

Port Elphinstone School Newsletter

March/April

Good News

Some exciting news to share with you all. Through an Aberdeenshire Educational Trust Grant, 4 classrooms in the school will be receiving a new Clevertouch Screen! These will replace SmartBoard technology and will be a great benefit for our learners to have up to date equipment in the classroom. These will be being installed sometime in April hopefully!

Our Rotary Quiz Team took an impressive 3rd place at the local quiz earlier this month! Well done to Maria, Dainius, Liam and Eli with Struan as our alternate.

We have also had success in the Rotary photography competition, Well done to Rebecca, Maria, James and Lily who have had their photographs framed and put up in the Gordon Art Exhibition which can be viewed in the Heritage Centre from 15-19 March.

We are also going to be participating in the CLAN [The Big Hop - CLAN Cancer Support](#) trail. Our Hare sculpture was collected this week and we will be showing the sculpture to the school next week at assembly, very exciting. The dedicated website about the trail can be found here: [The Big Hop Trail 2023 | Clan Cancer Support & Wild in Art](#)

Finally, a huge congratulations to our nursery team who received great feedback from a recent Care Inspectorate visit. The report has been emailed to the school community and is available to view on the Care Inspectorate website.

Big Breakfast Event

On Tuesday, 21 March the school and nursery will be taking part in the Healthy Living North team's Big Breakfast event. Over the course of the morning pupils will get a chance to try some healthy breakfast foods. We have made them aware of any food allergies the pupils may have. They can still have their breakfast at home, but will get the opportunity to try some new things.

Learning Together: Ways to Help

Thank you for all your support and coming to our recent parents' meetings. The teaching staff always find this very helpful to discuss the successes of the children in their learning and any concerns you may have. Our door is always open to discuss any worries and concerns. There are a few things that you can do to help your pupils make the most of the school day:



Please help pupils arrive on time. While we completely understand that some mornings just go wrong, arriving on time helps pupils start the day in a calm way. It gives them time to check in with their friends and teacher and not feel under pressure. It also helps our lovely office ladies make sure our dinner ladies get the lunch orders away in time.



If you know that you will be late or that your child is ill, please let us know as soon as possible either by phone or email. We had a duty of care to find out where children are if they are not at school.



Model safe behaviour. There has been a reappearance of people not parking safely when dropping their children off at school and collecting them. Please do not park on the roundabout in the school car park. The only gate for pupils to enter and exit the school grounds is the main gate in the lane and not through the car park. Also remember to be a respectful member of the community and do not park in residents' spaces.



School uniform is an important part of our pupil's identity at school, and taking pride in wearing the uniform shows our school values of respect and responsibility. They should come dressed in school uniform on days that are not PE days. (Also a reminder that no sports tops are to be worn for PE.) If you are having trouble sourcing any uniform, please come and look through the boxes of gently loved second hand uniform just inside the school doors.

PE Kit Reminders



Please ensure that they come suitably dressed for PE lessons. We have seen an increase in pupils wearing football tops for PE and have found that this sometimes causes arguments and disputes. We ask that parents please don't send pupils in any kind of sports jersey to school. Your support is appreciated!

A PE kit should include, T-Shirt, leggings or sweats, a sweatshirt for going outside. Tank tops are not appropriate. Trainers or plimsoles for indoor PE lessons or trainers for outside. Medical tape should be provided for pupils with pierced ears. All other days of the week pupils should come dressed in school uniform. Pupils may also wear school PE t-shirts, which are available for purchase here: [Kids Value T-Shirt – Ripples Custom Designs & Prints – for Schools \(ripplesforschools.co.uk\)](https://ripplesforschools.co.uk) This is not compulsory, and pupils would be welcome to wear a school polo with comfortable trousers if there is a problem.

Technology at school

At school we have noticed many pupils wearing smart watches with many exciting features! Some guidelines for these devices in school:

- Any functions that allow pupils to communicate with parents during the school day should be switched off.
- Any devices that can record or transmit sound should not be used, and if you do wish to bring watches with this capability to school, they should be left in the school bag.
- Any alarms or noise functions should be switched off as well.

We appreciate all your support with this, it helps us to meet GDPR requirements. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday, 17 March 2023	Parent Council Bingo Evening, 6.00 pm
Tuesday, 28 March 2023	Drama Presentation P4/5 and P6/7 2:15 Start
Wednesday, 29 March 2023	Drama Presentation P4/5 and P6/7 9:30 Start
Friday, 31 March 2023	Last Day of Term 3
Monday, 17 April 2023	First Day of Term 4
Thursday, 20 April 2023	Tempest Photography for class photos
Monday, 1 May 2023	May Day Holiday
Monday, 8 May 2023	Coronation Holiday
Tuesday, 9 May 2023	Proposed Sports Day (more detail to follow)
Thursday, 11 May 2023	Alternate Sports Day (more detail to follow)
Monday, 5 June 2023	Local Holiday
Tuesday, 13-Thursday 15 June	P7 Academy Visit
Friday, 23 June 2023	Parent Council BBQ, 5.30 pm
Friday, 7 July 2023	Last Day of Term

[Get in touch!](#)

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

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