



Clerkhill School Newsletter

Friday 1st April 2022

Our School Motto: "Inspire - Believe - Work Hard - Achieve"

Our School Values: Respect-Nurture-Honesty-Care-Hard Work-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

Friday 1 st April 2022	School closes for Easter break
Monday 18 th April 2022	Term 4 - School resumes at the usual times
Monday 2 nd May 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for May Day
Thursday 5 th May 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for Election
Wednesday 18 th May 2022	Nursery, P1 & P7 Group Photos
Thursday 2 nd June & Friday 3 rd June 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for Queen's Jubilee
Friday 10 th June 2022	Final Reports issued to parents
Tuesday 14 th June 2022	Sports Day 9.30am: P4 - P7 1.30pm: P1 - P3
Friday 17 th June 2022	P7 Leavers Party - evening
Monday 20 th June 2022	P7 Show - 7pm
Tuesday 21 st June 2022	P5 - P7 Sports Event at Catto Park (TBC)
Wednesday 22 nd , Thursday 23 rd & Friday 24 th June 2022	P7 Transition Days at Peterhead Academy
Friday 1 st July 2022	P7 Leavers Assembly - 9.30am P7 Leavers Procession - 2.45pm



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Parent Council

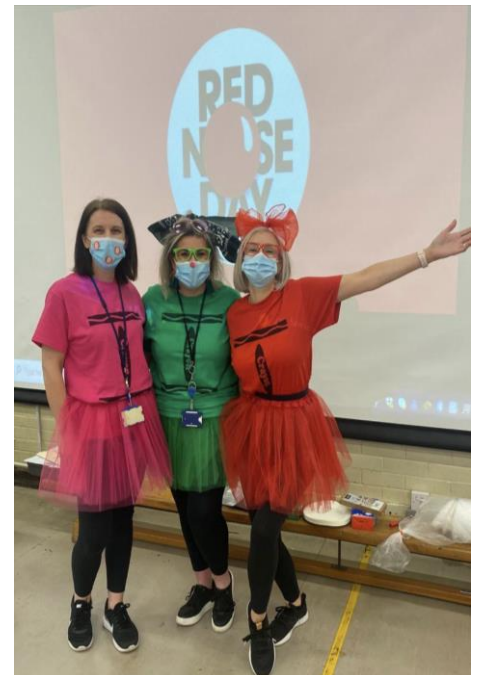
Our next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 21st April at 6pm. This will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams.

If you are not a regular attendee at our Parent Council Meetings but you would like to join us on the 21st April, please e-mail the school mailbox on clerkhill.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk and we can have your details passed on to the secretary for our Parent Council.

Comic Relief

Friday 18th March was a fabulous day of fun and games at our school as we participated in a variety of fundraising activities for Comic Relief. Thanks to your generosity a grand total of £1728.22 was raised on the day. £471.61 of this will be donated to a charity supporting the provision of aid to Ukraine.

As well as raising lots of money for these worthy causes, the day was extra special as we all came together for our first in-person assemblies in two years. The children all behaved very well and it was just delightful to have them all together after such a long time.





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Education Scotland Recovery Visit

We are very excited to be receiving a visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors from Education Scotland on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th April 2022. The team visiting us will be evaluating the work the school has done in response to the pandemic and how we have ensured continuity of learning for our young people as well as how we have supported them over these past two years. During their time with us the team will visit all our classes, meet with our Pupil Council and representatives from some of our other Wider Achievement groups. They will also meet with a group of parents and hold drop-in sessions for staff.

Election Day

As our school is being used as a Polling Station on Thursday 5th May, the school will be closed on this day. Online Learning will be provided and can be accessed via your child's Teams page.

COVID

I am delighted to report that new Guidance for Schools sees many of the current mitigations in school lifted, as of Monday 18th April.

Parents and staff no longer need to wear masks in outdoor areas and parents of pupils in P4 and above may now wait within the school grounds should they wish to do so at the end of the day.

Although staff will still need to wear masks in the corridors and communal areas in school, they may now be removed within the classroom, should staff wish to do so. Any staff member wishing to continue wearing a mask within the classroom will be supported to take whichever decision they feel is best for them. Please see specific details on updated school guidance below:

- Children, young people and staff must stay at home and self-isolate if they:
 - have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not
 - have tested positive, even if asymptomatic
 - are required to self-isolate for any other reason in line with the requirements set out on NHS Inform
 - are identified as a close contact and are over 18 years and 4 months and not fully vaccinated



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- From 18th April 2022, there is no longer a requirement for schools to issue individual information ("warn and inform") letters to low risk contacts when positive cases are identified, or for them to test prior to returning to the school environment provided they remain without symptoms
- Washing hands thoroughly, at the right time, using appropriate facilities and products helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Schools should continue to support staff and children and young people to follow advice on good hand hygiene, and to ensure regular surface cleaning in schools and on school transport
- While face coverings will not be required in classrooms, including for learners in the senior phase sitting exams, learners and staff should continue to be supported to wear them if they choose to do so.
- Physical distancing - children, young people and staff should follow the wider societal guidance on physical distancing in schools or on dedicated school transport. As in wider society it will remain important to be cautious and exercise personal responsibility, recognising that, where possible, it is safer to keep a distance from other people
- There are no restrictions on indoor and outdoor drama activity, music, PE or dance. Routine measures should continue to apply in relevant settings where these activities are taking place (e.g. good ventilation).
- School day visits and residential stays are permitted in keeping with guidance on school visits and trips: Coronavirus (COVID-19): school visits and trips - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
- There are no restrictions on assemblies, although routine measures will continue to apply (e.g. good ventilation, regular cleaning, etc)
- There are no restrictions on parents, carers or wider family members entering school buildings, although they will be expected to comply with the school's routine measures. There are therefore no restrictions on "in person" parent/carers evenings, parent/carers related events and meetings in school buildings, e.g. subject choice events, career events, fundraising events, family learning activities, volunteering in school, Parent Council, Parent Teacher Association meetings and other similar events or meetings.
- Parents, carers and family members are able to attend indoor and outdoor sporting and cultural events



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As many mitigations have been lifted we shall be making some slight changes to our start and end of day procedures for our P3-7 pupils.

All current arrangements for P1 & P2 classes will remain as they currently are.

P3-7: Start Times and Entrances / Exits

P3 & P4

- Pupils will all assemble in the middle playground in the morning and enter through the door which faces this playground (this is a change for our pupils in P3/4A and P4M - teachers will have run through this new arrangement with their class so they will be familiar with the new routine for the start of term)
- Doors will be open from 9:00 - 9:05 for pupils to come into school
- Pupils will still have their hands sanitised on arrival
- Staff will be on duty in the playground in the mornings (from 9:00am) to ensure pupils are clear on new arrangements
- Pupils will all exit into the middle playground at the end of the school day (again a change for those in P3/4A and P4M - parents should wait for their child in this playground at the end of the day if they are collecting them from the playground)

P5-7 pupils

- All P5-7 pupils will assemble in the front playground in the mornings
- All P5 & 6 pupils will enter and exit through the "Senior End" door
- All P7 classes will enter and exit through the door at the top of the steps in the front playground
- Doors will be open from 9:00 - 9:05 for pupils to come in to school
- Staff will be on duty in the playground in the mornings (from 9:00am) to ensure pupils are clear on new arrangements
- All P5-7 pupils will be dismissed into the front playground at the end of the day

Class Topics

Over the past term, our whole school have been focussing on "Our Healthy World", "Internet Safety" and "My World of Work". Classes have enjoyed learning about a variety of jobs in our community and about the many skills needed for different careers.

Next term our whole school focus will be "Our Local World", a Health focus and then Transition Focus.



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John Muir Group and Queen's Green Canopy

Our John Muir group had visitors at the Brave Community Woodlands on the 23rd March. Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire Douglas Fowlie, Mrs Murray and volunteers from the Brave Outdoors Community Woodland joined them to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a selection of trees.

The Green Canopy tree planting ceremony is part of a series of events across Aberdeenshire and beyond marking this most remarkable milestone of the Queen's reign, which began in 1952. As part of the Green Canopy, the Woodland Trust gave trees to schools and community groups. In a joint venture, Clerkhill School and the Community Woodland secured 420 trees which all have berries or fruits to encourage more biodiversity to the woodland.

The John Muir Group has been visiting the woodland since August and have been developing perseverance, resilience, and team building skills through different activities such as den building, identifying trees, campfire cooking and helping to create footpaths in the woodland. As part of the award the pupils must discover, explore, conserve and share their experiences of a wild place. The John Muir Award pupils planted the trees as part of the 'conserve' element of their award.



Staffing

This term we have welcomed back **Mrs Marina Miller** and **Mrs Jemma Fraser**, who have both returned from maternity leave.

Mrs Miller will be providing non-class contact time to some of our teachers next term, whilst Mrs Fraser will be teaching P2B every Thursday and Friday.

We are delighted to have the two ladies back with us.

This week we said goodbye to **Ms Sharon Stevenson**, one of our EYPs. Sharon has left us to take up a new post in a nursery closer to home. We'd like to thank Sharon for her hard work and dedication to our nursery children during her time with us at Clerkhill and wish her all the best in her new job.



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Extra-Curricular Clubs

I'm delighted to report that some of our extra curricular clubs have now started again. Below are details of some clubs which have been running this term and also 2 new clubs which will be starting next term.

Netball

This term the P5 and P6 girls in the After School Netball Club have been improving their physical abilities, techniques and teamwork skills while enjoying friendly games against each other. We look forward to welcoming more players to the team next term. (Sign up is through Active Aberdeenshire).

Bible Club

Some of our P3s have been enjoying attending the Bible Club which runs on a Wednesday after school. Information about the continuation of this club into Term 4 will be sent home shortly.

Dance Club

Miss Mitchell will be running a P6 Dance Club next term. The Dance Club will consist of having fun, learning exciting dancing routines and getting active the fun way! A variety of dancing styles such as Hip Hop, Contemporary and Jazz will be covered. The club will be held in the Big Hall from 3pm - 4pm each Wednesday. Mrs Gilmartin (PSA) and Ebonnie Buchan (former pupil and participant in our J Rock Team) will be assisting Miss Mitchell with the club. Dance Club will begin on Wednesday 20th April and will be ongoing each Wednesday for the remainder of the term.

Hip Hop

P4-7 - Mondays - 3pm-4pm - starting 9th May.

The focus of the dance club will be Hip Hop dancing. Learning new skills, moves, tricks, improving their confidence, making new friends, and having fun while doing it all.

Lego League

We have 2 Lego League teams this year taking part in a tournament in Fraserburgh on the 21st April. Bricks United involves 10 P7 pupils and Clerkhill Robomatics involves 9 P6 pupils. Both teams have been developing their coding skills and they have been researching how to improve the transportation of cargo. They have developed many transferable skills and are looking forward to sharing their learning with the other teams at the tournament.





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P7 Leavers Assembly and Leavers Procession

As our mitigations around parents accessing our school building are being relaxed somewhat, if these remain the same in June, we shall look forward to inviting our P7 parents into school on Friday 1st July at 9:30am for our P7 leavers assembly. Further information on tickets for this event (two per family) will be communicated nearer the time.

We shall also have our P7s piped from the school grounds at 2:45pm on this day and parents will also be welcome to attend this, as in previous years.

End of Year Reports

These will be issued to P1-7 parents on Friday 10th June.

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.

As another busy term draws to a close, once again I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a pleasant Spring Break. We look forward to welcoming all our learners back with us on Monday 18th April at their usual times.

Regards,

Ann-Louise Murray
Head Teacher

April 2022