

Port Elphinstone School Newsletter

Term 4 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to have everyone back in school. The children have settled well and jumped right back into learning. Thank you for your support at the end of last term, the science fair was a great success and we were delighted to see so many of the parents, family and friends in school to support the children's learning. Thank you to those of you who shared your positive contributions to add to our Positivi-tree. We will continue to add to it as the term progresses. Here is some of the feedback gained from parents and pupils during the Science Fair:

- "Great to see everyone so enthusiastic about science!"
- "Brilliant effort by all!"
- "It was lovely to see all the displays and the pupils had worked so hard on them, well done everyone!"
- "Super interesting to see all the hard work."

Thank you for supporting the pupils with your attendance, very much appreciated.

Mobile phones and Smart Watches at School

We are noticing a significant number of pupils who have been bringing their phones to school. We recognise there will be some circumstances when phones are necessary at the end of the day for some pupils who are allowed to walk to and from school themselves, however we have noticed that many pupils are arriving in the morning and are on their devices with friends. *Please consider whether sending your pupil to school with an expensive device is necessary.* Many current news articles and research point to the fact that large amounts of screen time have a detrimental effect on pupil well-being. Such devices need to be switched off upon entering the school grounds and given to the class teacher for the duration of the day. To be consistent in our approach, we have been consulting with other Primary Head Teachers in the Inverurie area about their mobile phone policies. Attached with this newsletter is a draft policy regarding using mobile phones at school. This document will be open for consultation and feedback for one week until 30 April 2024, please email the school address with any questions or feedback so that the Head Teacher can respond.

Learning Together- What can you do to help?

We want to work in partnership with parents and families, here are some of the things you can do to support learners at school.

- **Be on time!** We are really growing concerned about the number of pupils arriving after the bell has gone. Being on time helps your pupil have a successful day. If there are issues preventing this happening, please get in touch with the school and we can problem solve together. **(What we will do to help: communicate with families whose lateness and absences are having an impact on their pupils' learning.)**

- **Be prepared!** Pupils should have a healthy breakfast and come with clothing suitable for the weather and activities of the day. Pupils should also have any reading books, snacks, water bottles etc. In winter, coats, gloves and hats are a good idea. We do try to get outside each day, so a change of shoes is really important. Again, if there are difficulties, please get in touch with the school so that we can support. **(What we will do to help: send a message home if your pupil doesn't have indoor shoes so that some can be sourced or provided.)**
- **Keep communication lines open!** We appreciate you letting us know when pupils are struggling or need support, or equally when things have gone really well. Working together we can find solutions for any problems We are looking to share learning more frequently with families about pupil learning.

Pupil Profiles

We are excited to let parents know that we will be able to share example of pupil learning with parents again. We have been trialling the J2E tool which is part of the Glow suite of tools. A privacy notice has been shared with parents and over the coming weeks, parents will receive links to be able to look at your pupil's profile. We are in the beginning stages of this and will begin to use it more frequently.

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://www.ripplesforschools.co.uk) This is not compulsory, and pupils would be welcome to wear a school polo with comfortable trousers.

PE Days

P1-3	Monday and Tuesday
P3-4-5	Monday and Tuesday
P5-6-7	Tuesday and Thursday

Term 4 Dates:

29 April	P6-7 Life Expo
30 April	P6-7 Coping with Challenges Workshop
2 May	Generation Science Workshop – Electric Explorers (P4-7)

6 May	May Day – no school or nursery
14 May	Sports Day Potted Sports 10:30, Races 1:45
15 May	Alternative Sports Day
16 May	Generation Science Workshop – Ready, Teddy, Go (P1-3)
22 May	P7 Academy Enterprise/Sports Day
28-31 May	P7 Residential
3 June	Local holiday - no school or nursery
11, 12, 13 June	P7 Transition Days
12 June-3 July	Wednesday Rugby Sessions in school for P3-7 pupils
3 July	Leaver's Assembly
4 July	School and Nursery trip to Wynford Farm
5 July	Last day of session

[Get in touch!](#)

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

portelphinstone.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk