



Alehousewells School Newsletter

NL 1 -2023-2024



Alehousewells School

Bremner Way
Kemnay, AB51 5FW
Tel: **01467 536910**

alehousewells.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher:
Mrs Carol Hughes

Emergency Contact Details Update

Childs Name: _____

Class: _____

Emergency Contact:
Name: _____

Number: _____

Address: _____

Diary Dates:

Tue 5 Sept – Parent council meeting 6.30pm, all welcome.

Wed 20 Sept – Tempest photographer here to take individual and family photos. Further information to follow.

Mon 2 Oct - Home school folder sent home today. Further information to follow.

Wed 11 Oct – Parents' evening (face to face).

Thur 12 Oct – Parents' evening (phonecalls). Further information to follow.

Fri 13 Oct – Last day of term and dress as you please day.

Mon 30 Oct – Return to school after holidays.

Thur 16 Nov and Fri 17 Nov – School and nursery closed for In service days.

Sat 2 Dec – School Christmas Fair, 10am – 12 noon.

Wed 20 Dec – Dress as you please day.

Thur 21 Dec – Whole school trip to Rapunzel at Aberdeen Arts centre. Further details to follow.

Fri 22 Dec – Last day of term.

Mon 8 Jan – Return to school after holidays.

Dear Alehousewells families,

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 and Nursery.

Classes

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

P1 – Mrs Bland
P2/3 – Mrs Laird & Mrs Alexander
P3/4 – Mrs Brooks
P4/5 – Mrs Gell & Mrs More
P5/6 – 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 usually 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.

From next week, Mrs Selbie will be off long term. We have managed to arrange cover for every Thursday and Friday from 21 September, but until then, office cover on those days will be patchy, sometimes with staff who are new to the school office. Please bear with us during these times: we will do our best to still provide the same level of service you are used to. However, it would be really helpful if parents and carers could organise and discuss pick up arrangements with their child every morning to save a flurry of calls at 3pm every day about arrangements. Many thanks.

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, I ask that you discuss the reasons why with myself in the first instance. I will then issue a Mobile Phone contract for you to read, discuss and sign with your child. Once this is returned to school, then your child will be allowed to bring their phone to school, as long as they comply with the rules within the contract. Failure to do so will result in your child no longer being allowed to take their phone to school.

Contracts submitted last session are still valid. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Holidays and In-service days session 2023-2024

Term 1

- 21 August 2023 - In-Service Day
- 22 August 2023 - Term 1 start
- 13 October 2023 - Term 1 end
- 16 October 2023 to 27 October 2023 - October Holiday

Term 2

- 30 October 2023 - Term 2 start
- 16 November 2023 to 17 November 2023 - In-Service Day
- 22 December 2023 - Term 2 end
- 25 December 2023 to 5 January 2024 - Christmas Holiday

Term 3

- 8 January 2024 - Term 3 start
- 9 February 2024 – Occasional Day
- 12 February 2024 - Midterm Holiday
- 13 February 2024 to 14 February 2024 - In-Service Day
- 28 March 2024 - Term 3 end
- 29 March 2024 to 12 April 2024 - Spring Holiday

Term 4

- 15 April 2024 - Term 4 start
- 6 May 2024 - May Day Holiday
- 3 June 2024 – Occasional Day
- 5 July 2024 - Term 4 end
- 8 July 2024 to 16 August 2024 - 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. Last year, we chose Friends of Anchor. I have asked staff and 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 by completing the comments slip at the end. Many thanks.

Relationships, Sexual health and Parenthood (RSHP) policy

We have recently developed a draft policy on teaching Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood from Nursery to P7. This is based on current Scottish Government guidance and formalises much of what is already taught in our school. Along with this Newsletter, you will find a copy of the policy for you to read. Please use the link below to a Microsoft Form for any feedback you may have. The link will be open until 4 September, following this, I will review any comments, respond and revise the policy as necessary. Many thanks.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCxc9CysldDpBILAvtSuK_u-tUNEJKS0RFNkhUVjVXM0o2SDgwT0NJSFNHSS4u

Parent council meeting

The first Parent council meeting of this session is being held in school on Tuesday 5 September at 6.30pm. If you would like to attend but are unable to come along in person, please contact the school for a link to join virtually via Teams, as it is possible to run the meeting as a hybrid meeting. All parents and carers of children at Alehousewells school and nursery are most welcome.

Marvellousme

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have signed up to Marvellousme already. We hope you will enjoy 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.

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 and from our water chillers. 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.

Home Lunches

All children who are going home for lunch will leave via the front door and will need to sign themselves out and back in again at the Office.

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.

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, 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. We currently have one Library volunteer who works on a Wednesday morning so are ideally looking for a second person who is available then also. Can you help?

Lunchtime and Lines

P7, P5/6 and P4/5's lunch is from 12.15-1.10 and P1, 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.

Free from Friday

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.

Tesco Community grant scheme (blue tokens)

We are trying to raise enough money to install a Sensory garden in the playground. We are part of the Tesco blue token scheme until the end of September. If you are able to add your tokens into the Alehousewells container at Inverurie Tesco, we would really appreciate it. We have a chance of receiving between £500 and £1500 towards installation costs and every little helps! Many thanks.

PE kit and the wearing of jewellery

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.

You will receive a class newsletter next Friday which will detail when PE days are along with lots of other information about the term ahead for your child.

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.

Rapunzel panto trip, Thur 21 December

This year, P1-7 can look forward to a whole school trip to Aberdeen Arts Centre to see Rapunzel on the morning of Thursday 21 December. This is very exciting as we haven't been to a Theatre to see a Panto for several years. Further details will be shared about this whole school trip soon.

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 2023

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
