

Insch School

Newsletter I Session 2022 -23
30.8.22 August 2022



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year after the summer holidays. Please find below important parental messages. By noting these points, you can assist in the smooth running of the school.

School Values and Expectations

For the first few weeks of term the focus is on settling all our pupils into the new routines of school life and learning the expectations that we have of all our pupils. Returning to school after a 7-week holiday does not come without its challenges until these routines are established again. It is therefore important to remind our families of our school values:

We teach our children to 'Be the best me' and 'Reach for the stars.' Our School Values are:

School Value	By this we mean:
Valuing of Community	Looking after one another, school property and the community of Insch in which we live
Showing Respect	Being polite and mannerly to everyone – to all the pupils and adults in our learning community
Being Safe	Making safe choices in all that we say and do
Aiming High	Doing the best that we can – Reaching for the Stars, Showing resilience and a 'can do' attitude

Structure of the school day Session 2022-23

We are all getting used to the new structure of the school day. This is working well. A reminder that this is not Covid related. It is to reduce congestion in the playground across the whole school day and makes for happier and safer playtimes.

P4/5Y to P7 starting at 8.45am and finishing at 3.00pm
P1 to P4J inclusive starting at 9.00am and finishing at 3.15pm

Lost Property

All items brought to school are to be clearly named: jackets, shoes, jumpers, trousers, skirts, and t shirts. Also, lunch boxes and water bottles. **Lost items will be sent to recycling regularly.**

Traffic Congestion

At Insch School, we encourage active travel and a healthy lifestyle choice. Reducing traffic congestion in and around the school is paramount in keeping our pupils safe.

- **Alexander Street is an unofficial car free zone.** The only cars using the street will therefore be resident's cars, Dreams Day Care, school transport vehicles or disabled badge users.
- Cars should not be parked on Martin Rd as this creates a safety hazard and reduces visibility for pupils.
- If parents must travel by car, consideration should be given to parking as far from school as possible. Do please also consider local residents when selecting an appropriate place to park. There is a car park in George Street that can be used.

Insch School Vision: Reach for the Stars

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

- The school car park is a staff car park only. Pupils and parents are not to access the nursery or the playground using this gate. Thank you.

We thank you for your continued cooperation in creating and maintaining a safe environment for our pupils when entering and exiting the school.

Staffing News

Mr Howie



We welcome Mr Howie, our new school janitor.

Ms McGuire P6M



We welcome Ms McGuire as our P6M teacher who job shares with Mrs Mackay. Ms McGuire is a highly experienced teacher who has joined us from Clatt primary.

School Communication Parents Portal

Parents must sign up and use Aberdeenshire Council's Parents Portal for all communication from school. This is also the only method to make payments. Access here: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

Parent/ Teacher Communication

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Working in partnership with parents is vital to ensure that our children achieve their best in school. Positive and effective collaboration between home and school is crucial.

General Parental Communication

Communication with parents must also be manageable for teachers. Please note important changes for parents. **From August 2022, parents will communicate with the school office directly and not with teachers directly.** This allows teachers more time to plan and prepare for class. Be assured that communication will be passed on to teachers by the office as required. Communication can be forwarded to the school office at: insch.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk. The school's 3-day communication policy response rate will apply for non-urgent responses. Can I also please ask that parents delete existing teacher contact details. Thank you.

Reporting to Parents

As Covid restrictions have now been lifted and for as long as this remains the case, we plan to invite parents into school much more regularly than has been possible in the past two years. We will share these arrangements with you in due course.

Parent Focus Group – Volunteers

Homework Policy and Reporting to Parents Focus Group Tuesday 13th September 9.30-10.30am.

I invite parents to work with Mrs Stirling and me, in a small Parent Focus Group. The subject this year will be to revise our Homework Policy and Reporting to Parents Calendar. If you have time and would like to shape school policy, please express your attendance in the short E-Form link provided.

<https://forms.office.com/r/sMX2uxLpP1>

Insch School Vision: Reach for the Stars

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

Parent Council AGM – Wed. 7th September 7:00pm

All parents are encouraged and invited to attend the AGM. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know the work of the school in more detail and to help with fundraising events throughout the year. We are all busy in our work and family lives. Please do offer your help and support - no matter how much or little time you may have to spare.

Wider Achievements

At Insch School, we recognise and celebrate pupils wider achievements out with school. Please do inform the school if you wish to pass on a pupils achievement. This will be celebrated during one of our assemblies.

P1 Parent/ Teacher Literacy Numeracy Workshop – Tuesday 4th October @ 6:30pm

This is an opportunity for new parents to come into school and learn from the P1 teachers how to support pupils at home. Please set this date aside. More information will follow along with more information about the Stay, Play and Learn sessions.

Whole School Focused Learning: **Maths Week Scotland** **Tour of Britain**

This month we focus our learning as a whole school on the Cycling Tour of Britain and on Maths week Scotland. Please find attached more details on our plans for celebrating Maths Week.

School Calendar Session 2022-23

Finally, I attach for your information the school holiday calendar together with important dates, reporting to parent's key dates and some of our main whole school events. Further dates will be communicated throughout the course of the year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Conner
Head Teacher

INSCH SCHOOL TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS

Session 2022-23



Term 1 2022	
22nd August	In-service day
23rd August	Start of term 1
Week 29 th August	Tour of Britain Cycle Week
21 st 22 nd September	School Photographs Sibling and Individual
Sat. 24 th September	Family Photographs TBC dependent on demand
Week 26 th September	Maths Week Scotland
Week 26 th September	A Week in a jotter *
4 th October	P1 Literacy and Numeracy Event 6:30-7:30pm
Week beginning 3 rd October and 10 th October	P1 Parents Stay, Play, and Learn sessions
5 th October	5.30 – 6.30pm: P7 PGL Residential Trip Parent and Pupil Information Session
14 th October	End of term 1

Insch School Vision: Reach for the Stars

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

17th to 28th October	October holiday
Term 2 2022	
31st October	Start of term 2
Week 7 th and 14 th Nov.	Parent's Evening Face to face or virtual to be offered
17th and 18th November	In-service days
Week 21 st November	ADHD Dyslexia Month
22 nd and 23 rd November	Flu Immunisations
Week 5 th December	A Week in a jotter *
Sat 10 th December 11-1pm	Christmas Fair
12 th Dec to 20 th Dec inclusive	Xmas Parties. Details to follow
21 st December	Xmas Lunch
23 rd December	End of term 2
26th December 2022 to 6th January 2023	Christmas holidays
Term 3 2023	
9th January 2023	Start of term 3
Week 23 rd January	Scots Language Assembly
20 th February	Safer Internet Week
9 th February	Occasional holiday
10 th February	Occasional holiday
13 th February	Mid-term holidays
14 th and 15 th February	In-service days
Week 27 th February	A Week in a jotter *
29 th March	Reports Issued (P1 to P6)
31 st March	End of term 3
3 rd to 14 th April	Spring holidays
Term 4 2023	
17 th April	Start of term 4
24 th April	Autism Awareness Week
1 st May	May Day holiday
17 th May	Sports Day Details to follow
Week 22 nd May	A Week in a jotter *
26 th May	P7 Reports Issued
Week 29 th May	P7 Residential Trip PGL Dalguise, Perthshire
5 th June	Occasional holiday – Huntly cluster
7 th July	End of term 4
10 th July to 18 th August	Summer holidays

School Holidays and term dates

Reporting to Parents Events – highlighted in green

*A week in a jotter: pupils bring home schoolwork that has been completed during the week in a jotter - Pupil / Parent Learning conversation at home

Insch School Vision: Reach for the Stars

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