

Port Elphinstone School Newsletter

September 2023

Learning Together

We are delighted to have everyone back and working so well together. The children have settled well into the routines of the classroom and have already begun demonstrating our school vision and values in lots of ways. Each year the classes create a class charter together that helps to set up expectations about the learning environment of their classroom.

A few things that are new: This year we will have a Pupil Leadership Team consisting of our P7 year group. We will also have a pupil council which has representatives from each class in the school. There will be opportunities for multiple people to hold these posts throughout the year. These groups each have their own roles and will support the improvement work of the school.

Another change for us this year is that the house cup will be awarded multiple times throughout the year, at the end of Term 2, 3 and 4. Pupils build up house points by demonstrating our school values in the classroom and outside. Throughout the term our pupil leadership team collect house points, count them and keep a record. We hope that this will motivate pupils to continue to demonstrate their commitment to showing our school values of Respect, Teamwork, Honesty, Responsibility and Inclusion.

Some things are the same: we continue to have a social snack-time where pupils can eat their snack in their classroom while having a discussion with friends and their teacher. We show a strong commitment to being responsible for the environment by recycling as much as possible, this includes food waste and wrappers. By having a social snack we cut down on the litter on the pitch and give pupils time to play with their friends.

Our improvement priorities continue in a similar way, we are focusing our improvement efforts on creating inclusive learning environments, improving writing attainment throughout the school and building our curriculum planning consistency.

Parent Council AGM

Our Parent Council warmly invite any parents to their AGM being held at the school on Monday 4 September 2023 at 6 PM. A commitment to join the parent council committee is not necessary but all parental voices are welcome. Please send a message to portelphinstone.pc@outlook.com if you have any further questions.

Open Evening at Port Elphinstone School



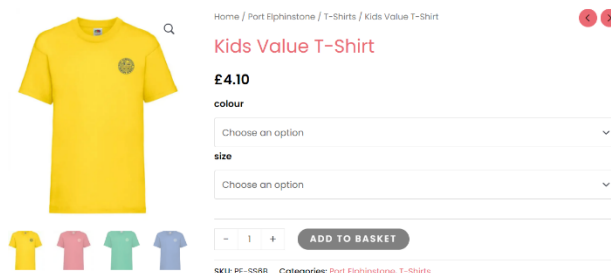
We are very excited to welcome parents and carers back into school and would like to invite you to attend an open evening at Port Elphinstone School and Nursery. This is an opportunity to come visit your child's classroom and meet the class teacher. **Our open evening is scheduled for 21 September from 5:30-6:30.** Our nursery setting will also be open during the same time so parents who would like to attend at both settings have an opportunity to do so. We are so looking forward to seeing you there.

P1 Picture for First Days of School

P1 pupils have the opportunity to have their picture taken for the Evening Express First Class Feature. This photo will be taken on Monday 11 September, and we will let you know when it will feature in the newspaper. Parental permissions for photos will be respected, so if you have asked the picture not be in outside publications, pupils will not be in the photograph.

PE Kit and PE Days

Please find below the PE days for each class. 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](#).



P1/2/3	Monday and Tuesday
P3/4	Monday and Tuesday
P5/6	Monday and Thursday
P6/7	Monday and Thursday

Indoor Shoes Please!

It would really help us keep the classrooms in good shape if indoor shoes are provided for pupils to wear in the classroom. If you have any financial barrier to accessing this, please let us know, we may be able to help!

Staffing at Port Elphinstone School

Please find below the current staffing complement at Port Elphinstone School.

Mrs Amelia Davies, Head Teacher (Teaching day, Tuesday)	Miss Laura McCormick, P1/2/3	Mrs Karen Simpson, (M-Th) Mrs Louise McLeish,(F) P3/4	Ms Freya Lindroos M, T, W, F) Mrs Karen Clark (Th) P5/6	Mrs Elaine Allan P6/7
Mrs Valerie Napier Additional Support Needs Teacher Monday morning and Tuesday	Mrs Susan Cordiner, (Class Cover)	Mrs Karen Taylor Administrator M, W, Th Mrs Yvonne Donald Admin Support T, F	Mrs Claire Gerrie Mrs Leanne O'Donnell Mrs Margaret Sinclair Mrs Angie Watt PSAs	Mrs Julia Hutcheon Mrs Paula Cameron Mrs Wendy Kelman Miss Kirstin Stewart Mrs Lisa Grieve Mrs Connie Smith

Preloved Uniforms

Should you have any preloved uniforms in good, clean condition that your child has outgrown, please feel free to add them to the boxes outside the school to enable other parents to benefit from them. Thank you to everyone who helps our school community reduce waste by reusing uniform! Please feel free take what you need to make sure your pupil has uniform each day. If you have any questions or concerns about providing a uniform for your child, please let the office or Mrs Davies know, we are happy to help!

Parents Portal

It is vital that wherever possible, parents are using Parents' Portal to share information with us at school. If you have not already done so, could you please sign up for Parents Portal, information on how to sign up was emailed last week. If you require another copy, please email and let us know.

Dates for your diary

Monday 4 September	Parent Council AGM, 6 PM at school
Thursday 21 September	School and Nursery Opening Evening Nursery 5:30-6:30
Friday 13 October	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 30 October	Start of Term 2
Thursday 16 November	Inservice Day (no pupils in school)
Friday 17 November	Inservice Day (no pupils in school)
Friday 24 November	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 13 December	Whole School Pantomime Visit
w/c 18 December	Nativity Performance date and time to be confirmed.

Friday 22 December

Last Day of Term
Carols in the Playground

Get in touch!

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

portelphinstone.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk