

Insch School

Newsletter 3 Session 2022 -23
11.10 .22 October 2022



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We reach the end of another busy school term with lots of learning going on across the school.



Sharing Learning

Maths During *Math's Week Scotland* this term, children have been learning about the 'Beauty of Maths' and how we use Maths in our day to day lives. All classes have engaged very positively by drawing parabolic graphs, tessellating shapes, using Prime Numbers to draw an abstract picture in the style of Picasso as well as looking at a range of jobs that use maths e.g. a Bank Manager or a Landscape Architect. P7Y commented that they liked the parabolic art, and they were surprised they could make curved lines with a ruler. P2/3 also enjoyed making the greater than and less than crocodiles to help them.

Outdoor Learning In line with this year's School Improvement Developments, Mrs Glennie has been working with some of our older classes on outdoor learning. This has enabled some of our teachers to learn new outdoor learning skills which we look forward to continuing to develop across the school year. Almost all classes are now participating in weekly outdoor learning sessions. Staff training continues so that by early next year all remaining classes can participate weekly.

Class Open Afternoons It has been a welcome change to invite our parents back into school to see classes in person. There are a few classes still to have open afternoons. These will be scheduled in Term 2. This will mean that by the end of November all parents will have had a chance to visit classes and see how things operate within their child's class.

Food Bank Donations We have also been collecting donations for the local Church Foodbank. Our Parent Council is arranging uplift – thanks you all those who have donated.

P1 Literacy and Numeracy Event We have welcomed parents of our P1 pupils into school. Teachers have shared how parents can support our youngest children in their learning at home as well as the theory behind a play-based approach in the classroom.

P1 Stay, Play and Learn Parents have been spending a little time with their children experiencing their play-based learning in the classroom, out in the playground and in the community garden.

P7 Residential Dalguise Trip Information Session We have shared the plans and expectations for next summer's P7 residential trip to Dalguise.

Parents Evenings

Face to face parent appointments are now being scheduled for week 2 and week 3 in the new term. Appointments can only be made by parents using **Parentsportal**. The office is communicating the procedure for this separately. You can access Parentsportal here:
<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

Education Scotland – Inspection Week

We hosted a team of 7 Education Scotland inspectors last week in school and nursery. Staff and pupils talked confidently and knowledgeably about their learning. Initial findings have been shared

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with the Senior Management Team. These final findings are now to be moderated at Education Scotland and will be published in due course.

Staffing News

Mrs C. Glennie

We say farewell to Mrs C Glennie at the end of this term. She is moving to Dubai with her family and we wish her health and happiness as she starts an exciting new adventure. Mrs Glennie has been a hugely valued teacher at Inch for the past 4 years. She has helped develop our Junior Road Safety Officers, Digital Leaders and has played a main role in the development of outdoor learning in the older classes. We thank her sincerely for all her hard work and commitment.

Mrs J. Mowat

Our Administration Support Assistant Miss Mowat is also moving on to a new role within the Council with the Library Services. It has been a pleasure working with Ms Mowat and we will miss her warmth and cheer in the school office.

Winter Weather

As we move into a new term and the winter weather that comes with it in October, I remind parents of the following:

Warm waterproof clothes and boots are a must – Children will be outdoors mostly. Children must come to school prepared for inclement weather. Only in really heavy rain, will wet playtimes operate and children will remain indoors.

Bike Safety in the darker winter months – Pupils cycling to school must have bike lights that operate and are functional. Please consider safety in the darker evenings and ensure children are safe whilst cycling to and from school.

Cost of Living Crisis

I attach a summary of all the supports that are available in the community of Inch for families as we face the cost-of-living crisis. Dr Kay Gauld, Mr A MacDonald and myself met earlier this month to discuss the support network available in the community of Inch. The attached information leaflet outlines the range of supports available to our local families. These include: foodbanks, clothing banks and support completing finance assistance forms. It is important that all families and individuals in our community are directed to the support if they need it. **Please do spread the word across our community.** Let's all play an active role in getting support to those in need. Thank you.

Free School Meals for Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils

The Scottish Government has paused the roll out of free school meals to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. The government's decision was made to allow further work with COSLA, the national association of Scottish councils, and all local authorities to fully assess the financial and infrastructure challenges that have been highlighted for the final phase of the expansion plans. We will be in touch with further information when a decision is taken by the government to progress the roll-out to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

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. **Items will be sent to recycling regularly.**

Congestion at the school gates

The Police have recently been active in supervising traffic congestion at the school gates and most parents are exercising parental responsibility in keeping Alexander Street a car free zone. Our School Travel Plan clearly promotes an active travel approach in and out of the school.

There is still some concern regarding the end of the school day. School has made changes to the dismissal arrangements and classes now exit the playground via all 3 gates at the end of the day.

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This helps slightly. A few parents have asked that parents come back into the playground when collecting their children. This may only serve to add to congestion with many more people attempting to exit the gates at the same time.

To reduce congestion as far as possible, parents are asked to:

- Keep dogs well away from the school gates, preferably on the pavement on the opposite side of the school.
- Once you have collected your child, parents are asked to move well away – Drop and Go in the mornings, Pick Up and Go in the evenings.

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	
14th October 2022	End of term 1 Harvest Festival St Drostan's Church
17th to 28th October 2022	October holiday
Term 2	
31st October 2022	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 2022	In-service days
Week 21 st November	ADHD Dyslexia Month
22 nd 23 November	Flu Immunisations
Week 5 th December	A Week in a jotter *
Sat. 10.12.22 11-1pm	Christmas Fair
12 th Dec to 20 th Dec inclusive	Xmas Parties Details to follow
Wed. 21.12.22	Xmas Lunch
23rd December 2022	End of term 2
26th December 2022 to 6th January 2023	Christmas holidays
Term 3	
9th January 2023	Start of term 3
Week 23 rd January	Scots Language Assembly
20 th February	Safer Internet Week
9 th February 2023	Occasional holiday
10 th February 2023	Occasional holiday

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13th February 2023	Mid-term holidays
14th and 15th February 2023	In-service days
Week 27 th February	A Week in a jotter *
29 th March	Reports Issued (P1 to P6)
31st March 2023	End of term 3
3rd to 14th April 2023	Spring holidays
Term 4	
17th April 2023	Start of term 4
24 th April	Autism Awareness Week
1st May 2023	May Day holiday
Wed. 17.5.23	Sports Day Details to follow
Week 22 nd May	A Week in a jotter *
26 th May	P7 Reports Issued
Week 29.5.23	P7 Residential Trip PGL Dalguise, Perthshire.
5 th June	Occasional holiday – Huntly cluster
7th July 2023	End of term 4
10th July to 18th August 2023	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 course of the week in one jotter - Pupil / Parent Learning conversation at home

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