



Loirston School
Aberdeen AB123HE
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Newsletter 2 Session 2020-21
September 2020
Loirston School

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Dear Parents/ Carers

We are now close to the end of our first term at Loirston School. I will be leaving the school this Thursday 24th September to help out at Charleston for a few weeks before retiring at the end of the year. It has been lovely to be back at Loirston again for the last year and I would like to thank all families for their support. The last few months have been, and continue to be, a challenge for all of us but the Loirston Community has adapted well to the changes we have had to implement. I look forward to hearing how well I am sure all our pupils will continue to progress.

Social Distancing

The staggering of entry and exit times has certainly helped the bottlenecks at the red unit. Some parents have requested that I ask parents and carers to wear masks when waiting for children. I have no authority to do that, but parents may wear them if they wish. We would ask that parents and carers continue to observe no parking in the turning circle. This makes it a little easier for parents picking up Primary 2 pupils to remain socially distant and helps keep the children safer.

Road Safety

It was brought to my attention that some parents had stopped their cars on the zebra crossing to drop their children off for school. This is very dangerous practice and a breach of traffic regulations. We encourage parents to find a safe area to park and, if necessary, walk their children from there. Please do not use the staff car park as it is unsafe to allow children to walk from there.

Staffing

As mentioned above, I leave Loirston this week. Ms Watt will take up the position of permanent Head Teacher on Tuesday 29th September. Mrs Hidson also leaves us this week to start her maternity leave and Miss Diack and Mrs Forrest will job share the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher for the duration of the maternity leave. They start the post on Tuesday 29th September also.

Parents' Evenings

This session our Parents' Consultation Evenings will take the form of a Google Meet. They will take place during the weeks commencing 9th and 16th November. You will be given an exact date and more information nearer the time. The dates may vary from class to class to give teachers more flexibility in accessing the school wifi.

Sports Relief

Just before lockdown we held a Sports Relief Event. Because the school closed quickly, we were unable to process the collection. We have now done this and are pleased to say that we raised the fantastic sum of £317.

Outdoor Learning

Pupils and teachers at Loirston School have been making maximum use of our Outdoor Spaces. We plan to start using our Loose Parts soon with a robust risk assessment and quarantine system in place.

Some examples of the learning are -Primary 1 pupils making Gruffalos



And Primary 7 pupils involved in finding out about river animals with the River Dee Trust.



School Lunches

The staggered lunch breaks continue to work well with classes being enabled to remain at a distance from other classes.



School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Priorities for Session 2020-21 are:-

Priority 1 – Physical Return to School Building

Priority 2 – Improving and developing our approaches to Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Priority 3 – Supporting the Health and Wellbeing of all

Priority 4 – Developing a Young Workforce

Late Arrivals

Pupils who arrive late and find that their entry point is closed will need to enter and report to the front office. Parents who accompany their children will need to keep social distance from each other and the office staff will communicate with them one at a time. We understand that this will take more time than before but we ask for your understanding and appreciate your help in adhering to this new system. As per our risk assessment we are unable to allow access to the building or playground by parents/ carers except in special circumstances which have been agreed before arriving.

Communication

Don't miss out-Please follow us @LoirstonPrimary on Twitter, like Loirston Connect on Facebook, subscribe to our blog at <https://loirston.aberdeen.sch.uk/> and download the Groupcall Xpressions App. Groupcall is used to communicate with parents regularly and those who have not already downloaded the Groupcall Xpressions App are encouraged to as it is a quick and easy way to see new messages.

Facebook

For those parents/ carers who use Facebook our blog posts have a Facebook Feed for your convenience. This is not manned so if you have any questions for us directly, please contact the school. Similarly, it is not an appropriate forum for airing concerns and we would ask you to contact the school if you have anything of that nature to discuss.

Important Dates

A full list of Inservice and Holiday dates can be found at: -

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-term-and-holiday-dates>

Important dates for your diary: -

- 25th-28th September holiday weekend
- 9th October-Term ends
- 9th-20th November-Parent/ Teacher Consultation Meets

Just a reminder that school is closed on Friday 25th and Monday 28th September. As ever, please contact us with any questions and concerns. Enjoy your weekend.



Happy, **U**nited, **R**esponsible, **R**espected, **A**mbitious, **Y**ourself

S. Campbell-Morgan
Acting Head Teacher