

*Our vision is to ensure all our pupils are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included, so that each individual can be fulfilled and reach their potential within a supportive and proactive community.*



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6th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carer

Our new term is now well underway and it promises to be another busy and exciting year. It's lovely to welcome our new primary one pupils and to see how much all the children have grown over the summer. The new kilts look absolutely gorgeous and we are delighted with them. Don't forget to label all school belongings.

### **Careers Day:**

Many thanks to Jill Murray and the Parent Council for organising today's Careers Day. This year we are very keen to develop our pupils' understanding of the world of work and the many opportunities that exist for them as they progress through education and into the workplace.

### **Pupil Leadership Roles**

Congratulations to our primary seven pupils who will receive their prefect badges on Friday. These badges come with increased responsibilities in school and leadership opportunities. The house captains this year are Lewis Burnet for Cairneywhing, Mia Cowie for Balnamoon, April Todd for Turlundie and Megan Mackie for Monsethie. Again a big responsibility but one I am sure they will be more than ready for. This year we have also appointed School Bloggers who will be in charge of the technology, interviews and write up for the blog. They are Mackenzie Neil, Jason Fulker and Layla Cowie.

### **Safety:**

Please do not walk through the school car park as there are cars coming in and out all day.

### **Online Alerts**

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered. *myaccount* is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling

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centre is and the names of your local councillors. So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

### **Lunch Payments**

Now that the new term has begun, please check that you have topped up the account for your child's lunch payment.

### **Improvement Plans**

Collated parental feedback can be found on the website in the Improvement Planning section. We take this information very seriously. Last year the majority said our reporting to parents could be better. As a result we re-designed the report format, introduced class assemblies and highlighted the learning at any school events.

This year we will be further developing Language Teaching in school, undertaking training in Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms and working in partnership with parents to develop literacy in early learning. The collated data can be found on the school website and all plans will be added next term.

### **Open Afternoons**

Open Afternoon	2-4pm	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Literacy Open Afternoon	2-3pm	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Numeracy Open Afternoon	2-3pm	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Open Afternoon	2-3pm	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2018

(Parental choice of subject area)

### **Credit Union**

We are so pleased to have our Friday Savings returning. Saving will begin on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to learn the value of money and for P5 to learn some skills that would be found in the work place.

### **Website**

<http://www.newpitsligo-st-johns.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

All the diary dates we know so far can be found in the Events section of the website. Our school website has information about school and the curriculum, the latest newsletters and all sorts of useful information.

You can also find us on Facebook for updates and information.

### **Parent Council AGM**

All are welcome to come along to the Parent Council AGM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. The Parent Council work closely with myself and the team to develop the curriculum in school and meet the need of children and families through the procedures in school.

### **PTA**

All are welcome to come along to the PTA AGM on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm. It's always great to hear new ideas and suggestions for fundraising and encouraging our pupils and even if you might not be able to help out at events we would still love your suggestions.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen James". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink on a white background.

**HELEN JAMES**  
Head Teacher