

# **Abernethy Primary School**

## **Headteacher Update 1**

### **Welcome Back – August 2021**



Dear Parents & Friends of Abernethy Primary School,

Welcome Back. It has been lovely extending a warm welcome to all our pupils and a warm welcome to our new families in Nursery & School. Everyone has settled very well this morning into Nursery & Primary and we are very proud with all our learners (and staff) on their return.

After two very successful in-service days, the staff are well planned and ready for another busy and exciting session here in Abernethy Primary & Nursery.

#### **Staffing Updates** –



Firstly, Baby news is in the air in Abernethy Primary.

- I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Hardie welcomed baby Brodie in July. We are absolutely thrilled and can report the whole Hardie family are doing extremely well.
- I am also delighted to inform you that Mrs Parmar is expecting her first baby. Mrs Parmar is absolutely blooming and is keeping fit and well. She is aiming to begin her maternity leave in October, and I shall update you with staffing arrangements for the class in due course.
- Finally, Mr Sumpster welcomed his son into the world only 2 weeks ago. Mr Sumpster was so keen to be with his new class, he shall not go on his 2-week paternity leave until 6<sup>th</sup> September. We thank him and his wife for this. We shall be welcoming back Mrs Luton to cover Mr Sumpsters paternity, where she shall teach the class on Mr Sumpsters allocated days.

Secondly, we shall be saying goodbye to Ms Thomas in Nursery over the next couple of weeks. Ms Thomas has been successful in obtaining a new secondment post for 10 months as a P1 ECP. We shall miss Ms Thomas very much but wish her all the very best. I am delighted to let you know that Miss Laing, shall be stepping into the role of Play Assistant in Nursery, as well as continuing her roles within the main school.

**Covid Procedures** – As outlined in my letter at the beginning of the week, we shall be returning to more normal school routine within the following weeks. We shall keep you informed of our next steps with our Covid procedures as soon as we are permitted to make them.

**I would like to please remind everyone that the wearing of masks and social distancing of 1m, are both still a must at both the Nursery and School gate. I ask that all adults attending pick up and drop off, please keep to these rules unless medically exempt.**

**Refreshed School Rules** – We shall be introducing a new Positive Relationships Policy this year.

Our policy shall be centred around our new school rules which shall be introduced to the classes this week -

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible.**

Finally, I wish everyone a super first term of Session 2021-2022. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or nursery if you require any further clarification of the below points.

Regards,  
Ms Suz McKenzie  
Head Teacher

### **A few reminders to help everything run smoothly...**

- **Absences:** Please contact the School Office by 9.30am if your child is absent. A message can be left on the answer machine and will be picked up by staff in time.

*If your child is absent due to awaiting a Covid test result, please do inform us of this as soon as possible.*

*As we approach the colder weather, we have seen an increase in colds/flu etc. This is to be expected on a return from such a long absence from school. At present, our advice remains that we would expect you to keep pupils off school if either:*

*A. You feel they are unwell to attend*

*B. They are displaying one or more of the 3 Covid symptoms – 1. Change/loss in taste or smell 2. Consistent cough 3. High temperature.*

- **Birthday cakes/treats:** Please do not send Birthday Cakes/Treats into school/nursery – unfortunately at present we are not permitted to share these out between pupils.
- **Class welcome letters (Primary)** shall be out during the week of 30<sup>th</sup> August. These detail particular information about each child's class.
- **Coats/Outdoor clothing:** Please ensure that your children have weather appropriate coats and suitable footwear when they come to school, as they will be outdoors at play and lunchtime except in very wet conditions. We aim to include outdoor learning opportunities within our curriculum, and this can often take place as the week progresses. Within Nursery please can you ensure that waterproof trousers/all-in-ones are provided. Ideally, if these could be left in Nursery this would be super, however we are aware this may not be possible due to split placements, therefore any support is appreciated.
- **Communication:** Communication shall continue to be through the **School App**. Texts may also go out for last minute reminders or urgent information. If you do not have app details, please contact the office. A reminder, that as much communication and forms etc shall be sent electronically.
- **Diary dates:** Please remember to regularly check **School App** or School **Website** for diary dates.
- **Hand sanitizer and/or Hand soap:** Feel free to provide your child with these, especially if their skin is particularly sensitive to the products provided in school. Pupils can keep their own in a small named plastic bag in their tray/bag.
- **Homework (Primary):** We shall be resuming homework wk of 30<sup>th</sup> August. Homework shall, on the whole, be delivered electronically, via Seesaw. Reading books shall come home, however the protocol may be a little different to usual. Further detail shall be within our 'Welcome to' class letters next week.
- **Jewellery/Make-up/Nail Varnish etc:** We would be grateful for the support in ensuring that we are upholding our school dress code policy. This includes children do not wear jewellery, fancy hair accessories, make-up or nail varnish to school (exception: watches). If ear studs have to be worn, then pupils are asked to cover these with special tape prior to PE lessons. Children with long hair must have it tied back for PE. It's nice to keep these 'decorations' special and for out of school times.
- **Labels:** Please **clearly label** your children's clothing and personal belongings.  
NB Lost property will be retained for 2 terms and then recycled if unclaimed ie put into Rag Bag.
- **Learning Profiles:** We are going to continue building on our pupil profiles using Seesaw across the school, as well as our Writing Portfolios in primary classes. Nursery & Primary are looking forward to adding to these throughout the session. We shall be providing you with a new learner code in due course.
- **Lunch Money:** Payment for lunches is required from P5-P7. Please pay by **ParentPay**. **Free school meals have now been extended and are for all Nursery to P4 pupils.**

- **Home Lunches:** A reminder if a pupil is going home for lunch, please can parents advise the school of this beforehand via a phone call or email. Pupils must sanitise before, during and after. Can I please ask that home lunches return to school as close to the lunchtime bell as possible of 1.15pm.
- **Mobile phones:** Children **must** hand in mobile phones to the school office each morning and collect them at home time. Pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones on school grounds, including around the school gates.
- **Office Hours:** 8:30am to 3.45pm. Please note the office shall be closed from 1.15-1.45 to allow for support staff lunch.
- **Packed Lunch Policy Update:** We are updating our packed lunch policy to ensure families are completely aware of what their child has eaten during each lunch sitting. Therefore, ALL pupils across the school, shall be asked to keep any empty packets, rubbish etc., as well as uneaten food IN their lunchboxes until they get home. We would be grateful if you could support us by also encouraging your child to do this. Parents may wish to pop an extra empty food bag into the lunch box specifically to keep the rubbish in; this would then be returned home full.
- **PE:** Please see below PE days for each primary class. Each class shall be delivered the national expectation of 2 hours PE on these days outlined below.

Monday – P1/2, P2/3

Tuesday – P4, P6/7S, P6/7H

Wednesday – P2/3, P4

Thursday – P1/2

Friday – P5, P6/7S

Can I please ask on the above days, children come to school in the following **PE uniform: Plain Navy/Black Tracksuit bottoms/leggings, white polo shirt, normal Abernethy school jumper, trainers ONLY.** A reminder that we do not have changing facilities available due to current Covid regulations, therefore if children do not come to school in their PE kit, they shall not be able to change into it at school.

Nursery PE shall be delivered at various times within Nursery plans and pupils shall take part wearing the relaxed clothing they wear to attend Nursery.

- **Pencil Cases:** It would be a huge support to us, if all primary pupils could be provided with a wipeable pencil case of their own. As indicated in my previous HT letters, we are doing our best to not share as many resources amongst the pupils and this would be a huge help. Pupils pencil cases shall be left in school in each child's tray.
- **Road Safety:** An **essential reminder** to ask children to walk carefully across the road and not to ride bicycles or scooters when crossing. **Please comply with the road signage at the front of the school** detailing permitted times of use. Parking on the taxi and bus lanes is strictly forbidden. Pupils **must not** ride bikes or scooters in the playground; a dismount line is in place outside the main school gate for Primary pupils.
- **School Uniform:**  
**P1-7** –Full school uniform has now commenced following slight changes last year. It was wonderful to see everyone arriving at school this morning so smartly and I would very much like us to keep this up throughout the year across the whole of Primary and at all stages. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing a scene of red jumpers and cardigans across the school; the sense of responsibility, belonging and pride is evident.

**A reminder, our school uniform for all classes from P1-7, is as follows:**

- Black or grey plain school shorts or plain school trousers (Boys and girls)
- Black or grey skirt or pinafore (knee length)
- White polo shirt, shirt or blouse
- Tie (optional)
- Abernethy Primary School or plain **RED** sweatshirts or cardigans. No hoodies please.
- Summer dress (red and white check)
- Black shoes/smart black trainers
- 'Indoor shoes' e.g., plimsolls

**Nursery Uniform** – Pupils attend in comfortable play clothes. Indoor shoes, a fresh change of clothes, outdoor all-weather clothes required.

- **Snack** – Primary parents are welcome to send their children with a snack for interval. This is often very welcomed after a good morning's learning. Can we ask please they are sent in a separate bag or space in the school bag, for ease of reach - especially for our younger pupils.  
Nursery pupils shall receive snack from the Nursery and as part of their day. There us no need for parents to provide this.
- **Toys:** Primary children are asked **not to bring toys, games or equipment** from home into school. This is ever more prevalent that at the moment, so we thank you for reiterating this message at home. Within Nursery however, if a child requires a transition object to help them settle, please let the staff know and we shall put in procedures to accommodate.
- **Water Bottles:** Please provide a LABELLED water bottle for use in school. This should be taken home each day and returned full the next day. A reminder, unless for special circumstances and agreed with the school, please can water bottles be filled with water only.

Finally, I appreciate that a wealth of information shall continue to come your way with regards to our ever-changing current situation. Please know we shall continue to keep you informed as timely as possible, however if you require any clarity on any point please do not hesitate to call – no question is too small.

Polite request - As a staff we have all returned to work after the summer, continuing within tight guidelines and we are doing their utmost to ensure this is as smooth as possible for everyone. We thank everyone for their continued mutual respect during these times.

**Thank you for your support and anticipated co-operation.**