



# Clerkhill School Newsletter

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 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

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	School resumes at the usual times		Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Term 3 begins at usual times
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November - Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Immunisation Programme		Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	SCHOOL CLOSED for mid term break
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Council Meeting (Virtual via Microsoft Teams) - 6pm		Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	SCHOOL CLOSED for staff in-service training
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need		Week beginning 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent Consultations / Phone Calls - TBC
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAINING		Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School closes for Easter Break
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas themed "Dress Up or Dress Down" Day			
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert filming taking place in school - cold choice or packed lunch only for dinner			
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 Party (pm)- including P6s from P6/7s and P5/6Y			
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	P5 Party (pm) - including P5s from P4/5E and P5/6Y			
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 Party (pm) - including P4s from P4/5E and P3/4A			
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 Party (pm) including P3s from P3/4A			
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	P2 Party (pm) - including P2s from P1/2J			
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P1S, P1B(pm) - including P1s from P1/2J			
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P7 Party (pm) including P7s from P6/7S			



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Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

School closes for  
Christmas break

It has been an incredibly busy first term back at school and the majority of our learners have been working extremely hard and behaving well. It is always a pleasure to speak with the pupils about their learning.

#### **Improvement Priorities 2021 - 2022**

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. One of our main Improvement Priorities this session will be focussed on Reading and Spelling and we are well underway with this.

You can read our full Standards and Quality report by following the link below.

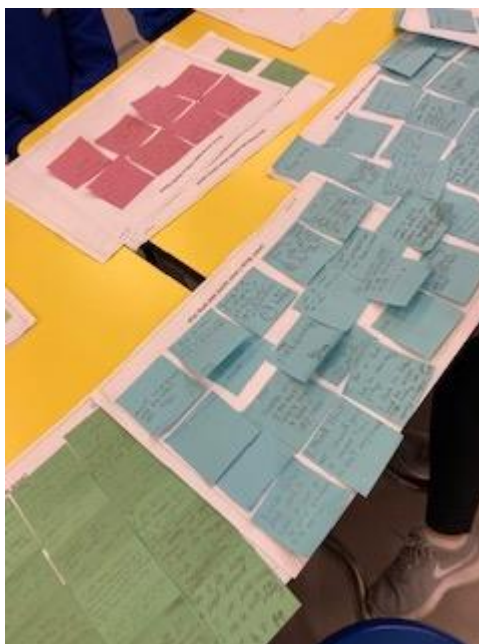
<https://clerkhill.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SQUIP-Clerkhill-2021-2022-updated-Sep-2021.docx>

#### **Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback Surveys**

Thanks to those of you who took the time to answer the feedback survey we issued in September. A link to a Powerpoint which summarises the main points of note can be found below. We shall issue another survey at the start of the new term and would appreciate and value your engagement with this.

<https://clerkhill.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Parent-Feedback-Summary.pptx>

As well as asking our parent body to give us feedback on how we are performing as a school and tell us how we could improve, we have also asked the views of our staff and, most importantly, our pupils. We have a fabulous Pupil Council this year who took their first task of gathering feedback from all our P3-7 learners, very seriously. I have to say we had some very insightful feedback and shall be following this up in the new term.





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#### **Marvellous Me**

Marvellous Me is now up and running and is a great platform for school staff to share information on your child's achievements in school and to communicate key pieces of information with you. If you haven't managed to get set up with this, please send us an e-mail on [Clerkhill.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:Clerkhill.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) and one of the DHTs will be able to assist you with this.

#### **UNCRC**

#### **statement from claire**

#### **Sponsored Walk**

Thankfully, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, we enjoyed some lovely weather to undertake our sponsored walk. Once again, we have been blown away by the generosity of our parents and wider community who have helped us raise the fantastic amount of £7397.21.

As we will not be allowed to have any in-person audiences at our Christmas Concerts this year, a small amount of this money will be used to help fund the professional recording of our concerts which will be shared with parents before the end of Term 2.

A video of our Sponsored Walk will be shared via Facebook.

#### **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](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures)

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0870 054 4999

Clerkhill Pin number: 02 14 70

#### **Wet Weather Arrangements**

Should the weather be inclement in the morning, playground doors will be opened at 8.50am to allow children to shelter from the rain. However, on such days, parents should try to take children to school as close to their class' starting time 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.



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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.**

#### **Parent Council and Parent Staff Association (Fundraising Committee)**

Our next Parent Council Meeting takes place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6:00pm (via Microsoft Teams)**. A warm invitation is extended to parents in this regard.

Our Fundraising group continue to think creatively to enable them to continue their fundraising efforts, even with the current school restrictions still in place. Without the support of our PSA group, our pupils at Clerkhill would not benefit from the many extras they do. Much of the money raised last session and, indeed from our sponsored walk will be used to fund our Christmas Parties and gifts and also to help us purchase some additional resources for our new literacy scheme.

#### **CLASS TOPICS**

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

Next term our whole school focus will be "Our Caring World" and then "Christmas".

#### **IN-SERVICE TRAINING**

Our staff are going to be very busy on our two In-Service Days in November where we will be looking at Whole School Nurturing approaches as well as spending time looking at our attainment data and engaging in further literacy training.

#### **COVID MITIGATIONS and MININISING 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 may not return to school unless they also receive a negative PCR test
- They may return to school once this negative PCR test has been received AND they have NO COVID symptoms



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#### **Christmas Arrangements**

Unfortunately again this year we are unable to have parents in to school to view our Christmas Concerts in person. We will however be putting together a concert, will have this recorded and shared with parents via secure You Tube link.

We shall be having Christmas parties for our pupils this year and these will be funded by our Parent Staff Fundraising Association.

#### **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.

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

Finally, may I once again 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.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

I wish you all a relaxing October break and look forward to seeing you all when we return on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

Regards,  
Ann-Louise Murray



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Head Teacher  
October 2021