

End of Term Newsletter – 30th March 2022

Well folks, it's been a most unusual term with high percentages of pupil and staff absences linked to Covid. We are lucky that our parents understand how difficult this has been and may continue to be – even when teachers were at home feeling ill they still managed to assign some tasks for their children if they had to remain at home, I know you all appreciate that very much. You will also appreciate that when teachers are teaching in school it is not possible to simply assign the same work to pupils who are at home isolating – if they are not here to benefit from the direct teaching, the work is often likely to be inaccessible.

There is also a workload implication for staff who are always working hard in school. There are always preview/homework tasks on



SeeSaw available for children who are isolating as well as Education City, BBC Bitesize [Home - BBC Bitesize](#) and the National e-offer [Digital learning from Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar | e-Sgoil](#) – **you could save these to your favourites in the event that a child has to remain at home.**

In spite of Covid, we have enjoyed lots of successes and made headway with a number of our school priorities. We thoroughly enjoyed dressing up for and celebrating World Book Day, raised a good sum of money for Comic Relief and were overwhelmed by the number of books donated and the amount raised for Unicef's Ukraine fund (£265.42). This week we completed Bikeability Training so that we can arrange this for P6s next term as discussed with the Parent Council. P6 parents got some information about this separately. As you know we have also arranged swimming for P5s. P7s will enjoy two days at Lochter and a half day at Crimond (date and times to be confirmed) next term. There is a cost implication for school trips, thank you to those who have already made payments via iPayImpact. We are gradually re-introducing more of these enriching experiences for pupils as the Covid guidelines change but please bear with us, it's a step at a time. All of these things require a considerable amount of associated background work – risk assessments, council platform



for logging trips, iPayImpact work by school office staff for payments, etc. Another thing that requires a lot of work is recruiting volunteers. We are currently working in the background on trying to arrange school football and will send some

information to Arts and Craft volunteers this week directly (we had suggested a Zoom meeting but time is running out) – this club will be led by Ms Stapley. We have to complete PVGs, confidentiality paperwork, etc. and it all takes time. We really appreciate that people have put their names forward for these things and hope to get going next term. **NEITHER**

FOOTBALL NOR ARTS AND CRAFTS WILL RUN ON WEEK 1, we will confirm any new arrangements at the end of that week. Netball resumes on week 1 – Thurs 21st April.

We have made some progress introducing the Hygge philosophy into our ELC (Nursery) [Hygge in the early years | Enabling Environments | Teach Early Years](#) and will continue to keep families up to date about this. In the primary school we have introduced our new vocabulary enrichment approach to improve Writing and will soon share some information about this with families. Our SHANARRI work is also going extremely well, our focus for the first fortnight back after the holidays will be N – Nurtured. We have thoroughly enjoyed having several partners in to support our work in this area (Police Scotland, Childsmile and this week the School Nursing Team). For greater detail about some of our Improvement Work, click the link here [Longside Primary School](#)



As you already know, until all nursery children and new P1 children for next session are confirmed with us, we will not communicate any of our induction plans. It may be another full month before we are in a position to share this information.

We will make no further changes to the start and end of the pupil day other than **that senior children arriving in the morning should enter the playground at the other side of the building (not at the nursery/infant side).**

This detail was extracted from Professor Leitch's letter emailed to all on 21st March 2022

Children, young people and adults should stay at home and self-isolate if they:

- have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not*
- have tested positive, even if they have no symptoms*
- are required to self-isolate for any other reason e.g. travel-related reasons*
- are identified as a close contact and are over 18 years and 4 months and are not fully vaccinated*
- good hand hygiene and cleaning in ELC and school environments and on dedicated school transport will continue to be encouraged and supported*
- an ongoing focus on the importance of good ventilation and the potential for CO2 monitors to be utilised to ensure good air quality in enclosed spaces, with the goal that all school buildings, including all learning and teaching spaces, and ELC settings should be assessed regularly for ventilation issues, taking remedial action where required.*
- the requirements for face coverings for staff and young people in secondary schools, and for staff in primary schools and ELC should be in line with the general guidance for safety in the workplace (but there remains no need for staff to wear masks when they are working with children).*
- physical distancing will not be required among children and young people, but staff should continue to take reasonable steps to keep a safe distance from other adults (and*

between adults and school-aged children and young people wherever possible) in line with the requirements for other workplaces.

- arrangements for dedicated school transport should follow the general guidance for public transport on the use of face coverings, cleaning, hygiene and ventilation
- ongoing need for outbreak management capability, including active surveillance
- assessments on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should continue to be undertaken for those who work in close contact with children and young people

The term 3 survey yielded 52 responses – we are so grateful to those who took the time to complete it. As you know any average rating above 4 is very good and 4.5 + is excellent.

1. Overall, my child/children have had a successful term and enjoy(s) school.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.44 Average Rating

2. My child continues to make good progress with their learning.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

51

Responses



4.39 Average Rating

3. Staff know my child well.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.50 Average Rating

4. The school supports my child's Health and Wellbeing

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.38 Average Rating

5. Comment on the above

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

8

Responses

Latest Responses

"The school staff have managed well during the epidemic to ensure th...

"I am very happy with the support and effort put in to help my child s...

6. My child's rights are respected and they feel valued and listened to

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.29 Average Rating

7. We as parents feel valued and can communicate with the school in an open and honest manner

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.27 Average Rating

8. I am well-informed about the work of the school through Newsletters / SeeSaw / Facebook

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.60 Average Rating

9. The school is good at sharing external opportunities for children

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.35 Average Rating

10. The school is well led

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.42 Average Rating

11. I know how to communicate with the Parent Council and am aware of the work they do

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.38 Average Rating

12. I know some of the school's main priorities for this year

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

52

Responses



4.25 Average Rating

We are delighted with the results but also committed to ongoing improvement and so will work with our Parent Council to interrogate questions 6, 7 and 12 further over the course of term 4 (alongside the written comments attached as an appendix). Our next meeting is on Tues 26th April at 18:30 (Zoom link to follow after holidays). One oversight we have already detected is the absence of a date for parents to discuss their child following the end of year report on June 1st. This has been added to the basic calendar and is attached to this Groupcall. Don't forget though, you can contact us any time if you wish to discuss a concern – just call 01779 403700 (school) 01779 403703 (Nursery) or email longside.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk .

If you haven't looked for a while, we have shared a lot of the school's good work on Facebook over the last few months. This week, P2 and P4's assemblies will go live, you can expect a real treat!

The new menus are now available, just open and save the link to your favourites.

[Primary school meals - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

As you know, the last day of term is Thursday 31st March.
We wish all our families and staff a well-earned and relaxing Spring Holiday and look forward to the many exciting things we have planned for term 4.



