. There are no members of staff in the playground before 9am. 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 P1-3/4 and 1:00pm for P4/5-7** 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 as we do have a pupil with a severe nut 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 and / or Assemblies.

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.

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.

Stationery

We are delighted to see that many pupils have brought a pencil case with the basic stationery requirements in it again after the holidays. This can be left in their tray.

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.

Children should remain at home until 1pm for P4/5-7 and 1.15pm for P1-3/4, especially on cold and wet days. (P4/5-7 lunchtime is 12.15-1.10 and P1-3/4 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.

Library helpers

We are keen to get our classes back using our Library again, like they did pre Covid, but we really need parent and carer volunteers for this to happen. The job would involve getting the library ready for the classes to visit, recording which books the pupils have borrowed, returning borrowed books to the right place, tidying up and mending any books. We used to have 2 volunteers in at a time to suit yourselves so you are not on your own as it can be busy! If you are interested, we would love to hear from you. There is a process that we need to go through to 'recruit' you as a volunteer but please do not let this put you off if you are interested as we will help you every step of the way. It would also involve getting a PVG but all costs are borne by the Council.

Parents and carers in the playground

Other than P1 parents and carers and anyone who has agreed with school staff on the grounds of safety, we would like to encourage all other parents and carers to remain outside of the playground at the fence, just like during Covid restrictions. This worked really well from our point of view and the children coped remarkably well with the added independence and responsibility.

Lunchtime and Lines

P7, P6 and P4/5's lunch is from 12.15-1.10 and P1/2, P2/3 and P3/4's lunch is from 12.30-1.25.

The whole school lines up to come in at the back door at 9am, but P1/2 and P2/3 is dismissed from the door at the side nearest the fence, where the ramp is. P3/4, P4/5, P6 and P7 will be dismissed from the back door.

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. P1-5 do not have to pay for their meals. 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.

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.

Tour of Britain Active travel day

The Northeast of Scotland will once again welcome the Tour of Britain cycle race to Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire over the weekend of 3rd and 4th September 2022, with Aberdeenshire hosting a spectacular finish at the Glenshee Ski Resort on Royal Deeside. Aberdeenshire Council are aiming to ensure that all parts of the Aberdeenshire community are able to engage with this major event, as it brings the world's top cyclists to our local communities with a display of exhilarating sporting action through some of Scotland's most spectacular countryside and landscapes. Friday 2nd September 2022 will be an "Active Travel Day" across Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, so we are keen to encourage pupils to travel to school by walking, scooting or cycling that day. The children will take part in some Tour of Britain related activities in class next week also.

PE kit and the wearing of jewellery

You will already have received an email about PE kit and that we are happy for pupils to either come dressed in PE kit, as long as the top half is still uniform, or to bring a bag containing PE kit for them to get changed in school which will be sent home on a Friday to get washed.

If possible, PE Kit consists of – T shirt which tucks into shorts, standard length shorts, socks and gym shoes preferably with Velcro or elastic fastening for younger pupils, however, we understand that for those coming dressed in PE kit, they may be wearing joggers or leggings.

With regard to safety, the wearing of jewellery is actively discouraged in our school and is not permitted during PE lessons. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure he/she can remove and replace their own earrings. Any child wearing earrings who cannot do this will be asked to put surgical tape over them for PE lessons and parents should provide a named roll of surgical tape for this purpose. Shoestring strap tops are also discouraged for safety reasons as they can catch on gym apparatus and suitable footwear should be provided. The school requests that football team tops and designer garments are kept for home use as these can cause disagreements amongst the pupils.

Free from Friday

Last term the Eco group introduced 'Free From Fridays' where we encouraged children to take in a wrapper free snack for break time every Friday to reduce the amount of litter we have going in the bin. Examples of wrapper free snacks could be fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, biscuits or popcorn taken in a tub. Each week the winning class with the highest amount of wrapper free snacks received a certificate to display in their class for the week and at the end of the term the class with the most wins for the term received a special award to keep for the whole term. It is a great way to eat a healthy snack and look after the planet so we hope as many families as possible will support this initiative.

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

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 2022

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
