

Insch School



Newsletter 4 Session 2020-21
October 2020 7.10.20

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are coming to the end of our first term after lockdown. As I have reported before, our entire learning community has coped remarkably well with the changes the pandemic has thrown at us. Our pupils are to be commended for the resilience they have shown and continue to show in these uncertain times.

Insch School's Covid-19 Contingency Plan

The pandemic does however mean that things can change quickly. With that in mind, I attach for you important information that explains the school's Contingency Plan should lockdown ever be implemented again. Parents are asked to read this so that they are prepared.

School Times to Remain for Term 2 The Einsteins, Nightingales and Mandelas

Group name	Times of day	Classes/Teachers
Einsteins	Day – 845-3 Break – 10-1020 Lunch 1145-1240	P1T – Miss Thompson P2/3R – Mrs Robertson P5/6/7M – Miss More P7G – Mrs Grant/Mrs Glennie
Shakespeares	Day - 9-315 Break – 1025-1045 Lunch – 1215-110	P1/2J – Miss Johnson P3/4C – Miss Campbell P4D – Miss Day P5M – Mr MacArthur P5/6Y – Miss Young
Darwins	Day – 915-330 Break – 1050-1110 Lunch – 1245-140	P1C – Mrs Cartney P2HM – Mrs McVey/Mrs Hinton P3R – Miss Reid P4R – Mrs Rayner P6H – Miss Hepburn

SEESAW – IMPORTANT CHANGE

As you are all aware, Seesaw has been a hugely successful tool in sharing learning at Insch School. Unfortunately, after thorough investigations by Aberdeenshire Council Legal Team, Seesaw does not comply with European Privacy laws. It is highly likely therefore that schools will need to stop using Seesaw. We are currently awaiting instruction from the Authority. This could be a major change for us at Insch School, as it is a very well used app for home learning and communication.

What next?

Seesaw will remain in the short term until we are instructed otherwise. Parents are to be prepared for a change. We have no definite end date for the closure of Seesaw, as yet. We will keep you informed as and when we have further details.

Our contingency home learning and communication plan is as follows:

- Each child is being issued this week a laminated card with their personal glow email and password. Teacher glow emails are also noted on this card for home use.
- When Seesaw is closed, teachers can be contacted using teacher glow email addresses or via the main school email: insch.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk The new 3 working day reply service agreement remains. Of course, if a situation is urgent then staff will be in touch sooner.
- Glow login details are to be kept safe and secure. This is important.

Insch School Vision: Reach for the Stars

Our Values: Aiming High, Being Safe, Showing Respect, Valuing our Community

- In the longer term, we are looking to establish **Google Classrooms** as our home learning tool. Google Classrooms is a free and easy tool that enhances connections with learners at school and at home. It is a learning platform used by many schools in Scotland and internationally.
- Staff in school will explore how we will use Google Classrooms when we return to school after the October holidays.
- Pupils, staff and parents will need to be prepared to learn this new tool. We will of course, offer support to all to enable as smooth a transition as possible.
- I will continue to keep you informed of what we need to do next.

Cooler Weather

Pupils to bring an extra jumper/ fleece

Windows throughout school are kept open for additional ventilation. Classrooms in the older part of the school are cooler than the extension classroom. For pupils in these older parts of the school, we ask that they please bring an extra fleece/ jumper to school. Please make sure everything is named.

All pupils are asked to wear waterproof shoes/ boots/ wellies and waterproof jackets. We always try to go outside to play even in poor weather. Thank you.



Lighthouse Competition

Mr Booth and Mr Duncan of companies Intellicore Ltd. and Harper UK selected our winners of the Lighthouse Competition this week. The lighthouse designs of Fraser Plimer and Mya Norval (P7), Gabriella Perrin (P1) and Daisy Langtree (P4) have been selected as our winning finalists. The designs were chosen because they reflected the community of Inch clearly. Next term, the artwork will be transferred onto the Lighthouse and will be submitted to CLAN.



Term 2 Learning and Teaching Focus

After the holidays, staff will revert back to our Curriculum Recovery Plan in the initial weeks. This document is also attached again for your information. On return to school after the October holidays we will focus on the following:

- settling pupils back to school
- maintaining health and wellbeing and
- literacy and numeracy learning

In Service day change – November

In Service is now only on Friday, November 20th November. Thursday 19th November is not an In service day. We had the extra In Service day in August. School is now open as normal on Thursday 19th November to pupils.

Next Parent Council PTA Meeting

26th November 2020 Teams Time tbc

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Upcoming Term 2 Whole School Events

Week 26 th October	Pupils Design Christmas Cards for sale to parents (PTA)
Week 2 nd November	P7 Poppy Appeal School Event Assembly Dyslexia Awareness Assembly
Week 16 th November	Scottish Book Week Doric Storyteller
1 st and 2 nd December	Flu Immunisations

Finally,

We wish you a relaxing, restful and healthy break when the holidays come this Friday. I thank you all for your cooperation and support in these challenging times. Keep safe and well.

School Events Diary

Please find below school events diary and holidays. Further information regarding Aberdeenshire School holidays can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/school-term-dates/>

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A. Conner
Head Teacher

/PTO

Attachments:

1. Inch School Curriculum Recovery Plan
2. Inch School Covid-19 Contingency Plans



School Calendar of Holidays 2020-21

Term 1	
	October Holiday 12/10/20 – 23/10/20
Term 2	
26/10/19	Start of Term
20/11/19	INSET 3 School closed to pupils
20/12/19	Last day of term 21/12/20 – 4/1/21 11 days
Term 3	
Tues. 5/1/20	Start of term
15/2/21	Public Holiday
16/2/20	INSET 4 School closed to pupils
17/2/20	INSET 5 School closed to pupils
1/4/20	Last day of term
2/4/21	Public Holiday
	Easter Holiday 5/4/21 – 16/4/21 10 days
Term 4	
20/2/20	Start of term
3/5/21	Public Holiday
7/6/21	Occasional Day Holiday Huntly Cluster
25/6/21	Last day of term

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