

Insch School

Newsletter 6 Session 2020-21
November 2020 1.12.20



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

General Covid-19 Message

After speculation that Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire could move from level two to three following a rise in cases across NHS Grampian, the First Minister announced today that Aberdeenshire will remain in Level 2. This decision will continue to be reviewed.

I would urge everyone in the local community to continue to think carefully about the decisions we make on a daily basis and to stick firmly within the rules. The Public Health experts say we are on a clear path towards level 3, still going in the wrong direction. There are issues still around people not being clear on what they need to do if they are in a [workplace](#), a lot of [carsharing](#) and household mixing. There are also growing concerns around the 50 plus age range.

With that in mind there are a few key messages that as a community we all need to remember:

- Just because we are still in level 2, that is not a sign of things levelling off in Aberdeenshire.
- Public Health experts say we are on a clear path towards level 3 if we don't reduce our cases locally.
- Nationally, there have been measures announced around Christmas. But just because we *can* doesn't mean we have to.

As a result of a positive case identified within School recently, I am writing to clarify how the Test and Protect process operates within a School context.

Positive case of COVID-19 relating to a pupil or member of staff

If any pupil or member of staff has been tested for COVID-19 and the result is positive, the NHS Grampian Health Protection Team (HPT) will be in direct contact with me. A report of a positive test may also come from the family themselves and it is essential that families continue to inform school immediately of any positive cases within a household. The Health Protection Team will instruct me who the person is and will ask for a list of all who have been in close contact with the case on the identified days. Immediate scrutiny of class seating plans will take place to identify the close contacts of the case, with the relevant information submitted to the HPT. The HPT will also work closely with the positive case to identify who they have been in contact with during their social times, on School transport and out of School etc. This information is then used by the Test and Protect team who make direct contact with anyone identified as a close contact. The school are not involved in this part of the process.

The Test and Protect Team will also notify you of the length of time you are required to isolate and date you will be able to return to School. At all times, the identity of the pupil or member of staff remains confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone.

If we have been informed by the HPT that we have a positive case in School, I will write to all parents/carers as soon as all contacts have been identified. Those parent/carers of a pupil identified within School as being a close contact of the positive test and who have had their details forwarded to the HPT, will receive a separate letter. This will inform them that they will need to self-isolate until the Test and Protect Team have been in contact with you.

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Cleaning, as a result of a COVID-19 Case

If a COVID-19 case is identified in school, the rooms/areas that the positive case had been in will be given an additional clean in line with the approved requirements to ensure pupils and staff entering these rooms are safe to do so.

Remote Learning through Google Classrooms

Whole classes self-isolating

Where **whole classes** are requested to isolate by the Test and Protect team, schoolwork will be provided by the teaching staff using Google Classrooms. This was trialled last week and after the expected initial difficulties in setting up and gaining access, this platform worked well for our older learners. Parents should expect an initial period of adjustment in getting used to the new online learning platform. Please note **a full remote learning experience can be delivered only when teachers are delivering remote learning only**. This is not possible when teachers are teaching face to face in school with their class as well.



For individuals in a class instructed to self-isolate

Teachers are this week setting up Emergency Remote Learning Packs on Google Classrooms. This is to support situations when individual pupils in a class have been instructed to self-isolate. School will inform parents when and if this learning is to be accessed.

Education Scotland have created activities to support learning at home. These can be accessed here. <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/resources-for-practitioners/>

Activities focus on learning in [literacy and English](#), [numeracy and mathematics](#), [health and wellbeing](#), [cross-curricular learning](#) within the broad general education.

Pupils choosing to self-isolate

Pupils who are choosing to isolate but have not been officially asked to by the NHS Test and Protect Team can access their normal class homework through Google Classroom. Staff are under no obligation to provide specific work for pupils choosing to isolate as per the directive from Mr Laurence Findlay, our Director of Education.



A final general word Parents do now need to logon and check Google classroom The onus is now on parents to access their child's Google Classroom by logging onto Glow regularly in order to keep up with teacher posts. Unlike Seesaw, notifications are not sent. This is an important difference.

A summary of Covid1-9 Remote learning arrangements

This is being made available on the school website this week. <https://insch.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/covid19-information/>

Bus Transport

All bus transport pupils will wear face coverings on leaving the classrooms. Separate bus areas have been created for pupils to gather at an appropriate social distance at the end of the school day. This will keep the different bus group pupils separate and reduce their contact.

Parents Evenings

Our thanks go to the PTA for funding the Skype installation onto all teacher computers. This has facilitated our telephone pupil progress meetings scheduled over this week and next. My thanks go to our teachers and parents for adapting to the new ways of communicating.

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Playground

Pupils play areas in the playground will be rotated each term to allow all classes to play on the trim track sometime over the course of the year. This will mean that all classes will play in each of the areas over the course of the year.

Christmas Plans

Staff at school have worked to ensure that Christmas is still celebrated at school albeit in a Covid 19 friendly way. I attach below a dairy of what we have to look forward to.



Insch School Christmas Events 2020

Christmas Lunch as usual/ Christmas Jumper Day.

Wed. 16/12

Usual times apply.

We kindly request a suggested donation of £2. All proceeds go to Dragon's Den Project where older second level pupils work collaboratively to pitch for school resources of their choice.

Rapunzel Panto

16/12 @ 1.45 - 2.40pm

Whole School Online Event We have are delighted to be able to offer a free, online virtual professional panto. All classes will sit down and watch this in classes.

Classes view Insch School Christmas Celebration

Thurs. 17/12

Vimeo link to be sent to parents. Password protected access.

End of term Online Christmas Assembly

Fri. 18/12/20

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/>

As always thank you for your continued support. Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A. Conner
Head Teacher

/PTO

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School Calendar of Holidays 2020-21

Term 2	
26/10/20	Start of Term
20/11/20	INSET 3 School closed to pupils
18/12/20	Last day of term 21/12/20 – 4/1/21 11 days
Term 3	
Tues. 5/1/21	Start of term
15/2/21	Public Holiday
16/2/21	INSET 4 School closed to pupils
17/2/21	INSET 5 School closed to pupils
1/4/21	Last day of term
2/4/21	Public Holiday
	Easter Holiday 5/4/21 – 16/4/21 10 days
Term 4	
19/2/21	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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