

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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12th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are moved from level 3 restrictions to level 2 restrictions, we are monitoring the situation closely and awaiting new guidelines for schools. This means we may be able to add to our plans but for now the remainder of the term is as follows.

Active Schools:

Netball club will begin on the Wednesday 19th May for p4-p7 and will continue every Wednesday for five weeks. Sign up details will be sent out shortly.

Bikeability:

On Wednesday the 26th May P5/6/7 pupils can bring their bikes and helmets for the bike check. Details about what we will be looking at can be found here: <https://bikeability.org.uk/bikeability-training/get-ready/> Please try to have the bike up to this standard prior to the check. Bikeability training will then be on Tuesday afternoon for the remainder of the term.

Alec Online Visits:

We usually have a visit from the Alec Caravan but this year we will be online instead. Each class will have their session on the 2nd or 3rd June. These are always lots of fun while developing the children's knowledge of health and wellbeing.

Reports:

Reports are will be issued to parents in June. We are hugely impressed with how well the children are doing we can see the wonderful impact of their engagement in online learning. Parents and carers have kept in contact with class teachers throughout this challenging year and we have shared the learning on social media. This has possibly given even more insight than an open afternoon so will continue this level of sharing even when we can welcome our parents and carers back to school.

Panto:

Oh no it isn't! The time for panto has passed but our treat was unable to go ahead at Christmas time so we are having a summer treat instead. It will be a production of Treasure Island on Friday 4th June. We would love the children to come dressed up as pirates – please don't buy anything special, it's just a bit of fun. Arrrrrrrrr

Mandarin:

P6/7 have continued their online learning of Mandarin with Chinese student teachers leading their learning. It has been amazing to think of the miles between us and the time difference. Our school has been awarded hub status for mandarin and we will be developing resources and learning ideas for all of Aberdeenshire. We are also able to use our funding to develop the school. We have a number of plans being developed including an outdoor stage.

Beyond the Panda:

One of the advantages of being a hub school is access to excellent experiences like Beyond the Panda where the classes have been able to link up with Edinburgh zoo to learn about the environment, endangered species and specifically the Giant Panda. These sessions have been really interesting and the children have engaged really well and asked excellent questions.

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Science and Technology:

This year the teachers have been engaged in science and technology training with SSERC. This has allowed us to develop our resources in science and technology in school and refresh our approaches. P4/5 have also been given the additional opportunity to study electricity with Generation Science.

Primary 7:

On Tuesday 15th June, p7 will have a day of sailing with Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust at Peterhead. We realise this in no way makes up for losing out on a residential trip but we are assured they will have a really fun day. They will then have their moving up days for the remainder of the week at Mintlaw Academy. We are so proud of our p7s and we know they are more than ready for this next step in their education. Our amazing PTA have kindly paid for their day and for leavers hoodies.

Sports Day:

This year we are asking that parents do not come to sports day as we cannot monitor numbers and we do not want to overstep guidelines. We will keep an eye on the weather forecast and choose a good day for our sports. Please ask your child which house they are in and if possible send them to sports day with a t-shirt in their colour. Red – Turlundie Blue – Balnamoon Yellow – Monsethie Green – Cairnywhing.

School Picnic:

On Thursday 24th June we plan to have a picnic lunch at the playing fields with an ice cream treat (dietary alternatives arranged). It is possible to order a packed lunch from school for your child, please let the office know if this is what you choose to do. We are hoping that it will be a sunny day so please send your child with water, a hat or cap if they are sensitive to the sun and apply sun cream prior to their arrival in school. If it's a washout we will have an indoor picnic!

Friday 25th June:

Due to losing a week of the summer holiday last year, we have an extra week this year and the summer holiday begins on Friday 25th June. On this day our P7 leavers can bring an old t-shirt for signing. We will celebrate our leavers in some way but as yet we do not know if this will be an in school event only, we await the updated guidance.

Updates:

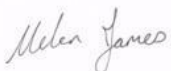
We are delighted that some of the children like to use the playground space to play in the evenings. This is absolutely fine but we would ask that the eco-garden is kept clear until nursery have finished at 6pm. The school carpark is for staff only and is used throughout the day. Please do not use it as a shortcut to the school playground, there have been two near accidents recently and it is extremely worrying for the staff. Please also avoid parking on the yellow zigzag outside school at any time. If you are coming through the playground to access nursery while the older children are out playing, please respect their privacy. If you think there is a problem tell a member of staff. It is unfair to contact parents and cause them concern. Minor fall outs happen all the time and are handled in school, usually by empowering the children to use their own good strategies to resolve conflict.

Thank You:

This has been an incredibly challenging year with a huge amount of change and upheaval. Through it all we have had incredible support from our community and that means so much. Thank you for your support, patience and dedication to your children's education.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank every member of the team at New Pitsligo. The catering staff have been really flexible in how lunches are arranged to maintain bubbles and the cleaning staff have an incredible number of extra requirements added to an already busy job. During lockdown 2 the teaching and early years teams took on the added requirement of trying to progress through the curriculum from a distance. It was hugely challenging and yet the results have been incredible and we have seen good progress from all who engaged in the activities. The PSA team working in school running the hubs for the whole of lock down two and there is nothing they don't know about Teams, Purple Mash and the intricacies of an iPad. Every single person has stepped up and has shone in a time of turmoil. As a result, we have happy, healthy, educated children.

Kind Regards,



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HELEN JAMES
Head Teacher