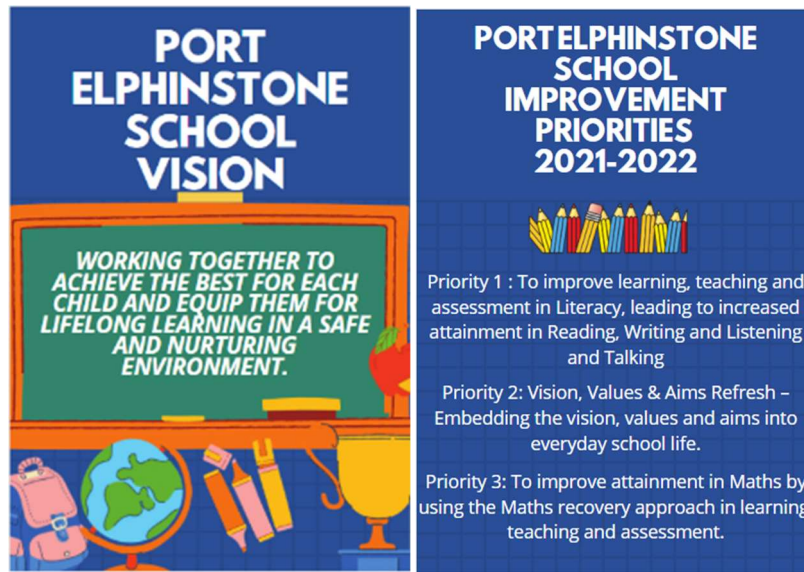


Port Elphinstone School Newsletter January 2022



Happy New Year and Welcome Back

It has been good to see each of the pupils returning to school routines and seeing their friends again. All the staff are glad to see them back as well. There are some important details about things happening at school, so please read on!

[The Return of Bubbles](#)

As you are probably very aware, cases of Covid remain high at the moment. Following government and local authority guidance, we will be returning to having “bubbles” in school. This limits the contacts between pupils during the school day. This will cause some changes to the school day. As a Head Teacher I continue to receive updates weekly from NHS staff about current guidance and will update you when we can return to a more normal school day. The current change impacts lunch times.

Lunch Times-

P4/5 and P5/6/7 12:00-1:00

P1/2 and P2/3 12:30-1:30

Scots Poem Competition

The annual Scots poetry competition will continue this year. Each class will be memorising a Scots poem to perform. The best performances will be selected to be put forward in a school competition. Watch in next month's newsletter for photographs of the winners.

Port Top Ten!

It's a really challenging time for parental engagement. We do wish that we could have you into school more frequently. I've put together a list of ten things you can do to support your learners and the school, even if you can't come in.

1. **Spare shoes** to change into when walking through the school building. We make the most of our amazing outdoor space every day, and pupils need a change of shoes so that we do not track mud throughout the school.
2. **A water-bottle from home** is an important tool as well! The fountain can be used to refill bottles when needed. Staying hydrated throughout the day is a good way to help your learner concentrate!
3. **A warm jumper** our classes have windows open throughout the day to circulate the air. (An important mitigation to prevent the spread of viruses!) A school jumper or fleece is perfect for this.
4. **A healthy snack for morning break.** We all know how important snacks are!
5. **Read, read, read.** Reading with your child is one of the most important activities you can do to help increase their literacy levels. [Here's some great resources about things you can do to support reading at home.](#)
6. **Support sleep!** Helping learners to get lots of sleep helps them process what they learn at school and be prepared to learn more the next day at school. [Here's a guide about how much sleep children need and tips for helping those who find it difficult to fall asleep.](#)
7. **Reminders about washing hands.** It is natural for kids to want to rush through the hand washing procedures, but it is one effective way to stop the spread of coronavirus. [Watch this video if your child needs a refresher!](#)
8. **Call us please!** If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please let us know as soon as possible. We have a responsibility to know where

the children who attend school are and it can take our office staff considerable amounts of time to call parents to find out where they are. Please call or email as soon as you know, and feel free to leave a message if the office isn't open.

9. Sign up for parents evening! Parent's evenings are coming soon, 26-27 January, correspondence will be coming home soon with your child. Please sign up if you can!

10. Look after yourself. It has been a challenging few years and has impacted many of us in ways we are just beginning to understand. There is lots of information on this [website](#) that you may find helpful. We also want to support families and if there are any challenges that you think the school could support you with, please let us know.

Dates for your diary

10-14 January	P1 Registration Week
w/c 17 January 2022	Presentation of Scots Poem to the class
17-28 January	Nursery Registration Weeks
24 January 2022	Final of Scots Poetry competition
Weds 26 January 2022 3:30-5:30	Parents Meetings (by phone call)
Thursday 27 January 2022 6:00-8:00	Parents Meetings (by phone call)
Thursday 10 February 2022	Local Holiday (No School)
Friday 10 February 2022	Local Holiday (No School)
Monday 14 February 2022	Mid-Term Holiday (No School)
Tuesday 15 February 2022	In-Service Day (School open to staff)
Wednesday 16 February 2022	In-Service Day (School open to staff)
Friday 1 April 2022	Last Day of Term

Get in touch!

If you have queries or concerns, please get in touch!

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