



# First Class

Issue 79

Christmas Special

December 2020

Honesty

Respect

Happiness

Achievement

## Term 2

We are fast approaching the Christmas break. Term 2 has flown by and we are so proud of all our pupils for continuing to work hard. There have been some fantastic learning opportunities happening across the school. Remember to keep a look out on [Twitter](#) to see what our classes have been up to. As the next couple of weeks will be very busy, we thought it would be helpful to share these arrangements with you in this newsletter.



## Class Christmas Day

Christmas is looking quite different this year. We are aware that many of the usual traditions are not happening this year. Christmas Discos, Parties and gatherings.



Therefore, we have decided to hold a 'Class Christmas Day' in school. Each coloured area have been allocated a day for this during the last week of term.

During this day children can 'wear what they please' to school. Their class will participate in a variety of activities throughout the day some of which may include:

Crafts, party games and viewing the pantomime.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Yellow Area Classes

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Orange Area Classes

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Blue Area Classes

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Purple Area Classes

## Christmas Jumper Day

We will be taking part in Christmas Jumper day this year. Children are invited to wear their Christmas Jumper on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. There will be an opportunity to donate money to Save the Children should they wish.



## Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch coincides with Christmas Jumper day this year. All orders for this had to be placed by 20<sup>th</sup> November. If you have agreed to provide a packed lunch for your child on the day, please ensure they bring this to school. School lunches cannot be ordered on the day.



PIC•COLLAGE

## Christmas Panto

We will have an opportunity to watch the Aberdeen Arts Centre & TaleGate Theatre Productions Pantomime of Aladdin. This will be shown in class time during the final week of term.



## Winter Celebration

Classes are currently working on something to share with the rest of the school and their families during the last week of term. We hope this will be a festive treat for all and a valuable chance to share the learning taking place across the school.



## VSA Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who have donated to this so far. There's still time to bring your donations in. They must be in school by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.



We have supported the VSA Christmas Giving Tree for several years now. Each year the VSA are blown away by the generosity of our school community. As with many things this year, the VSA have had to adapt and change their plans due to current circumstances and the number of people they are trying to support.

The VSA have asked us to support 3 different groups of people this year. Children/young people from Linn Moor special school, elderly VSA residents and mental health residents.

To help ensure we can collect a good spread of items, we have suggested different items for each of our coloured areas. This is just a suggestion and you are also welcome to donate something from one of the other categories if you wish.

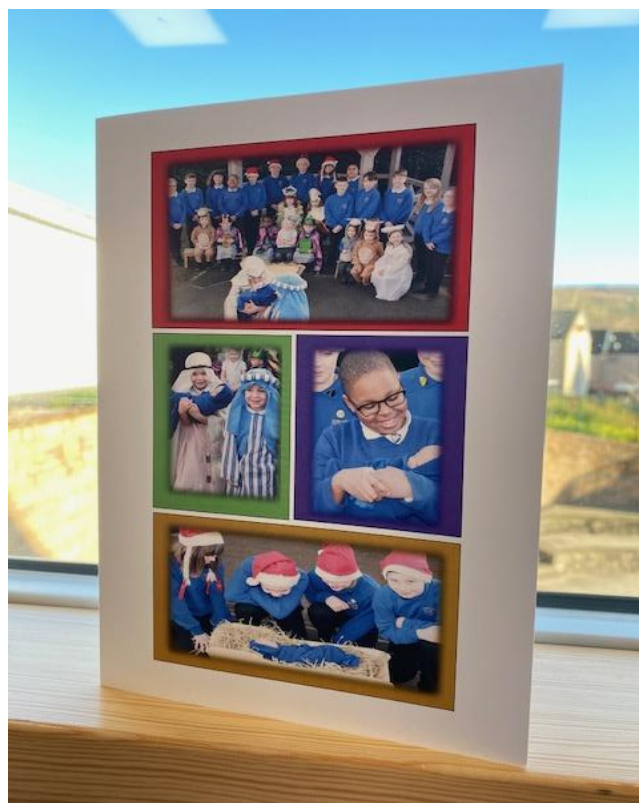
We understand that for some families this festive period may prove particularly challenging in terms of finances. Please give as little or as much as you

feel you can. Please don't feel under any pressure to contribute.

<b>Class Area</b>	<b>VSA Service user</b>	<b>Suggested items</b>
<b>Nursery /Yellow</b>	Elderly Residents	Toiletries, soaps and balms etc.
<b>Blue /Orange</b>	Mental Health residents	Sweets, gift vouchers/cards and games
<b>Purple</b>	Linn Moor Special School	26 children/young people - suggestions below

## Kinellar Christmas Cards

This year we have produced a Kinellar Christmas Card to send to the VSA residents who will find this time of year particularly lonely and isolating. We hope that receiving a card will brighten their day. Some classes have even taken the time to write letters, which we are sure will be well received and appreciated.



## KSPC – Santa Hat Trail

To help get Blackburn in the community Christmas spirit KSPC are running both a Santa Hat Hunt & a Christmas Scarecrow Hunt this year.

For the Santa Hat Hunt they are encouraging everyone to put Santa Hats in their windows. (Like everyone did with Rainbows in March). There's a template available online and some classes have been taking part in designing some in school too.



How many Santa hats will you find on your walks around the village? Make sure you keep a look out around school for our giant Santa hats!

For those who like to decorate outside too, they are also running a Christmas Scarecrow hunt. See the [KSPC](#) and [KSPC Rocks](#) Facebook pages for more information and some lovely examples.

## Preloved Christmas

The Catalyst Vineyard Church are collecting preloved Christmas Jumpers to help families in need this Christmas.

They are looking for preloved, in good condition **Christmas jumpers**. They will wash, iron and package them for anyone who would like them, taking into account all the necessary government guidelines and precautions. This will help those who would struggle to afford jumpers for their children, as well as saving the environment one "Christmas jumper landfill site" at a time.

There is a collection box located at 15 Kinmohr Rise.



They have also been collecting pre-loved toys to support families. They now have enough toys but are looking for selection boxes. These can also be donated at the collection point.

If you would benefit from support with either of these items, you can get in touch using the link below.

Preloved Toys

link: <https://forms.gle/JuFoSwb8cmwReG5s7>

Preloved Christmas Jumper

link: <https://forms.gle/6VciV1bCBxfxLntB9>

Catalyst Vineyard Church also run the Storehouse food bank. Please watch the video below for more information on this.

Foodbank video: <https://youtu.be/ur6KAMJHvQE>

## Thank You – Staff

Our staff were very lucky to receive a lovely gift from the local churches in time for our October break. All staff receive a bag of thoughtful goodies. We were very grateful for these and the acknowledgement of the hard work of the whole school team.

Thank you to the following groups for organising this:

- Kintore Community Church
- Kintore Church of Scotland
- Garioch Church
- Kemnay Church of Scotland
- Catalyst Vineyard Church
- Fathers House Aberdeen



## Reporting Feedback

Before we embark on the Christmas Countdown, can all parents please take time to sit with their child and provide their teacher and the SMT with feedback on their child's learning or how their child feels about their learning experiences. This is so valuable to your child's learning process and ensures that your input about their progress is noted and valued. A link to the Microsoft form for your child's class was sent by email on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November.



## Pupil Wellbeing

Before leaving your home, please ensure your child is well and that no other members of the household are symptomatic. In line with Government and Local Authority Advice, we have a zero-tolerance approach to any symptoms shown and will use isolation procedures. The 'Test and Protect' approach will be used for any person who reports symptoms.



Please refrain from gathering at the fence overlooking the playground throughout the day. This is our staff exit and must be kept clear to allow for social distancing. If you are meeting your child at the front door a face covering should be worn as this is also school grounds.

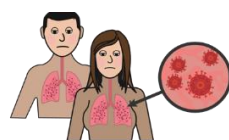
Adults are reminded that they **must** observe social distancing guidance whilst on school grounds. Please do not become complacent with this. Remember, once your child has settled in their line please leave the playground promptly.

We have a plan for alternative morning arrangements for the P5-7 classes. With the wetter weather the field is becoming very muddy. We are continually monitoring this and will bring in the new arrangements when required.

It is essential that children arrive on time to school. Late children arriving at the office will seriously disrupt our procedures. Teachers will not accept late arrivals at classroom doors.

We are happy for well-behaved dogs to accompany you at drop off and pick up. However, we would kindly ask that you do not stop at the school gate with dogs during break and lunch times.

At the end of the day, please leave the playground swiftly. We still have nursery session running and need to clear the playground quickly.



## Symptoms and what to do Coronavirus COVID-19

- A high **temperature**.
- **Feel hot** to touch on your chest or back.
- A **loss or change** in what you can normally **smell or taste**.
- A new **continuous cough**.  
This means **coughing** a lot for more than one hour or 3 or more coughs in a day.  
If you usually have a cough then this might be worse at this time.

With Winter upon us, we are aware that there are many bugs and illness circulating. Please take a cautious approach and if in doubt keep your child at home and seek medical advice.

## Health and Safety Update

We continue to ask that **only 1 adult attends** drop off and pick up to minimise the number of adults in the playground.

According to Scottish Government Advice, **face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors** to all school sites (whether entering the building or otherwise), **including parents at drop-off and pick-up.**



The residents of Fechnie Brae have raised concerns about pupils entering their grounds and car park before and after school. Please ensure your child does not do this and that they respect the ground, property and the residents' space.

## Fechnie Brae

## School Office

Please be aware that any parents or visitors entering the building is required to provide their contact information in line with the Test and Protect strategy. Please avoid coming to the office whenever possible and contact them by telephone or email instead.

01224 472888  
[kinellar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:kinellar.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



## **Cold and Wet Weather**

Please ensure your child comes to school prepared for the weather. Children will be spending time outside in all weathers as part of their learning.



During breaks and lunch, the children will always be outside to play unless the weather is extreme. This means they must have suitable warm/waterproof jackets and if you prefer, waterproof trousers and boots too. If you find that this is difficult due to financial circumstances, please contact the school. We will treat this confidentially and seek support to help you equip your child for outdoor learning.

Windows in classrooms will be open throughout the day to allow for the circulation of fresh air, it would be advisable for all pupils to have a school jumper.

## **Communication with All Staff**

Unfortunately, due to social distancing, Teachers and The Early Years Team should not be approached at the beginning or the end of the day. If you'd like to communicate with staff, please email them or send a message via the school office. If your concern is of a serious nature or a Child Protection concern, please alert one of the office team by telephone and a member the SMT will get back to you.

## **Who to Contact?**

In the event that you have a question or concern, you should contact your child's class teacher in the first instance by phone or email. They are the people who know your child best in school and will be able to resolve most issues which arise. If you feel that your concern has still not been resolved, then you should contact the relevant member of the management team.



Yellow and Blue area classes – Miss Cara Morrison (P1-3 and P4G)

Orange and Purple area classes – Mrs Amelia Davies (P4H and P5-7)

Nursery - Mrs Nicola Nicol

We work very closely as a management team and all issues which arise within school are shared with Mrs Farquhar, the Head Teacher.

As always if there is anything we can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you would like to speak to Mrs Farquhar please arrange a telephone appointment via the school office.

[pamela.farquhar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.farquhar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

[cara.morrison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:cara.morrison@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

[amelia.davies@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:amelia.davies@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

[nicola.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

To keep up-to-date with all that is going on in school, please follow us on [twitter](#).



## **And Finally...**



Some of our P7s have been helping to organise some time for the children to have their lunchtime outside in the playing fields across the road. On a Thursday, we are fortunate to have enough PSA time to allow this to happen. Some of the P7s have been taking registers and planning for the resources. What a helpful team to have around. Thanks to them, our Purple and Orange areas are enjoying the park and the field. It just means more muddy uniform for the parents to wash!