



Clerkhill School Newsletter

Thursday 10th October 2019

Our School Motto - "Inspire - Believe - Work hard - Achieve"
Our School Values: Respect-Nurture-Honesty-Care-Hardwork-Inclusion

ADVERSE WEATHER CONTACT DETAILS

Aberdeenshire Council Website: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0370 054 4999

Clerkhill Pin number: 02 14 70

Dates for your Diary			
Monday 28 th October	School resumes at 9am	Friday 20 th December	P7 Christmas Party (pm) School closes at 3pm for Christmas break
Thursday 7 th November	Parent Council - 7pm	Monday 6 th January	School starts at 9am
Thursday 7 th November	Open afternoon/ evening for 50 th birthday (3:00 - 6:00)	Thursday 16 th January	6pm - PSA Meeting 7pm - Parent Council Meeting
Saturday 9 th November	Christmas Fayre (12-4)	Monday 10 th February	Scots Night (7pm)
Wednesday 13 th & Thursday 14 th November	Parents' Evening & Scholastic Book Fair	Thursday 13 th , Friday 14 th & Monday 17 th February	Mid Term break (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need	Tuesday 18 th & Wednesday 19 th February	Staff In Service Training (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Monday 18 th & Tuesday 19 th November	Staff In Service training (SCHOOL CLOSED)	Monday 23 rd March	Bingo Tea (6:30pm)
Monday 25 th - Wednesday 27 th November	Flu Immunisation Programme	Friday 3 rd April	School closes at 3pm for Easter break
Friday 6 th December	Christmas Concert (1:15pm)		
Monday 9 th & Tuesday 10 th December	Christmas Concerts 9:30am and 1:15pm		
Wednesday 11 th December	P1 Christmas Party (pm)		
Thursday 12 th December	Travelling Panto in school		
Friday 13 th December	P2 Christmas Party(pm)		
Monday 16 th December	P3 Christmas Party (pm)		
Tuesday 17 th December	P4 Christmas Party (pm)		
Wednesday 18 th December	P5 Christmas party (pm)		
Thursday 19 th December	P6 Christmas Party (pm)		



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"SUSTRANS" I BIKE BREAKFAST AND INITIATIVE/ WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK



This year again we are excited to be part of Sustrans' I Bike project, promoting cycling, scooting and walking to school. Our first Bike Breakfast of the session took place last week on Wednesday 2nd October and was a great success with almost 190 parents and pupils enjoying a healthy breakfast after biking, scooting or walking to school.

We shall be holding another Bike Breakfast next term.

COMMUNICATION

Skype Telephony

Last year we had new Skype Telephony installed at Clerkhill School. As intimated previously on several occasions, our new school number is:

01779 403660



Our old number is no longer operational so parents/carers must use the number above if making contact with the school.

SeeSaw App

All our classes are now using this tool very effectively as a way of communicating with parents. SeeSaw can also be used to share information on work being undertaken in class. If you have misplaced the information letter and require another letter to be sent home then please let your child's class teacher know.

STAFF NEWS

Ms Jennifer Jones

Ms Jennifer Jones left Clerkhill School to commence her Maternity Leave on Friday 13th September. Ms Jones gave birth to a beautiful baby girl called Holly on Monday 7th October. Both mum and baby are doing well.



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ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB COMMUNITY TRUST



Members of staff from AFCCT continue to work in partnership with our school every Monday this session. The team from AFCCT will continue to work with many of our pupils to help with the development of self esteem, tolerance of others, resilience and also conflict resolution.



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT/LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our Pupil Leadership groups and extra curricular activities are underway.

- **Pupil Council** - This term the Pupil Council have done a fantastic job of organising our Foodbank Appeal. They have been responsible for collecting donations from classes and some of our older Pupil Council member have been packing the donated items and loading them into the Foodbank's van. Alison from the Peterhead Foodbank came to visit our school and has invited the Pupil Council to come along to the Foodbank after the October holidays to find out what happens next to all our donations. After this visit, the Pupil Council members will present the information to the school at assembly
- **JRSO** - The JRSO group planned and organised our successful Walk to School Week as well as helping to organise our Bike Breakfast on Wednesday 2nd October
- **Eco Group** - The Eco group has had a great start this term with lots of new members and also some familiar faces. All our activities are part of our action plan which we need to deliver to achieve a green flag. This term we have been gathering ideas for new planters and planning what we would like to grow. When the weather allows we are weeding and preparing the beds we already have. We will be writing to the council to try to reduce packaging in school lunches like the grapes in single use bags. To accomplish our aspirations, we would really like parent support in a number of projects. We would like to build a compost bin and need help to remove the old barrel planters from the playground. If anyone feels they are able to help us with these projects please contact Mrs Laws or Mrs Dow
- **House Captains** - Our House Captains continue to do a great job of encouraging positive behaviour at Clerkhill School and counting up House Points at the end of each week
- **Children's University** - Many of our P4-7 pupils have registered their interest in Children's University and are busy collecting credits through their extra-curricular activities or their participation in leadership opportunities in school
- **Science & Technology** - Some of our P7 pupils are busy developing their Science and Engineering skills under the capable direction of Mrs Pressley, Miss Moir and Miss Ashton during Science Club which runs each Tuesday after school. The Science Club is



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currently working on 2 projects; one group is completing work for the VEX robotics competition and another group is completing work on a Space themed project.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Last week our P4 classes organised a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning which was extremely well supported by parents and friends. The amazing total of **£659.30** was raised. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this

event or indeed provided baking. As always your support is very much appreciated. Many thanks also to the hardworking pupils and staff who collaborated together to plan and organise the event - they developed many important Life Skills through this.



ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

As we approach the winter months, we need to think about procedures for possible School Closures during adverse weather. In the event of adverse weather, information regarding school closure / partial closure / changes to school transport arrangements can be found on the website below or by dialling the Aberdeenshire Information Line (number noted below). **Please note:** You will need to enter the Clerkhill Pin Number to hear information recorded on the Aberdeenshire Information Line.

Aberdeenshire Council Website : www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0870 054 4999

Clerkhill Pin number: 02 14 70

WET WEATHER INFORMATION

Should the weather be inclement in the morning, playground doors will be opened at 8.45am to allow children to shelter from the rain. However, on such days, parents should try to take children to school as close to 9:00am as possible.



It is at the Head Teacher's discretion that the doors are opened prior to 9:00am on days when the weather is bad. Acceptable standards of behaviour are expected at these times.

If the weather is inclement at lunchtimes, children who are returning from home dinners should return to school **no more than five minutes before the bell**. On their return to school, pupils should enter via the main door as individual playground doors will not be open. Again, an acceptable standard of behaviour is expected at these times.



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INDOOR SHOES/PE KITS

Children are allowed to change into their indoor/gym shoes at any point during the day. We often encourage children who come wearing boots or wellies to change into their indoor/gym shoes if these are more comfortable for them to wear in school.

To enable them to participate in all PE lessons, pupils should have a full PE kit in school at all times. These will be returned home to be washed at the end of each term. We do have spare PE kits in school for use by any of our pupils. Please send a message to your child's teacher via See Saw if you would like your child to borrow one of our spare kits.

PARENT COUNCIL AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our next Parent Council Meeting takes place on **Thursday 7th November at 7:00pm**. A warm invitation is extended to parents in this regard. At this meeting I shall be giving an update on recent school developments and our improvement priorities for the remainder of the session.

Our next Fundraising event will be our Christmas Fayre which takes place on **Saturday 9th November from 12-4** at the school. This year we have lots of exciting things planned, including an ice rink!

Without the support of our PSA group, our pupils at Clerkhill would not benefit from the many extras they do. Over the past few years we have used much of the money raised through our PSA events to buy technology for our school. Over the next few sessions we shall be concentrating our efforts of fundraising to improve our play areas at school as well as continuing to add to our existing technology resources.

CLASS TOPICS

Over the past term, our whole school have been focussing on Clerkhill School is 50 and "Our Democratic World"

Next term our whole school focus will be "Our Scientific World"

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Our staff are going to be very busy on our two In-Service Days in November where we will be starting to look at a new Health and Wellbeing programme about to be launched at Clerkhill School. We shall also be exploring what good Learning and Teaching looks like at Clerkhill as well as undertaking some online training on Sensory Behaviours and Emotional Regulation.



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INTERIM REPORTS

Following on from feedback from parents, a brief interim report outlining your child's progress to date in their new class will be issued on Wednesday 6th November. These reports will form the basis of discussions with your child's class teacher at your Parent Appointment on either the 13th or 14th November.

Clerkhill is 50

As you know, we have had a very busy term, celebrating our school's 50th birthday. On the school's official "birthday" we had a "party day" for all pupils and were even visited by Clerkhill's very first Head Teacher, Mr Gordon Brewster. On Thursday 26th September, children enjoyed the chance to attend our Golden Disco and then last Thursday afternoon our pupils entertained former members of staff from Clerkhill who attended our "Through the Decades" concert. This was a wonderful afternoon where many former staff had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from the past.

The children really did do our school proud!

CAR PARK

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that our school car park is for staff and disabled parking, taxis, deliveries and after school pick ups and drop offs **ONLY**. The car park must not be used by any other parties for picking up or dropping off children.

PLAYGROUNDS

Lastly, may I also remind parents that dogs are not allowed in our play areas at drop off or pick up times. This is to ensure we keep all our children safe until they leave the school grounds. The riding of bikes and scooters within the school grounds (by any of our pupils or indeed younger siblings) is also prohibited. Again this is to ensure the safety of all our pupils whilst in the school grounds.

I wish you all a relaxing October break and look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 28th October at 9am.

Regards,
Ann-Louise Murray
Head Teacher
October 2019