



Aberlady Primary School Newsletter – November 2019

Achieve- Belong- Care

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Welcome to our November newsletter.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Jeans who is teaching most classes in the school. Mrs Jeans was a teacher with us a year ago, we are delighted to welcome her back. Mrs Jeans is covering Mr McKenzie's teaching commitments whilst he is on secondment. We also welcome various students in our school.

December Homework

As of next week, week beg 2nd Dec, there will only be reading homework to complete at home. We are sending a December wellbeing advent calendar created by 'Tree of Knowledge'. This is an optional extra and contains activities that pupils or families may wish to undertake. Pupils aren't required to do these tasks but time in class will be given to those who do wish to share with others some of the tasks that have been undertaken.

Christmas Countdown

Christmas can be an exciting time of year in primary schools. Attached is our Christmas Countdown which highlights all the activities the school which we are undertaking.

- Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 10th December **Please remember to order online through schoolpay before Monday 2nd if you child wants it.**
- Christmas Parties will be held during the last week of term (see countdown sheet for dates). P1-7 parties are all in the afternoon so pupils can either go home for lunch to get changed or bring their party clothes in to school and change at lunch time. If you intend taking your child home, please let us know in advance.
- P1/2 Nativity. Our community performance will be on Wednesday 11th December at 1.45pm in Aberlady Church and the main performance will be on Thursday 12th at 6.00pm. Information regarding tickets will be sent home shortly
- P1-7 will be visiting the Brunton Theatre to see Cinderella on Friday 20th December. Information regarding payment will be sent home shortly also. If you do not anticipate your child attending, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Lining Up

It has been reported to us that some pupils are becoming distressed about the lines in the morning. The issue was recently discussed at Parent Council and Pupil Council. The main issue is reserving spaces in the line with bags. Bags are then being uplifted by pupils but the space isn't sufficient which leads to pushing and shoving. Children are also wanting to come to school early to reserve spaces. The pupil council discussed solutions and we have decided to ban bags from saving spaces in the morning lines. This will start on Monday 2nd December. Please discourage your child from doing this. Bags don't reserve spaces, pupils should just line up once the bell has gone.

Our school values:

*Kindness * Respect * Co-operation *Positivity *Inclusion *Curiosity

P3-P7 Lunches

We are currently finding that pupils are throwing away food, gulping food down, and abandoning trays of food to be able to get outside quickly to play. We have discussed this issue at Pupil Council and have decided that one of the solutions will be to do something similar to how we approach lunches in P1 and P2. Therefore all P3-P7 will be required to stay in the hall for at least 15 minutes, - 30 minutes for the younger classes. We hope this will encourage more 'sociable eating' and less pressure to get outside with friends, still leaving 30 minutes for outdoor play. We will monitor the impact of the new lunch routine which will start from Monday 2nd December.

Indoor Shoes

P2-P7 classes don't change into indoor shoes, this is to allow for a quick and easy access to the daily mile. However we have found there are quite a few pupils in each of the classes who don't have indoor shoes or trainers for PE which is mostly indoors at this time of the year. Can families please check that pupils have a change of shoes for PE please?

Nits

We have recently had reports of Nits in school. Please make sure you continue to check your child's hair regularly

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

The SIP is our game plan to further improve the work we do in school, it can be found on the school website. It is a wordy document which as the Parent Council have pointed out can be a little difficult to understand!

One of the areas we are working on is developing our curriculum, essentially what we teach in school. The broad curriculum is set out by the Scottish Government. We take the broad curriculum, look at our own context and decide on the specifics of what we teach and the pathway of skills we wish to develop. In Aberlady we have developed 'curriculum bundles' where we have grouped subjects together and taken themes such as sustainability and the rights respecting agenda and weaved this throughout the curriculum. The 'bundling of the curriculum' work has been significant, it ensures our learning programmes are progressive and cohesive and ultimately give staff far more time to plan detailed tailored learning for your child. We are quite proud of this work and are still working on writing pathways which is our way of developing super writers in Aberlady. We hope to formalise our expectations on this, which includes spelling by June 2020.

Coats and Wellbeing

As we are well in to the winter season, please ensure your child always comes to school with a coat. We all know the weather which can change a few times throughout the course of the day! We have also had quite a few bugs etc going round pupils. If you think your child is unwell before they come to school, please keep them at home so we can try and prevent further spread of germs.

School will close to all pupils on Friday 20th December at normal time and will re-open to pupils on Wednesday 8th January 2020. Staff will return on Tuesday 7th.

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