ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – EDUCATION, LEARNING AND LEISURE

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**Head Teacher: Mrs Lindsey McBride**

25th August 2023

Good afternoon,

I am very pleased to report that we have had a busy but enjoyable start to the new session. Well done to our new P1 pupils who have had a great week. Thank you also to our older ‘buddies’ who have been on hand to help and support them – I have been very impressed with the care, patience and manner in which they have undertaken this role.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and am looking forward to an exciting year ahead. This term, building positive relationships, understanding the needs of the school, identifying strengths and areas for improvement will be key to ensuring quality learning and teaching. In order to facilitate this, I would like to invite parents to drop in to school on Tuesday 29th August at some point between 2pm and 7pm to have a chat. I would be grateful if you could complete the Microsoft form (link below) to let me know if you are able to come or not, and give an approximate time. If you are unable to make it on Tuesday but would like to come in, then we can arrange a mutually convenient time for this.

Link to Microsoft Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/UnTZjTpTUD>

Thank you for the information and feedback in response to the ‘What Three Things’ survey, this has been very helpful.

I would also like to take this opportunity to request your support in establishing the following practice which we are putting in place to help ensure a safe and happy learning environment for all:

* Toys, books, trading cards etc are not to be brought to school unless given specific permission i.e. for a class reward. I know this may be a difficult boundary for the children to understand and so I discussed this at our assembly this morning. In order to support any discussions you may have at home around this, I have provided the main points shared with the children below:
* Personal items are easily lost/broken/moved and this causes upset for the owner
* The taking/handling/borrowing of a child’s personal items can often trigger negative emotions and minor conflicts
* Jealousy of others’ personal belongings can be challenging for some children and can, again, lead to conflict
* The school has a fantastic range of resources which the children can access. Children can let us know if there are any other resources that they would like to access at break and lunch times e.g. we can provide Lego in the playground, art materials which can be taken outside etc. I understand that the children have been allocated some money per House to spend on toys and play equipment which we will aim to spend by the end of the first term.
* Personal items in view in the classroom environment can often have a negative impact on concentration and focus.
* ‘Fidget’ toys are available in class and are used to aid concentration. If a particular toy/item from home is required to meet a child’s needs, this will be discussed and agreed with parents, staff and the individual child.
* Phones may be brought if necessary and will continue to be passed to a staff member on arrival and stored safely in the office until home time.

Please find below a timetable for what both classes will be doing this term. This is only a guide and may be subject to change.

If you have any queries regarding your child and would like to speak to me, or a class teacher, please do not hesitate in getting in contact with the school.

Kind regards,

**Lindsey McBride**

Mrs Lindsey McBride

Head Teacher

**Term 1: *Guide* Timetable**

**P1-3 Class**

Mrs Robertson will be teaching Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday early morning

Mrs Dennison will be teaching Wednesday late morning and afternoon, Thursday and Friday

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Free Play / Writing /  Weekly News Sharing | **Break** | Numeracy  Reading Groups | **Lunch** | Phonics  IDL\* Topic: Weather |
| Tuesday | Numeracy | Phonics  Reading Groups | Art / French |
| Wednesday | IDL\* Topic: Weather | Phonics / Reading / Grammar | PE / Health & Wellbeing |
| Thursday | Writing / Grammar / Phonics | Numeracy | Music / RME |
| Friday | Phonics / Reading / Writing  Assembly 10am | Numeracy / Outdoor Learning | Dance / Child-led Play |

**P4-7 Class**

Mrs Hunter will be teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning and Thursday.

Mrs McBride will be teaching Wednesday afternoon and Friday.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Literacy | **Break** | Numeracy | **Lunch** | PE / IDL\* Topic: Weather |
| Tuesday | Literacy | ERIC\*\* / Numeracy | Art / Class Novel |
| Wednesday | Literacy | PE | Health and Wellbeing  Skills Development |
| Thursday | Numeracy | IDL\* Topic: Weather | ERIC / French / Music |
| Friday | Reflection and Feedback  Assembly 10am | Maths and Numeracy | RME / Drama / Child-led Play |

\* Interdisciplinary Learning \*\* Everyone Reading in Class

**Dates for your Diary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AUGUST** | |
| Monday 28th | Netball Training starts for P3-7 pupils, 3.15 – 4.00 pm |
| Tuesday 29th | Open Afternoon for parents, 2 – 7pm |
| Wednesday 30th | Football Training starts, 6.00 – 7.00 pm on the Muir of Fowlis pitch |
| **SEPTEMBER** | |
| Thursday 7th | Parent Council / PTA meeting in school, 6.30pm (online link also available via Teams) |
| Friday 8th | School Individual / Family Photographs |
| Saturday 16th | Tullynessle Football & Netball Tournament |
| Friday 29th | Flu Vaccinations |
| **OCTOBER** | |
| Friday 13th | End of Term 1 |
| Monday 30th | Start of Term 2 |
| **NOVEMBER** | |
| Thursday 16th | In-Service Day – School closed to pupils |
| Friday 17th | In-Service Day – School closed to pupils |
| **DECEMBER** |  |
| Friday 22nd | End of Term 2 |