**Port Elphinstone School Newsletter**

**November 2022**

**Learning Together**

Thank you to all families for supporting the successful return to school! We are glad to see the pupils back safe and well. I see lots of smiling faces at the school gate, pupils ready to come into school and get on with their learning. In our weekly assemblies we continue to work together to create the safe and nurturing environment we all want for our school. We discuss our school values and vision, the improvement journey our school is on discuss the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We celebrate successes of all kinds and value our time to learn together as a school.

**Children in Need Day 16 November**

Due to the Inservice Days on 17/18 of November, our Children in Need Activities will take place on Wednesday 16 November. These activities have been organised by our pupil council who have shown our school value of responsibility in doing so! On the 16th of November, pupils can come to school in whatever clothing they would like. They can also bring a donation of any amount. During the day we will tally up all the money donated and let the community know how much we have raised. Thank you again for supporting the sale of Pudsey items in school, this has been very popular! 

**Christmas Jumper Exchange **

As our school uniform exchange has been so successful, we want to trial a Christmas jumper/t-shirt/dress exchange with everyone! Please bring pre-loved Christmas jumpers or other items to exchange from Monday 14 November to place in the box alongside the uniform and take away with you any items that may fit your learners now! This box will be put out with the school uniform boxes each day, so please help yourself!

**Being prepared for school**

As the weather changes so does the kit for school! Almost all pupils now have indoor shoes to change into. If your child does not have, we have some spares they can use. We also have our school uniform boxes for looking through when those growth spurts happen. Please feel free to look through this! As the winter months come in, hats and gloves as well as a coat are important to have at school every day. We can often get a surprise rainstorm, so please make sure to send a coat each day. During our breaktimes we like to use the pitch as much as possible to provide the children with the space to play and be with their friends. Shoes that are waterproof would be advisable. A pair of wellies can be kept at school for this purpose.

Note: there are some changes to the days. Please ensure that they come suitably dressed for PE lessons. A PE kit should include, T-Shirt, leggings or sweats, a sweatshirt for going outside. Tank tops are not appropriate as they may get caught on equipment used. Trainers or plimsoles for indoor PE lessons or trainers for outside. Medical tape should be provided for pupils with pierced ears. We have also worked with one of our suppliers to provide PE t-shirts which may be worn during PE lessons. They come in each house colour. We would prefer pupils not to wear football tops and these t-shirts provide a great alternative. PE t-shirts are for PE lessons, please wear polo shirts on regular school days. PE shirts are not required, but can be found [here.](https://ripplesforschools.co.uk/product-category/port-elphinstone/)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **P1/2** | **Monday and Wednesday** |
| **P2/3/4** | **Thursday and Friday** |
| **P4/5** | **Thursday and Friday** |
| **P 6/7** | **Thursday and Friday** |

**Holiday Calendar**

We always have a busy holiday season planned for Port Elphinstone School. We know that it can be tricky to remember all of the dates, so we have created a reference for you attached to the end of this newsletter. Feel free to print it out and stick it on the fridge!

**Getting in touch with Port Elphinstone School**

Our door is always open to to talk things through if you have any questions. It may sometimes be difficult to make time at the beginning or end of school day due to teaching commitments and after-school meetings, but we try to make time available if you have any questions or concerns. You can always email or phone the office to request time to speak to one of the team. Please remember, we can’t reply to messages sent via SeeSaw.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mrs Amelia Davies, Head TeacherPE (Alternate Fridays) | Miss Laura McCormick, P1/2 | Mrs Karen Simpson, (M-Th) Mrs Louise McLeish,(F) P2/3/4 | Miss Jade Grant (M, W, Th, F) Mrs Karen Clark (T) P4/5  | Mrs Elaine Allan P6/7 |
| Mrs Valerie NapierAdditional Support Needs Teacher Monday and Tuesday | Mrs Susan Cordiner, Digital Literacy (Th)PE (alternate Fridays) | Mrs Karen Taylor Administrator M, W, ThMrs Yvonne DonaldAdmin Support T, F | Mrs Claire GerrieMrs Leanne O’DonnellMrs Margaret SinclairMrs Angie WattPSAs | Mrs Julia HutcheonMrs Paula CameronMrs Wendy KelmanMiss Kirstin StewartMrs Lisa Grieve |

**Food Shelves**

The food shelves are still well stocked between the double doors at the main school entrance. Please help yourself to anything you can use. We try and update the school Facebook page when new supplies come in! We also have supplies of female sanitary products as well.

**WOW Sheets**

We want to celebrate the successes of your leaners inside and outside school. When pupils have achieved something they are proud of, they can complete a WOW sheet, which you can sign. We celebrate these in assembly and the sheets are displayed at school. These are available at school in each class and outside the HT office.

**Get in touch!**

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

portelphinstone.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**Festive Dates for the Diary**

Monday, 14 November Christmas Jumper exchange begins

Wednesday, 16 November Children in Need Activities

Friday, 25 November St Andrew’s Day Disco

 *5:30-6:00 Nursery (with parents)*

 *6:00-7:00 (P1-3)*

 *7:15-8:15 (P4-7)*

Tuesday, 29 November Nursery visit to Inverurie Retail Park

Saturday, 3 December School Christmas Fair 10.00 am-12 noon

Monday, 5 December Pupils can bring a Christmas card to share with the school.

Thursday, 8 December Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday, 13 December P1-7 Visit to the Panto

 Nursery Christmas Party

Wednesday, 14 December P1-2/P2-4 Nativity 9.30-10.15/2.00-2.45

 (ticket info to follow) \*please note change to previously communicated date.\*

Friday, 16 December Christmas Lunch

Monday, 19 December P1-2/P2-4 Christmas Party

Thursday, 22 December P4-5/P6-7 Christmas Party

Friday, 23 December Carols in the Playground 2.50-3.20 pm