

# Kincardine O'Neil School Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2021



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As we approach the October holidays, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the friendly welcome that I have received since starting in August. Pupils, parents, and staff have been helpful and supportive and the warm ethos within the school community has made this a great start to my time at Kincardine O'Neil. I hope you find this newsletter informative and keeps you updated with what has been happening in school recently.

### Appointment of Principal Teacher for Lumphanan and Kincardine O'Neil Schools

I am delighted to welcome Miss Chloe Cattell as Principal Teacher of both Lumphanan and Kincardine O'Neil Schools. This post is to support with the management and leadership at both schools. Miss Cattell will teach for 4 days at Lumphanan School and on Fridays will undertake development work for both schools. Even though she may not be on site regularly, she will be a valuable part of our team and the children will get to know her. Miss Cattell leaves her current post at Westhill Primary School to take up this post.



### School Improvement News

As part of Kincardine O'Neil School's Improvement planning, three priorities have been identified.

**Priority 1:** To create new Vision, Values and Aims to support the "recovery" of learning post lockdown.

**Priority 2:** To increase attainment in writing.

**Priority 3:** Refresh the school's curriculum rationale and plan and ensure content is fit for purpose post lockdown.

Children and staff have already been discussing school values and what is important for children at Kincardine O'Neil School. There is still time for parents to complete the survey about what values we should focus on. This survey is open until 2<sup>nd</sup> November and can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/zgnpZG2KrL>



As part of our recovery improvement, we have also introduced "The Golden Book" to celebrate the successes and hard work the pupils put in. Each time we meet at Assembly the names in the book for that fortnight get read out and children receive a certificate to take home and share with you. It's been great to see the effort that pupils have been putting into their work and we can't wait for more names to appear in it!

Staff will be using In-Service days in November to explore Writing, Refreshing our Curriculum and for First Aid training.



### Covid-19 Update

The current risk assessment around how we are mitigating the spread of coronavirus in school can be found on the school website. At time of writing, there has been no changes to this, however I continue to meet regularly with Aberdeenshire Council officers to review the precautions that are in place. This means that we still cannot have parents on site at this time. It also means we cannot book adventurous activities such as ski trips or residential weeks at this time as our insurance would not cover cancellations. I will update you if the circumstances change.

### Winter Weather

The days are getting colder and darker, and the weather can change very quickly. At Kincardine O'Neil School, children are outdoors in all weathers. We would ask that your child comes to school with a suitable coat, hat, scarves, gloves, and footwear. It is always a good idea to pack an extra pair of socks too.



### Adverse Weather & Emergency Closure Procedures

Information relating to any partial or complete school closure is available by telephone or on the internet. Details of how to access this information are given below: -

**Website:** [Aberdeenshire Council - School Status and Transport Notification, School Closures](#)

**Telephone:** 0370 054 4999 then use the pin number 02 1980 as instructed.

- You will now hear the school's name. Ensure that this is correct before going on.
- Press 1 to hear your school's message about the adverse weather for example whether or not the school is to close or if transport arrangements have been affected.

**Email/Text Messaging System:** Where possible a message will be sent out to all parents informing them of the closure of the school.

In addition, information about a closure is normally broadcast on the following radio stations: - BBC Radio Scotland, Northsound 1, Northsound 2 or NECR

### School Photographs

Tempest Photography will be in school on the morning of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. This session will be individual and sibling photographs (**only school attending siblings**). Proofs are printed and sent home on the day. All ordering will take place online.



### Class News: P1-3 Fairyland

Pupils in the P1-3 class have really enjoyed building a castle in our classroom, in addition to creating their own castles. They have worked very hard on written tasks linked to Fairytales they have listened to and have even designed shoes after listening to, and retelling, The Elves and The Shoemaker Story. The Friendly Dragon has written letters to the children therefore letters and drawings have been posted back to him. it is always exciting to receive letters from the dragon!

### Class News: P4-7 Caribbean Island

In p4-7, we have been learning about fair trade bananas that have been grown in Panama. We have been learning about co-operative farming and that helps the farmers get more money to feed their families & keep their farmland.

We took notes about co-operative farming and minimum pricing for goods, we also watched a clip about a farmer that used to share a house with 4 families and due to his Fairtrade income he is now able to afford a house for his family.



### Josh Quigley Visit

We were delighted that Guinness World Record holder Josh Quigley join pupils and parents at Kincardine O'Neil School on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October to talk about his latest accomplishment in cycling an amazing 2179 miles in 7 days in Deeside. Josh answered questions from pupils before children were able to get a photograph with him, his award and his bike. A fabulous afternoon was had and we are excited to hear about Josh's accomplishments in the future!

### MyChildsArt – Pupil's Christmas Design

The children have been busy designing and producing their Christmas cards which will be submitted on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Once they have been accepted, they will be scanned onto their website which parents will then be able to access. We will let parents know in due course about their login details and instructions on how to place an order if you wish to do so. Any purchases from yourself will generate funds for the school.



### OCTOBER

Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of Term 1
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### NOVEMBER

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Re-opens to Pupils and Staff
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Day for Staff – School closed to Pupils
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Day for Staff – School closed to Pupils
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Photographs

### DECEMBER

Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	School trip to HMT for Christmas Pantomime (More details to follow)
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Parties for P1-3 & P4-7 (More details to follow)
Tues 21st	Last day of Term 2

### JANUARY

Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	School Re-opens to Pupils and Staff
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Further Christmas events, depending on Covid-19 situation, may be confirmed closer to the time.