



Clerkhill School Newsletter

Friday 26th August 2022

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

Dates for your Diary

		Monday 31 st October	School resumes at 9:00am
		Thursday 3 rd November	Parent Council / Fundraising Committee Meeting (6pm) - In School
Tuesday 30 th & Wednesday 31 st August	P1 Trial Lunch	Monday 14 th - Wednesday 16 th November	Flu Vaccination Programme in School
Thursday 1 st September	Parent Council / Fundraising Committee Meeting (6pm) - In School	Wednesday 16 th November	Children in Need Day
Monday 5 th September	P1s start full days	Thursday 17 th & Friday 18 th November	SCHOOL CLOSED for Staff INSET
Thursday 8 th September	Meet the Teacher Afternoon (2:00pm - 2:45pm / 3:10pm - 4:00pm)	Saturday 3 rd December	Christmas Battered Morning (TBC)
Thursday 8 th September	P2-6 Maths Parent Workshops (4:00pm & 6:00pm) - Big Hall	Friday 9 th December	Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 14 th September & Thursday 29 th September	P1 Parent Workshops - 6:00pm	Monday 12 th December	P4-7 Concert (1:30pm)
Thursday 15 th September	P2-6 Literacy Parent Workshops (4:00pm & 6:00pm) - Big Hall	Tuesday 13 th December	P4-7 Concert (9:30am & 1:30pm)
Wednesday 28 th & Thursday 29 th September	Individual Photos (Whole School)	Wednesday 14 th December	P1-3 Concert (9:30am & 1:30pm)
Wednesday 5 th October	P1 Fancy Dress Disco (3:45pm - 4:45pm)	Thursday 15 th December	P1-3 Concert (9:30am) P2 Party (1:30pm)
Thursday 6 th October	P3-7 Fancy Dress Discos P2&3 - 3:45pm - 5:00pm; P4&5 - 6:00pm - 7:15pm; P6&7 - 7:30pm - 8:45pm)	Friday 16 th December	P3&4 Party (1:30pm)
Friday 7 th October	Whole School Sponsored Walk	Monday 19 th December	P5 Party (1:30pm)
Wednesday 12 th October	Parents' Evening Appointments (in person) 3:30pm - 5:00pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm Book Fair in School	Tuesday 20 th December	P6 Party (1:30pm)
Thursday 13 th October	Parents' Evening Appointments in School (3:30pm - 5:00pm)	Wednesday 21 st December	P1 Party (1:30pm)
Friday 14 th October	School closes at 3pm for October break	Thursday 22 nd December	P7 Party (1:30pm) School Closes at 3:00pm for Christmas Break
		Monday 9 th January	School resumes at 9:00am



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Welcome Back!

What a fabulous return to school we have had. Our pupils have returned to school full of enthusiasm, fun and chatter!

It has been a delight to see them looking so smart in their uniforms. Thank you for your efforts in this area.

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES - SESSION 2022-2023

At Clerkhill School we are always striving to be the best we can be and to provide our learners with the best educational experiences possible. Our main improvement priorities this session are Raising Standards in Writing; Play & Skills Based Approaches to Learning; Profiling, Reporting and the updating of our Relationships Policy (Previously Positive Behaviour Policy), to encompass our new Vision, Values and Aims.

DINNER TICKETS

The cost of a school dinner this session is £2.50. This will be for P6&7 pupils only as all P1-5 pupils are entitled to a free school meal.

Pupils may bring their own juice to school to have at lunchtime. Alternatively, fresh water is always available. For health and safety purposes I would request that, if pupils are bring their own juice in a reusable bottle that this bottle is NOT glass.

Reminder of Start and Finish Time

START TIMES	
P1 - 7	All classes start at 9:00am
PLAYTIMES	
P1&2	10:40am - 10:55am
P3 - 7	10:20am - 10:35am
LUNCHTIMES	
P1&2	12:35pm - 1:20pm
P3 - 5	12:15pm - 1:00pm
P6&7	12:00pm - 12:45pm
FINISH TIMES	
P1 - 7	School finishes for all pupils at 3:00pm



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PICKING UP AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Our school is a very busy place and in the afternoons, our school Administrator Miss Stephen will be the only person in the office and not always at her desk to answer calls. Whilst we appreciate that there may be changes to your child's after school arrangements from time to time, we would request that, as far as is practically possible, your child is aware of who is picking them up at the end of the day which will minimise the amount of messages having to be relayed to pupils very close to 3pm.

On a similar note, whilst we are happy to accommodate pupils being collected from the main reception at 3pm **in exceptional circumstances**, this is not something we would encourage or be able to facilitate as an ongoing arrangement (unless a particular situation has been discussed with myself).

Pupils who attend After School Care will continue to be picked up from the main reception.

All pupils in **P1 & 2 MUST** be collected at the end of the school day by a known adult. It would be preferable if pupils in P3 are also collected by a known adult, however if you feel your child is mature enough to leave the school grounds at the end of the day by themselves then we would ask that you e-mail the school to make us aware of this. This information will then be shared with the class teacher.

Our P1 & P2 playgrounds are very busy at the end of the day and we would respectfully request that parents wait at a reasonable distance from the doors the children will be exiting from. This is to enable the class teachers to identify the known adult collecting specific children.

Picking Up throughout the School Day

In the interests of good attendance we would ask that requests to pick children up early during the school day are kept to an absolute minimum.

Our Safeguarding Policy is that we require 24 hour notice if a child has to be picked up from school early for a particular reason and the person listed as the Main Contact on our system **has** to be the person collecting. If it is someone other than the Main Contact who comes to collect a child throughout the school day, we will not release the child until we have verified this with the Main Contact on our system. This is in the interests of Child Protection.

School Car Park

Two members of staff yesterday reported to me that several pupils were walking through the staff car park at the start and end of the school day, to get to or from their playground.

At Assembly I remind pupils regularly that they should not walk through the staff car park, unless they are late arriving at school and need to come in through the main reception. They should walk through the school grounds to reach their assigned playground or their exit point.

I would also request that parents of our younger children do not walk through the car park with their child at the start or end of the day, but also walk around the school grounds instead.

Our car park is an extremely busy place at 9am and 3pm and walking through it is unsafe and may result in an accident which we wish to avoid at all costs.

PE / Outdoor Learning Days

Over the next week, class teachers will issue information about PE Days / Outdoor Learning Days as well as the learning which will take place this term, via their class newsletter.



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Please take time to read the following paragraph carefully:

On PE / Outdoor Learning days, children should continue to come to school dressed with a school polo shirt and sweatshirt on top but may wear bottoms which are suitable for PE / Outdoor Learning. Pupils should not wear casual tops on PE or Outdoor Learning days, it is only bottoms which should be casual and suitable for PE/ Outdoor activities.

We would also request that pupils bring a change of footwear for PE days (indoor shoes). These may be brought in each PE day or may remain in school for the session.

If you require support accessing school uniform, please contact the 'Benefits' section of Aberdeenshire Council who may be able to assist you. We also do have some spare sweatshirts and polo shirts in school should you require some of these.

WATER BOTTLES

As the majority of our school based COVID mitigations have been lifted, pupils are now permitted to drink from our water fountains. To minimise disruption to learning I would still encourage parents to provide their child with a water bottle to drink from throughout the school day. Whilst we would prefer that children only have water in their water bottle, should your child not like to drink water, they may be permitted to have WEAK diluting juice in their bottle.

COMMUNICATION

As you know, our main form of communication with parents, including newsletters, is via the "Xpressions" App and the school Facebook page. Newsletters are also uploaded onto the school website. To ensure you do not miss out on vital information, Aberdeenshire Council are now requesting that all parents be signed up to Parentsportal. Should you require any support with this please contact the school office.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations are extended to Mrs Esson and Miss Jones on the birth of their new babies in recent days. Both mums and babies are doing well!

Congratulations are also extended to Mrs Nicola Findlater who was appointed to the position of Literacy and Numeracy teacher at Peterhead Academy during the summer holidays.

Mrs Findlater will leave Clerkhill School on Friday 16th September, taking up her new position at Peterhead Academy on Monday 19th September. We would like to thank Mrs Findlater for her years of service and dedication to Clerkhill School and wish her all the very best as she takes this next step on her professional journey.

Regards,

Ann-Louise Murray
Head Teacher, Clerkhill School



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HOLIDAY DATES 2022 / 2023

TERM 1

Monday 22nd August 2022

Tuesday 23rd August 2022

Friday 14th October 2022

In-service

Pupils return to school 9am

School finishes at 3:00pm

TERM 2

Monday 31st October 2022

Thursday 17th/Friday 18th November 2022

Thursday 22nd December 2022

Pupils return to school 9am

In-Service Days

School finishes at 3.00pm for
Christmas Break

TERM 3

Monday 9th January 2023

Fri 10th & Mon 13th February 2023

Tues 14th/Wed 15th February 2023

Friday 31st March 2023

Pupils return to school 9am

Mid-Term Holiday

In-service Days

School finishes at 3.00pm for
Easter Break

TERM 4

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 1st May 2023

Monday 4th June 2023

Friday 7th July 2023

Pupils return to school 9am

May Day Holiday

School Closed (holiday)

School finishes at 3.00pm for
Summer Holiday

Aberdeenshire school holidays are also found on:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25390/25revisedjun20.pdf>