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NEWSLETTER 1: SESSION 2020/21

We want to welcome everyone to the new school session although we know it is very strange not having parents on site due to the current restrictions.

We are looking forward to another school year and we sincerely hope that it will not have any interruptions to it like we had between March and the end of June.

On a positive note we have been very impressed with the way the children have come back to school and settled well. They all seem glad to be back to school and back in touch with their friends once again. The new Nursery pupils and our Primary 1 pupils have come in very well so far. In some ways it has been an easier start as there has not been the same issue of children letting mums or dads go when they are in the class or cloakroom area!

STAFFING / CLASSES

Once again we are running with six classes in the primary and our new nursery group.

We would like to welcome Miss Milne to our Nursery Team. She has joined us as a new Modern Apprentice and will train while in the role of working with the nursery staff.

We also welcome Miss Davey to Primary 2. She will be taking on Mrs Dunbar's class while she is on secondment to her new post in Peterhead for the session. We are delighted that Mrs Crighton will be joining the staff once again for the year taking on the 1-day post in Primary 2 to work alongside Miss Davey.

Help us by keeping ill children at home.

At this difficult time for everyone we must ask that everyone is vigilant in ensuring that children do not come to school if they are ill for any reason. Please see the section below taken from our Risk Assessment.

'Identify those staff or pupils who are, or who live with someone who is, symptomatic or a confirmed case of COVID-19. **They cannot return to school until self-isolation is over.** Set up clear, repeated messaging to parents/carers that pupils must not attend if they, or a member of their household, has COVID-like symptoms or a positive test.

Sharing the Learning Calendar

Normally at this point of the year we would share our 'Sharing the Learning' calendar with all families giving you information about activities and events and assemblies that classes would be involved in. Due to the current situation we are unable to plan any events such as open Afternoons and 'Sharing the learning' sessions as we have held over the last few years.

Once we are in a position to re-introduce these we will share a timetable with you.

In the meantime, please continue to make use of Seesaw to keep in touch with staff regarding any queries you have.

GROUPCALL: XPRESSIONS

The **XPRESSIONS** app is similar to the **See Saw** app except that it is used to share whole school information and important news in a quick and **FREE** manner. We are trying to reduce the amount of paper we send home and by using **Xpressions** we can send newsletters and other information home easily and **FREE**. We now have almost all the families signed up and we really want everyone else to download and use the app on your Smartphone, tablet or PC. We have sent an email to all families that have not signed up to using Xpressions in the hope that we can get everyone on it.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY DOWNLOADING THE APP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE SECRET GARDEN: USE & DEVELOPMENT

The Secret Garden is a great area within the school that can be used by the nursery and classes for a wide variety of activities. The Nursery make extensive use of it and we are



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hoping to build in more access for P1 and P2 over the next two terms.

However, there is a need to really keep on top of the garden as it is once again quite badly overgrown and untidy. We would love to organise a couple of days when some 'volunteers' may be willing to come in and help us to tidy it up. As it is outdoors and is quite a large area we would be able to ensure people are all socially distanced and safe to work there. Ideally if we could access or borrow a couple of large strimmers that would go a long way to help doing some of the more difficult areas!

It is disappointing that after waiting SO long the school was due to feature in TESCO's 'Bags of Help' scheme from April – June to hopefully get some funding to help upgrade and improve the garden. But the lockdown put paid to that and everything is on hold.

We would like to revamp the area at the back of the garden which had wooden beds for each class to grow things. The wood has rotten away over the years and needs replaced and the chuckie area needs redone with new ground cover below the chuckies to stop weeds growing.

We hoped to look at recycling any old BATHTUBS that people may be able to donate to

us to replace the wooden beds. If you know of anyone who may be able to offer us an old bath we would like to hear from them. If anyone was willing to help by collecting them if we were stuck that would be great!



Anyone who is interested in helping should contact the school or leave a message on the Facebook Page so that we can arrange some dates soon.

Absence from School

Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Department have issued advice on monitoring pupil absence. To help ensure pupil safety we will check all pupil absences if we do not know why they are not in school. Class teachers will take the register each morning and afternoon as usual and any unexplained absences will be noted. The office will then contact the parent to confirm that the pupil is absent from school and is safe.

IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL TODAY?

TEXT 07542 854546
Please give the following info:
Child's Name, Class, Date of Absence & Reason for Absence!

or
PHONE:
NEW SKYPE NUMBER
01771 676640

Please **DO NOT** call the **TEXT LINE** number!

Every year we are faced with having quite a LARGE collection of uniform, trousers, shoes, socks, gloves, hats, sports wear and jackets amongst other things which goes unclaimed despite them being put out on display at Parent Interviews sessions or other events as necessary or even round the classes.

We would ask that all items are marked with your child's names or initials so that we can attempt to match the items to the pupil! We often go round and ask the pupils regarding certain items e.g. jackets, trainers or other pricey items but more often than not pupils say they are not theirs! It would make life so much easier for us at school, and save yourselves a considerable amount of money, if names or



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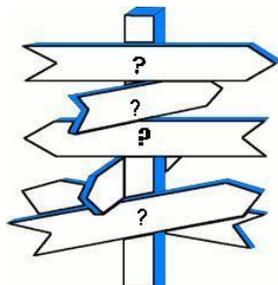
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initials were placed on the labels on items of clothing. This is especially so for items which may be similar to items that other pupils may have e.g sweatshirts, jumpers or trousers.

Class work 'In and around Strichen':

Classes quite often go out and about the village as part of their class work. However, some opportunities for enhancing lessons are missed due to the fact that a letter has not been sent



home informing you of a planned visit. We would like to ask your permission at the start of the session for your child to be taken out into the village if it is felt it would aid the learning taking place in the class. Where possible you will be informed beforehand but when an opportunity presents itself we would like to be able to make the most of this. We have attached a permission letter along with this newsletter and would appreciate it if you could complete it and return it to school as soon as possible.

School Library: Comics & Magazines



Over the last few months we have been working on improving our school library. We have refreshed the stock of books and looked at the environment in the room.

We would like to have a section with recently published **COMICS** and **MAGAZINES** so that children have access to a range of reading material.

We would like to ask for your help in this area. If you are throwing out any **COMICS** or **MAGAZINES** that your children have finished with why not get them to take them into school so that others can get the opportunity to look at them before they get recycled.

We would very much appreciate your support with this project.

Discovery Education: Espresso

Pupils can access 'Espresso,' our online cross-curricular service, at home using the following details. Teachers may suggest activities they

could do as part of their homework from time to time.

www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/espresso or
www.discoveryeducatino.co.uk/coding

Username: student14494
Password: strichen

PERMISSION SLIPS

At this time every year we ask for parents to complete various permission forms that we need to hold on record e.g Class work 'In and Around Strichen' or 'Library Visits' etc. We also need to have a current acceptance form for using 'Seesaw' by parents.

This year we are hoping to put these onto a 'Microsoft Forms' document that we can email to you to complete. Once it is completed the results will be collated automatically.

A link will hopefully be included in the email with this Newsletter.

A Jenkins
Head Teacher



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DIARY DATES for this session:

Term 1	<p>Monday 10th August – Friday 9th October 2020 Monday 10th August : Inservice Day 1 Tuesday 11th August : Inservice Day 2 Wednesday 12th August: Pupil Start: Phased re-entry Friday 9th October: Last day of Term 1</p>
Term 2	<p>Monday 26th October – Friday 18th December 2020 Monday 26th October: First day of Term 2 Friday 20th November: Inservice Day 3 Friday 18th December: Last day of Term 2</p>
Term 3	<p>Tuesday 5th January – Thursday April 1st 2021 Tuesday 5th January: First day of Term 3 Friday 12th February: Occasional Day (Holiday) Monday 15th February: Occasional Day (Holiday) Tuesday 16th February: Inservice Day 4 Wednesday 17th February: Inservice Day 5 Thursday 1st April: Last day of Term 3 Friday 2nd April: Good Friday Holiday</p>
Term 4	<p>Monday 19th April – Friday 25th June 2021 Monday 19th April: First day of Term 4 Monday 3rd May: May Day Holiday Friday 25th June: Last day of the session.</p> <p>Summer Holidays 2021 Monday 28th June – Friday 14th August 2021</p>