



First Class Issue 100!

January 2023

Honesty

Respect

Happiness

Achievement

Happy New Year! We hope all our families had a restful holiday period.

There are lots of seasonal illnesses doing the rounds now along with the usual chicken pox etc. There's some helpful information below about when and for how long you should keep your child off school:

[NHS – Is my child too ill for school?](#)

In memory of Miss Singer, we hope to purchase a bench for our garden area. If you would like to contribute to this, please donate to KSPC here:

<https://www.paypal.me/KinellarSchoolIPC>

Any funds in excess of the cost of the bench will be donated to Macmillan Nurses as requested by the family.

Cash donations will also be accepted in school. Please ensure this is in a clearly marked envelope.

This collection will run until the February half term break.

contact Mrs Keith directly use the email address below.

Katrina.keith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Winter Weather

Thank you to parents and pupils for their patience during the week of 12th December when we were unable to use the playground due to the very icy conditions and the snow on the roof. We appreciate your co-operation with the different arrangements.

Please continue to ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing for the weather as we do have outdoor break and lunchtimes every day.

House Tokens

We seem to have a shortage of house tokens in school, if your child has been bringing these home please ensure they are returned to school!

Students

We have 3 students from The University of Aberdeen working in school this term. They are Miss Ewing and Miss Massie in P7 and Miss Matthew in P6.

Parents Evenings

We are so glad to be able to have face to face Parents Evenings again. These discussions are a vital part of the reporting process and ensure that parents are equipped to support, challenge and encourage at home. We look forward to the second evening of these tomorrow night.

Seasons for Growth



Mrs Keith will be starting another block of Seasons for growth in the new term. Seasons for Growth is a programme for children who have experienced significant change or loss. It is based on the belief that change, loss and grief are a normal and valuable part of life. The aim of the programme is to develop resilience and recognise emotions we feel in these situations to promote social and emotional wellbeing. If you feel that your child would benefit from this programme, then please

Book Swap

The RRSA group and KSPC are teaming up to organise a book swap later on this term. Keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Lost Property



We are drowning in lost property!

This will be out on parents evening tomorrow. Please have a look and take anything that

you need or that belongs to you! We do check for names and return these items to the children however this is all unnamed. If names have been written on with pen these do wash off so, please check and re-label if required!

Night At the Musicals

It has been quite a few years since we have had an upper stages performance but this year, we have decided to bring this back. We are excited to let you know that P4-P6 will be hosting a 'Night at the Musicals' on Wednesday 22nd March. There will be an afternoon and an evening performance. Seats will be limited to 2 per family due to the space we have in the hall. We will share more information about this event in the coming weeks

Potential Upcoming Strike Dates

The next proposed strike day is Monday 30th January. There are also two national strikes days planned for Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March. Aberdeenshire Council have confirmed the closure of all schools on 30th January however, we will await further guidance on the February and March dates.

KSPC

Due to the snow the Christmas disco was rescheduled to Friday 17th February. More information will follow nearer the time.

As always, KSPC would appreciate any help you may be able to offer on the night.

Please contact them via Facebook or kinellarschoolparentcouncil@yahoo.com to volunteer.

We have also had to reschedule the next KSPC meeting from Monday 30th January to Monday 6th February. This is due to strike action on 30th Jan. All parents are invited to attend. It gives you the opportunity to see what the parent council do, help raise money and make suggestions on how money is spent as well as keeping informed about what is happening at Kinellar School.

Uniform reminder

Please remember that on PE days, the expectation is that pupils wear their school sweatshirt along with black shorts, leggings or joggers.

Police Scotland Advice

As children are becoming more tech savvy and growing up in a world that is dominated by devices and social media it is important that we know how to keep them safe online. The following information has been provided to us by police Scotland. Please take the time to read these:

[Student Online Safety Guide 2022.pdf](#) This provides information about how to protect your child from online scams and make them more aware of how to identify scams.

[Social Media Advice - Parents.pdf](#) Here you can find advice on how to set up privacy settings on each social media platform, as well as how to support your child should you notice that social media is having a negative effect on their mental health. You can also find a step-by-step guide on how to set up parental controls which gives you control over the content they can access.

Smart Watches

There are an increasing number of children using smart watches in school. We appreciate that these are a great way of ensuring your child is safe and provide an easy means of contact. However, children should not be communicating with their parents or other children during the school day using their watch. If your child has an Apple watch, please set up the Schooltime feature, instructions can be found [here](#).

Numeracy Support

Remember we now have our numeracy support documents on the school website. Click [here](#) to view and download these.

As this is Issue 100 of our First Class Newsletter, we have enjoyed looking back over the past 9 years!

2014 – A new annexe classroom for our old school...



Welcome back

As always, the new term starts with some fresh faces and new routines. Our building work is developing well and is ready for us to move into this week.



All children continue to have the class and teacher they were allocated. If you have any initial queries or questions about your child's development, please contact the class teacher in the first instance. The best way to do this is by emailing the school and clearly stating which teacher you would like to have a discussion with or feedback from. You may also contact the class teacher by letter. Emailing ensures that we definitely receive the message and that it's not sitting in the bottom of a school bag somewhere!

Beginning of the day

Children should arrive on the school premises at around 8.50am. Any earlier may cause them to become cold or wet in the winter months. Although the children are not technically supervised in the mornings by school staff, we often have a number of 'helpers' in Hi-Viz vests to assist us. When the weather is bad/raining staff will open their doors at 8.50am to ensure the children are not kept waiting in the rain. The Primary 1 pupils all have their own timetable to follow during their first couple of weeks and all the other children will be going to new classrooms and teachers. I appreciate that this can be an apprehensive time for all involved. To put the minds of the parents and children at ease, we have come up with a logistics plan for the first day back. We will continue to have an SMT presence at the main gate every morning. In Term 1, we will also have staff at the side gate on the lane.

2016 – Getting ready to move to Midmill...



Trial Transport Day

Our Trial Transport day was a great success, thank you all for your support and the time you have taken preparing your children for the move. The positive feedback you have sent to us is very much appreciated. Your children were a credit to you. It was lovely to see siblings walking hand in hand from the bus round to the playground. Pupils and staff were all very enthusiastic and positive about their visit to Midmill.

As you know this was a trial transport day, PTU at Aberdeenshire Council who are responsible for school transport are aware that some buses did not arrive at their scheduled time on Thursday. This was the purpose of the trial so any difficulties could be identified. Thank you for your understanding in this.

Parent Tour of Midmill

We are looking forward to welcoming Parents for the tour on 3 November which you can sign up by clicking the link below. Where possible, if your child/ren is/are in P1-3, please sign up to a tour with Mrs Stannard, if your child/ren is/are in P4-7, please sign up to a tour with Miss Finch and if you have children in both infant and upper stages please sign up with Mrs Farquhar. For parents who are unable to attend the tour there are scheduled parent's evenings in November where you will have an opportunity to see the school.



Click here to sign up -



Flu Vaccines

Flu vaccines will be held in Midmill School on 7 and 8 December. Any change of consent from parents regarding flu vaccinations must be in written form otherwise the previous consent will take precedence.

Help with the Move

A large number of parents have expressed a wish to help us with the move to Midmill, which is very much appreciated. Mrs...



2015 – Staffing, parental controls, weather... some things never change!



Staffing

We would like to welcome Keith Williams to the team at Kinellar. He has recently been appointed as our new Janitor.

Parental Controls

We would like to encourage you all to set up parental controls with your internet provider and on your child's devices if you have not already done so. We would also advise that you monitor what your child is viewing, receiving and sending. If you would like more information on how to keep your child safe online please visit www.net-aware.org.uk



Thanks to your wonderful support we were able to gift 77 boxes to the Rotary Shoebox Scheme.

Winter Weather

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for coming to school over the winter months. We endeavor to allow the pupils outside at playtime and lunchtime as much as possible so it is essential that they have a warm waterproof jacket and suitable footwear. All items of clothing should be clearly labeled with your child's name.

In the event of bad weather (usually snow) we ask all parents to phone the School Information Service on 08700544999 Pin 021990 or check the Aberdeenshire Website <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures> aberdeenshire

If the weather is bad and you are unsure if the school will be open, please do not phone the school. The reasons for this are that we may be trying to use the phone lines for the following reasons:

- Contacting staff to ascertain where they are on their journey

2017 – Sponsored walk home to Blackburn...



Meet the Teacher

Thank you to everyone who came to meet the teacher on Thursday. It was great to see so many parents and pupils here. If you didn't get the chance to complete the parent survey please click [here](#).

KSPC Sponsored Walk

Our Sponsored Walk was a great success. Well done to all the pupils who took part and a big thank you to the Parent Council for organising the event and to all the parent helpers who made the walk possible. We do not know how much money was raised yet, but we will let you know. If you have not seen the drone footage of the walk yet you can view it [here](#). It was a lovely afternoon and really good to be back on 'home ground.'



Snapshot Jotters

Your child will bring home a snapshot jotter this

Reporting and Profiling

The way Aberdeenshire Schools are reporting to parents about their child's progress is changing quite dramatically. Due to children being assessed on an ongoing basis and also having much more involvement in their learning journey, the annual report is no longer fit for purpose. Reporting will also involve parents and children in an increasing amount of learning dialogue and agreed next steps in learning.

On the 9th of November, there will be an information evening on the new reporting format and we would also like parents have their say on what reporting should look like going forward.

The 'Big Conversation'

It is a privilege to work in schools and in the wider Education and Children's Services and we want to develop the relationship we have with you, both as individuals and through organisations and groups, such as Parent Councils. We view our relationship with you as an important partnership. However as with any partnership, we can make it better and help the understanding in the roles we all play in giving children and young people the best possible education.

Maria Walker

Director of Education & Children's Services

The Big Move back to Blackburn...

KINELLAR  **First Class**

August 2018 Issue No. 52

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Welcome Back

We hope you've all had a wonderful summer holiday and that you've made the most of the sunny weather.



It has been a busy summer at Kinellar but we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone to our new building. The move went to plan and the boxes have all been emptied and uplifted.



As you will have noticed the Nursery was very quickly demolished to make way for our MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and outdoor store/toilets.

The Big Move

Thank you to those who helped us at Midmill in the run up to the move. We were very pleased that, with your help, we were able to leave Midmill as we had found it. This was extremely important to us as the Staff and Pupils at Midmill had been so welcoming and accommodating during our stay!

Thank you also to Mrs Fortune and Mrs Barnard who have taken care of moving and organising of our library.

Thank You

We would like to show our appreciation to Morrison Construction. They have worked extremely hard to create this fantastic facility for us. They have also been here this summer to meet our many demands.



March 2020 – Little did we know...

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March 2020 Issue No. 70

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COVID-19

We would like to reassure parents that we are following the NHS Guidance for Educational Settings in relation to COVID-19.

Until otherwise informed we are operating as usual. Please do not contact us about possible closures as we do not have any information regarding this.

The main change to our usual school routine is the increase in handwashing.

Handwashing

Children, pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands for 20 seconds:

- before leaving home
- on arrival at school/setting
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school/setting
- On arrival at before and after school club

We are beginning to notice that some children's hands are beginning to dry out and crack. Please feel free to provide a moisturiser that they can apply throughout the school day.

My child is unwell. What should I do?

Following government advice, if your child is displaying any of the symptoms linked to Coronavirus they must remain at home for 7 days.

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough

Please contact the school and state this as the

Useful links

www.nhsinform.scot

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Planning

As a school, we always have a business continuity plan for adverse weather or emergency school closures. Considering recent events we have reviewed these plans. Please ensure your child can access Glow and Education City and keep a copy of these passwords at home. Contact class teachers with any password related issues.

Lendrick Muir

Currently we are working on the premise that this will go ahead as usual. Parents will be the first to be informed if this changes. We are working closely with Lendrick Muir to ensure this runs smoothly.

Dates for Diary

These will remain under review as/when we receive new information.

17 March	P1 and P7 Tempest class photos
19 March	Lead a hand evening 5-7pm Postponed
23-27 March	Lendrick Muir
25 March	P2L & P2M Class Assembly
3 April	P3H and P5C Learning Caf�
	Last day of term
20 April	Term 4 begins

2019 – Oor Wullie joins Kinellar!

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June 2019 Issue No. 60

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Staffing

Mrs Amy Duckers has gone on maternity leave and we wish her well as she awaits the arrival of her little one. Mr Mike Boon has joined the team and will teach P4D until summer. Mrs Jen Templeton has returned from maternity leave and is taking P3G on a Friday. We have enjoyed having Sarah Andrew and Louise Paterson in school for 'Keeping In Touch' days and look forward to them both starting back after summer. Mrs Lesley Bentley has joined the PSA team and is working on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Emma Melvin will be leaving the team on Friday. She has been an asset to the school in her capacity as both a bus escort and PSA. We wish her well.

Mrs Agnes Morrison has decided to begin her retirement in August. This will allow her to spend more time with her grandchildren and help around the family farm. She will be missed by the whole school community which she has been a valued part of for many years. We hope she enjoys her last few weeks in the teaching profession and thank her for her dedication and hard working attitude over the years.

Kodaly

Mrs Janet Okumu is in school this term delivering Kodaly lessons to P1-3 pupils. The Kodaly Singing and Musicianship Programme is an authority led initiative which was launched in 2004. It aims to establish a culture of regular singing and playing musical games in school.

More information about the programme can be found [here](#)



Oor Wullie Big Bucket Trail

Our 'Oor Wullie' is looking brow now that he is all painted and ready to join the Big Bucket Trail. We are delighted to have been part of this and have raised £500 for the Archie Foundation.

More information about the Oor Wullie Bucket Trail can be found here: www.oorwullie.com



Generation Science

The Primary 1 classes enjoyed a visit from Generation Science at the end of April with the theme of Forces!



2021 – Online learning

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Learning Online

We are so impressed by the engagement of our school community during this period of online learning. We know this is not an easy task and appreciate all the support parents are giving at home. This high level of engagement, which we also saw in March, will positively impact their return to school and help them integrate back into the classroom environment.

Although this has been a challenging time for many, it has limited community transmission and saved lives. It has also allowed the vaccine roll out to pick up significant pace. If your child is finding Learning Online challenging, please watch Mrs Farquhar's assembly on the Whole School Team which explores the skills required for Learning at Home. We are always happy to support families who are finding this challenging. Please get in touch.

We are keen to have all of our learners back in the building but acknowledge that we have to be patient and approach this carefully.

On a lighter note, the colder weather has brought some fun for our pupils in the Learning Hub during their breaks. We hope you have managed to get out and have some fun in the snow too!



First Minister Announcement

As you will now be aware the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, announced on Tuesday 2nd February that the government are planning a phased return

is to be confirmed in parliament week beginning 15th February.

We will share our plans with you following this announcement.

Parent Council

We have been working closely with representatives of the Parent Council to ensure that decisions made take account of parents' views so that we can be responsive and support our school community.

The next meeting of Kinellar School Parent Council will take place on Monday 22nd February at 7pm via Microsoft Teams. Please register your interest on the [KSPC Facebook page](#).

Upcoming Dates

Friday 12th February – Occasional Day Holiday
Monday 15th February – Mid-Term Holiday
Tuesday 16th – Inservice Day
Wednesday 17th February – Inservice Day

Please note there will be no online learning or hub provision on the above dates.

Monday 22nd February – Planned phased return for Nursery and P1-3 pupils (TBC by Scottish Government)

Who to Contact?

In the event that you have a question or concern, you should contact your child's

