

Kincardine O'Neil School Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021



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I can hardly believe that we are in December and nearing the end of 2021. Yet again, it has been a very different year for our school community, however the pupils have been working hard and adapted to the routines we have in place to ensure they can learn to their full potential. We are looking forward to the festive period where the children can still celebrate with each other in activities outlined in this newsletter. Thank you to all parents and staff for your continuing support and I wish you a magical Christmas and a Happy New Year when it comes.

Storm Arwen

The recent Storm Arwen had a huge impact on our communities leaving us with no power or water for several days. We strived to try and open the school but could not ensure the health and safety on pupils without water, electricity and heating at times during the week. We recognised the community spirit that was taking place and hope you all managed to keep safe at this time.

The unprecedented weather has helped us recognise how we can improve. If you are able to provide a storm address in the village, or have a landline number that we do not have on record, that would be beneficial. Please contact the school office if you are able to do so.



Primary 1-3 Class News

As part of our topic relating to the COP26 Conference, P1-3 pupils have been giving thought to how they can reduce food waste. Some ideas put forward were to ensure they choose something they liked for school lunch, ask for less on their plate or bring a packed lunch to school.

We have also been learning the difference between weather and climate and are using instruments to measure and record the weather.

Primary 4-7 Class News

P4-7 have been evaluating COP26 and learning about the effects of Global Warming around the world. We created informative leaflets based around the news and deals that were announced in the media. It was good to use different points of view in our class to have good debates surrounding the event.





Pupil Achievements

A special mention must be made to two of our Primary 7 pupils for recent special achievements. Tess Binnie won £20 book token as part of our local MP's Christmas Card Competition where her design has been created into 700 cards and sent out across the world including the Prime Minister! Charlotte Brown received her silver award as part of the iVolunteer programme for completing 25 hours of volunteering and has already clocked up more hours towards her gold - Well done to both!



School Improvement News

Thank you so much for those of you who responded to our questionnaire on what the school values should be. We have taken these responses alongside what the pupils and staff suggested and have made a draft set of values. One of our pupils then found the acronym of HEART to make it easier for us to remember! The values are:



We have attached the full set of values and aims at the end of this newsletter and are looking for your feedback on whether you think they are suitable or whether something is missing that we can add in. These values are hugely important as they allow us to build our school ethos around this, maintain positive relationships and encourage children to their full potential.

If you have any adaptations or comments to make on this then please e-mail the school and let us know- Your comments and suggestions are valuable to us.



Covid-19 Update

With a new strain of the Covid-19 virus being found in Scotland along with the increase in sickness bugs at this time of year, we continue to be vigilant and adhere to restrictions that are in place. We would ideally have had the opportunity for families to come together, however the most recent guidance highlights that we should not have group of adults meeting unnecessarily so close to the holiday period. If there are any changes in guidance, we will continue to update you. Can I remind parents that if your child is displaying any symptoms then they must not attend school and should book a PCR test. (A lateral flow test is not sufficient.) If this is negative then your child can return to school.

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

If School is closed due to adverse weather: Children will be asked to log onto Google Classroom for 9.30 a.m. where the teacher will check in with the class. A number of indoor and outdoor activities will be available for pupils to work on.

Primary 7 Success – “We Decide!”

As part of Aberdeenshire CLD's “We Decide” Initiative, our Primary 7s had to put forward ideas for a project that would promote positive mental wellbeing which was voted for by Primary 7 to Secondary 6 pupils across Aboyne Cluster. The pupils suggested a Lunchtime Lego Club to promote creativity and teamwork and this came in first place in the voting. This means the school has received £1500 for this project! Well done to our Primary 7 pupils and we are looking forward to planning this with them in the new year!



Festive Arrangements

December is always a time when we come together to celebrate and participate in festive activities. Sadly the identification of a new Covid-19 variant in Scotland along with refreshed guidance has meant that we cannot have group of adults meeting unnecessarily so close to the holiday period. However pupils have been able to attend the pantomime “Beauty and the Beast” at Her Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen and we still have the following activities planned in school:

Fri 17th Dec – School Christmas Lunch for Pupils

Mon 20th Dec – P1-3 and P4-7 Christmas Parties

Christmas Holidays

The last day of term is Tuesday 21st December. Kincardine O'Neil School reopens to staff and pupils on Wednesday 5th January 2021.



Future dates for your diary at a glance

DECEMBER

Monday 20 th	Christmas Parties for P1-3 & P4-7 (Details will be e-mailed out)
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Tuesday 21 st	Last day of Term 2
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JANUARY 2022

Wed 5 th	School Re-opens to Pupils and Staff
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Mon 24 th	Scottish Poetry Competition for pupils Burns Day Lunch and Scottish Assembly for pupils
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FEBRUARY 2022

Thurs 10 th & Fri 11 th	Local holidays - School Closed to Pupils and Staff
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Mon 14 th	Mid-term holiday – School Closed to Pupils and Staff
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Tues 15 th & Wed 16 th	In-Service Day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils
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KINCARDINE O'NEIL SCHOOL

 **HONESTY**

 **EFFORT**

 **AMBITION**

 **RESPECT**

 **TEAMWORK**

We aim to:

HONESTY

- Build a caring ethos based on inclusion, honesty, fairness and respect for ourselves and others.

EFFORT

- To promote effort and a “have a go” mindset.
- Encourage everyone to “do their bit.”

AMBITION

- Provide challenging and stimulating opportunities which support children to continually achieve.
- Recognise everyone’s achievements in and out of school.
- Celebrate all our successes.

RESPECT

- Celebrate diversity and value everyone’s contributions.
- Appreciate and take responsibility for our environment and the wider world.
- Promote the health and wellbeing of the whole school community.

TEAMWORK

- Work as a team to help and support each other.
- Work closely with parents, carers and our local community to enable continuous improvement as we strive for excellence.