**Ballater School**

**Weekly Update**

**Friday 22nd April 2022**

We hope you all enjoyed a restful and interesting spring break. We have certainly hit the floor running as we returned to school this week with lots of activities happening.

**Guideline Changes**

As the Covid mitigations lift we are now able to plan to have things looking a bit more normal. We have consulted with staff about mask wearing and have reached a situation where everyone’s wishes are supported. We are starting our weekly assemblies again next week and we have reorganised classroom resources to be used as shared ones again.

Next week our dinner hall seating will move to the way it used to be prior to the pandemic and playground toys and activities will again be available for pupils to use at break times. We look forward to being able to do more of our usual term four events – dates will be issued shortly.

**ALEC Health and Wellbeing Visit**

We were delighted to have a visit from Andrew and Harold to our school on Wednesday after a gap of two years to talk to everyone from nursery to P7 about different aspects of physical and mental health. Each class attended a session suited to their age and stage and staff are following up the areas discussed as part of their class health and wellbeing learning.

**Pupil Reports**

A reminder that we need all pupil report parental responses back as soon as possible. If you do not wish to make any comments, please just email the school office as confirmation of having read your child’s reports for our records. We will be holding parent/teacher meetings shortly to discuss any aspects of the report and your child’s next steps. Dates will be issued next week.

**Home Learning**

We will be issuing a letter regarding home learning next week with the aim of restarting this in a couple of weeks time. We will issue any home learning via Seesaw when we have everyone set up on this system.

**P7 Hoodies**

A reminder that orders for the P7 hoodies should be sent to the office by Wednesday 27th April at the latest. The P7 group still have quite a bit of fundraising to do to reach their target but we will support the order by paying from the school fund in the meantime.

**Nursery/P1 Transition**

A letter is being issued today with all the information about the P1 transition programme for this term. We look forward to seeing our new P1s starting to visit room 1 soon.

**P7/S1 Transition**

A consent letter will be issued next week for the first of the P7 class visits to Aboyne Academy on Thursday 5th May. For this first visit, the P7s will travel on a bus organised and paid for by Ballater School with a member of Ballater staff. All visits after this will be unaccompanied and on the regular academy transport.

**Dental Checks**

A reminder that P1 and P2 dental checks are to take place in school on Wednesday next week. Information letters for these checks were issued earlier this week.

**Accidents in School**

Due to Covid restrictions we tried our best to limit pieces of paper that were sent home from school and vice versa. We stopped issuing paper accident notes when pupils had an accident of any form in school and instead phoned parents directly.

We have decided to continue with the telephone approach as we feel it is more personal, effective and allows further information to be shared that might not be recorded on a paper slip.

**School Uniform Expectations**

We have been delighted to see the majority of our pupils looking extremely smart and wearing their full school uniform again. There are a few repeat offenders who have been spoken to a few times about not wearing parts of their uniforms e.g. denim jackets, hoodies etc. It would be great to see everyone in their uniform.

We seem to have a few pupils wearing make up to school at the moment. We do not feel make up is appropriate for pupils in a primary school and would appreciate that it is not worn to school, there is plenty of time for such things when pupils are older!

**Queen’s Green Canopy**

P3-5 were very busy yesterday planting more than 30 trees in the carpark area of the school grounds. These trees have been recorded on the Queen’s Green Canopy Website which can be seen on the following link:

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

We have been told it may take a day or two for our post to become live.

**Jubilee Choir**

Our choir have been very busy this week rehearsing for the forthcoming jubilee celebration weekend at the start of June. We will be singing at the Tea Party on Saturday 4th June and also at the Beacon event during the evening of Thursday 2nd June where we will be part of a large community choir singing “A Song for the Commonwealth”. We are all very excited to be part of this historic event.

**Tech Club**

Our Tech club will be back again on Tuesday from 3.15 until 4.30pm. We have resolved the IT issues that caused the postponement this week. We look forward to seeing everyone that signed up back again on Tuesday.

Finally, we wish everyone, children and adults alike, who are running at Balmoral this weekend a successful and enjoyable run and everyone else a peaceful weekend.

The Ballater School and Nursery Team