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**Term 2 News – October 2020**

As shared at the recent Parent Council AGM we have a very busy term ahead of us.

**COVID-19**

We are for some time to come going to be operating in Covid-19 restrictions and rules. A few points and updates to remember to help keep us all safe.

* Pupils should be wearing clean clothes to school daily
* Long hair, (beyond shoulder length), should be tied up
* Pupils should avoid bringing anything into school except packed lunches/water bottles
* \*Parents dropping off children at school should be wearing face coverings whilst in the school grounds especially if standing waiting. \*
* Parents should be standing 2 m apart in school grounds

We continue to support all pupils and staff with the hygiene routines required and are working hard to ensure we keep our classroom “bubbles” separate both in and outside the school.

We are a bit concerned that we have heard that pupils are going to play/stay over at friends houses etc. Please help us all by following the Government rules in place.

**Christmas Cards**

Following feedback from parents we are now in the process of creating pupil Christmas cards. We will be in touch very soon to share your child’s design and with information on how to order them if you wish.

**Christmas Fair**

Our aim this term is to try and do as many of the normal Term 2 activities as possible.

We have decided that we will run a virtual catalogue Christmas Fair in order to still give our pupils the learning experiences that occur with a school fair.

We will create a catalogue very soon which we will share, and you will be able to place orders for any items you would like to purchase.

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**Parent Council**

We are delighted to have our Parent Council in place for the forthcoming session. I am sure you will hear what they are up to very soon.

Thank you to everyone who was part of the Parent Council last Session, especially the Office Bearers.

Next Meeting is Monday, 7th December at 7 pm via Zoom.

**Classroom Focus For Term 2**

We agreed at a recent staff meeting the following will be our focus for learning and teaching this term:

* Maths and Numeracy
* Talk for Writing – teaching writing skills
* Health and Wellbeing – including Anti-Bullying Week and Autism Awareness
* IT Skills
* Outdoor Learning
* Christmas Fair – Enterprise

**Homework**

Following requests from some parents we will re-commence issuing homework.

However, this will have to be operated in a different way from how it was done previously as we cannot have jotters and books etc going between home and school.

We will continue to issue homework electronically, currently via Seesaw, and would expect to see completed work shared electronically too.

Homework may take the form of Sumdog which we continue to subscribe to. Class Teachers will share their expectations for the homework when they set it.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings**

We obviously cannot offer face to face meetings for the time being. Initially we are going to send out a survey to all parents which will allow us to gauge how you feel your child is progressing. This survey will be issued this week. Once we have received your information, we will work out a timetable to contact parents either electronically or by telephone to discuss your child if requested.

**Staffing**

We are looking forward to welcoming Marie Greig to our school as a PSA, Monday to Wednesday to join Mrs Skene from Monday, 9th November. We are awaiting an update to replace Mrs Fletcher who has moved abroad to give us a second PSA on Thursdays and Fridays.

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**Remembrance**

Sadly, we are unable to attend a remembrance service as part of the community this year. However we are going to give every pupil a poppy and the school fund will make a donation to Poppy Scotland.

We will commemorate the 2 minutes silence in our classes and staff will discuss the importance of the time and date.

We understand that our school poppy wreath is to be laid on our behalf this year.

**Christmas**

We plan to go ahead with Christmas Parties in our own class bubbles this year as relatively normal – we will issue dates next week.

Our Nursery and P1 pupils are going to create a virtual Christmas Carol to share with the Craigendarroch as part of their annual celebration. Nursery and P1 parents will receive more information very shortly.

**In-Service**

A reminder that Friday, 20th November is an In-Service Training day for all staff and the school and nursery will be closed to all pupils that day.

Staff will be working on revising our curriculum rationale and planning observations as part of learning.

**Pupil Photos**

We are unable to offer our usual individual and family group photos from Tempest Photographers this year. However, we are delighted that Laura and Russell Hogg from Aboyne Photographics have agreed to take photos for us this year.

The photos will be taken outside in the school grounds and will have a slight Christmas theme to them.

I would be grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible if you would like to have photographs taken and if so, would it be as individuals or in a family group.

We will send you further information regarding costs and when the photos will be done as soon as we have the information.