



## Clerkhill School Newsletter

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**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**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Term 3 - School resumes at the usual times
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for Mid-Term Break
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for Staff In-Service Training
Week beginning 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	Parent Consultations / Phone Calls (TBC)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	School closes for Easter break
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Term 4 - School resumes at the usual times
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for May Day
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June & Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022	SCHOOL CLOSED for Queen's Jubilee
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	School closes for Summer break



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#### Christmas Activities

December is always a VERY busy time of year in school. This year has, once again, been quite different to normal and we hope you will enjoy our Virtual Christmas Concert which will be shared with you before the end of term.



The children all enjoyed a delicious Christmas Dinner, provided by our wonderful Catering Team, as well as their class party where they enjoyed some goodies, organised and supplied by our Fundraising Committee. Grateful thanks are extended to our hardworking team of parent volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure all our children had a really good party.



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December we hope to have some great fun in school and we would like to invite all our pupils to come to school dressed with "A Touch of Christmas". No school uniform required on these days.

Unfortunately the trip we had planned for the children on the last day of term has had to be re-scheduled. This decision was made following guidance shared with Head Teachers from the Head of Education and NHS colleagues on Wednesday. Whilst this was both disappointing and frustrating we hope to re-arrange our trip for later this session.

#### ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

The devastation and disruption caused by Storm Arwen has highlighted once again the need for us to be aware of 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.

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#### Wet Weather Information (Reminder)

Should the weather be inclement in the morning, playground doors will not be opened before the allocated time. In this respect I would request that pupils arrive at school as close to their entry time as possible.



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.

It is also important that children are dressed appropriately with warm clothes and a cosy jacket for the winter weather as the playground can be a very chilly place!

#### COVID

##### Covid Mitigations and Minimising Risk

As you are well aware, COVID is still very much in our midst and, once again, I would like to extend my appreciation to you all for your co-operation with us in this regard, as we try to minimise school transmission as much as possible.

Just a very brief reminder of the following:

- If anyone in your household is displaying any symptoms of COVID (new or persistent cough, temperature of 37.9 degrees or above, or loss of smell or taste), then pupils from that household MUST NOT attend school until the symptomatic person has received a negative PCR test
- If the symptomatic person receives a positive PCR test then pupils from the same household may not return to school until they have undertaken the appropriate period of isolation

#### Contact Details

It is vitally important that we have the most up-to-date contact details for all parents held in school. Should you move house or change phone number, please inform the office immediately so your details can be changed on our systems. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated. I would also encourage you to download the Xpressions App if you haven't already done so. This has been our primary means of communication with parents for over two years now and many important pieces of information are communicated via this App. Should you require any help getting this set up, please do not hesitate to contact the ladies in the office who will be more than happy to help you get set up with this.



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#### Class Topics

Over the past term, our whole school have been focussing on "Our Caring World".

Next term our whole school focus will be "Scottish Focus", "Our Healthy World" and then "My World of Work".

#### In-Service Training

Our staff were very busy on our two In-Service Days in November where we were looking at Whole School Nurturing approaches, as well as spending time looking at our Attainment Data and engaging in further Literacy training.

#### Parking Around Clerkhill

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.

May I also, once again, remind all parents/carers that they must not stop on the yellow zig zag lines outside school, even for a few seconds, to drop off children. This is dangerous and may cause an accident. In this regard, I have been in touch with Police Scotland and our local Community Liaison officers to request that they undertake intermittent patrols around our school at drop-off and pick-up times.

As the weather deteriorates and the light is poor both in the mornings and after school, I would ask parents that they park and drive responsibly and legally around school. This will ensure the safety of all our pupils when they are walking in the vicinity of the school.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

#### 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.

Our COVID mitigations still request that we keep the amount of adults gathering in the playgrounds to a minimum. Parents of pupils in P1-3 may enter the school grounds at the start and end of the day, but I would request that you arrive as close to your child's start time as possible, and also vacate the school grounds as swiftly as possible at the end of the day.



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#### Playgrounds (continued)

Parents of pupils in P4 may also enter the front playground to collect their child at the end of the day, should they wish to do so. I would, however, request that you remain socially distanced and also stay towards the wall which backs onto Cairntrodlie.

May I also remind parents that, unless exempt, masks should still continue to be worn when you enter school grounds. We would also appreciate if you could try to ensure your child has everything for the day ahead with them to school. This is to minimise the amount of adults accessing the school reception. Unless absolutely vital, parents should not be entering the school building without a pre-arranged appointment, authorised by the Head Teacher.

#### Staffing

Mrs Holly Yates (P5/6Y), leaves us on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December to begin a period of maternity leave. Mrs Jennifer Taylor, one of our teachers who currently covers non-class contact time, will take over from Mrs Yates at the start of Term 3.

Moving forward, the following arrangement will be in place for P5/6Y:

Mrs Esson will teach the class on a Monday morning, Thursday and Friday

Mrs Taylor will teach the class on a Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We wish Mrs Yates well as she begins her period of maternity leave and look forward to hearing of the arrival of her new baby in due course.

#### Closing Remarks

As we approach the end of another unusual and busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Clerkhill School for their hard work and commitment over the past year - I feel honoured to be part of such a hardworking, supportive team. I would also like to thank parents and carers for their tremendous support once again throughout 2021. Finally, I must once again acknowledge our wonderful children who never cease to amaze us with their enthusiasm, determination and hard work which they demonstrate each day in school.

May I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Regards,

Ann-Louise Murray  
Head Teacher  
December 2021

