

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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22 August 2016

Dear Parents/Carer

Welcome back to another packed and productive school year. It has been great to have everybody back in school and to welcome our new Primary 1 pupils, who seem to be settling in really well.

Primary 1

P1 pupils will be in for mornings only until Monday 29th August when they start full time. Parents will have received a letter invited them to come and try a school lunch on Wednesday 24th August. Afterwards there will be a final induction meeting for P1 parents.

School Uniform

It is wonderful to see all our pupils neatly dressed in school uniform. It gives the school a real sense of pride and readiness to work. I would urge all pupils to be in uniform every day. Spare uniform is available from the school office. Please put your child's name on all of their belongings.

Prefects and House Captains

Congratulations to our primary seven pupils who have all received their prefect badges. These badges come with increased responsibilities in school and leadership opportunities. The house captains this year are Kelsey McGregor for Cairneywhing, Josh Bisset for Balnamoon, Lilly Thompson for Turlundie and Sean Risk for Monsethie. Again a big responsibility but one I am sure they will be more than ready for.

Welcome Mrs Downie

Our new Early Years Lead Practitioner is Mrs. Carol Downie who will be taking the leadership role in our nursery. Mrs. Downie has some great ideas for working together with our nursery children to make their experience the best it can be.

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.

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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 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 communication could be better. As a result we re-developed Glow, created our Communications Committee who write the blog and we set up a new website.

This year you have given us two areas for development, one is informing you about your child's progress. We have begun a process to develop reporting to parents further by showing you what the children have learned and what targets have been set for any particular event. You will have noticed this in the PowerPoint at the Queen's Birthday Party. This will be developed further along with curricular open afternoons. You also mentioned after school activities. We have a few plans for developing afternoon activities further and these will be rolled out across the new academic year. In addition we will be focusing on developing French in school as part of the Scotland wide 1+2 Languages initiative and our curricular focus this year will be reading. The collated data can be found on the school website and all plans will be added next term.

Open Afternoons

Open Afternoon	2-4pm	4 th October 2016
Literacy Open Afternoon	2-3pm	8 th November 2016
Numeracy Open Afternoon	2-3pm	23 rd February 2017
Open Afternoon	2-3pm	10 th May 2017

(Parental choice of subject area)

Credit Union

We are so pleased to have our Friday Savings returning. Saving will begin on Friday 26th August. 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 new school website which has information about school and the curriculum, the latest newsletters and all sorts of useful information is now up and running. You will also find links to maths and to Glow which your son or daughter will be able to log into for you. There are now a number of class blogs available on Glow. You can also find us on Facebook for updates and information.

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PTA

The PTA would like to invite you for coffee and a blether on Tuesday 6th September at 9am. This will be an opportunity to find out more about what they do and meet other school parents. This will be followed by the PTA AGM.

On Saturday the 19th November the PTA have arranged a night out for the grown-ups. This promises to be fantastic fun with a hypnotist and rock band to keep everyone entertained. Tickets are £15 and doors open at the Village Hall at 7.30pm there will be no bar so please bring your own refreshments. Raffle donations are gratefully received. Tickets will be available from the school next week or you can contact Linda Mackie on 07538325437.

On Friday 30th September the pupils in school will be showing off their best moves on the dance floor with a sponsored disco. The theme will be shorts & shades. We will be taking it in turns to keep the dancing going for the whole school day. Sponsor forms will be issued shortly.

Messy Church

All children are invited along to Messy Church on Sunday 28th August 2016 in the Village Hall from 4pm-6pm.



HELEN JAMES
Head Teacher