

Insch School

Newsletter 4 Session 2022 -23
22.11.22 November 2022



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

School Uniform Expectations

There has been a noticeable slip in standards of pupils wearing school uniform. Now that Covid restrictions have been lifted, I would like to clarify the school uniform position at Insch School.

All pupils are expected to wear school uniform to and from school. School uniform comprises:

- Royal blue fleeces embroidered with the school logo (optional).
- Royal blue sweatshirt with a school logo
- White polo shirt
- Trousers/skirts in grey or black
- Jogging trousers are acceptable but these must be plain without sports logos etc.
- Plain dark shoes
- The wearing of jewelry is not permitted for safety reasons.

Also to note:

- Football strips are NOT permitted in school at all.
- Pupils are expected to change for PE and back into school uniform.
- Pupils are expected to come to school daily in school uniform and change for PE as they need to.
- Outdoor learning – If pupils have outdoor learning sessions first thing in the morning, they can come suitably dressed in older outdoor clothing. They will be expected to change back into school uniform after their session. Otherwise, pupils bring clothing and change whilst in school.

Planned Teacher Strike Day – Thursday, 24th November 2022

Information was issued to all parents last week to advise of a planned teacher strike day this Thursday. At the time of writing, Tuesday morning the strike action will go ahead and school will be closed to all pupils on Thursday 24th November.

Christmas Arrangements 2022

It is wonderful to be able to get back to a more normal Christmas this year. More than ever, we are very mindful of the cost-of-living crisis that faces us all. With that in mind, we have planned our Christmas celebrations to have minimal cost impact for school and parents. By issuing the plans we hope to give families plenty time to book time off work to attend our low-key Carol Singing during the last week of term, if you wish. Please note that all are subject to last minute changes due to weather or infection rates.

Christmas Carols – this is a low-key invite to parents on the last week of term. ‘Come and join us’ for a few Carols **outside in the playground** before we go home. This is not a large-scale performance.

Christmas Parties – these will take place after lunch. Pupils can wear some festive fun and glitter for their party. Pupils are to wear normal uniform in the morning and then change in school or go

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home to change. Parties are organised in year groups and therefore all pupils attend their year group party date.

Christmas Lunch Day – Wear a Christmas Jumper £1 or £2 donation would be gratefully received for school funds for those who can afford. Usual lunch times. If you have a spare Christmas jumper, do pop it in with your name for safe return. We will lend to those who might not have.

Please see full schedule below.

Week 6	M 5/12	T 6/12	W 7/12	Th 8/12	F 9/12	Sa 10/12	Su 11/12
Event						3-4pm P4 Choir Kellockbank	11-4pm P5 6 7 Choir P&J Live
Week 7	M 12/12	T 13/12	W 14/12	Th 15/12	F 16/12		
Event	P2S Party Miss Scotten Mr Clark	P4S Party Miss Johnson Mrs Stirling	P3 Party Miss Reid Mr MacArthur	P5 Party Mrs MacDonald Mr Chadwick	P6 Party Miss Reid Ms McGuire		
Week 8	M 19/12	T 20/12	W 21/12	Th 22/12	F 23/12		
Event Event			Xmas Lunch Xmas Jumper Day		9.30am Christmas Service Dr Kay's Church		
		P1 Party Miss Thompson Mrs Cartney	P7 Party Miss Young Mrs Gilliland Mrs Robertson				
	Infant Carols 2.30 -2.45	Upper Carols 2.30 – 2.45pm	Back Up Choir Infants 2.30 -2.45	Back Up Choir Upper 2.30 -2.45	End of term		

Winter Weather

As we move into winter and the likely adverse weather that comes with it, 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 or snow, 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.

Adverse/ Extreme Weather Arrangements

A reminder to families that any school closure is posted first thing in the morning on Aberdeenshire Council school source website. The site is refreshed at 4pm each afternoon. Parents are advised to monitor any potential school closure using the following website.

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/school-closures>

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Adverse Weather School Transport

On days where road conditions may affect school, school transport operators will notify school if they will be running their bus/taxi or not. As soon as the school receives this information, then a notice will be posted on the school closures section of Aberdeenshire Council website. If there is bad weather first thing in the morning, pupils should wait at the bus pickup point no longer than 15 minutes beyond the official pickup time before returning home.

Early closure during the school day

General

In the event that the school has to close part way through the day due to worsening weather conditions then the following will be put in place.

- Parents will be notified via Groupcall Xpressions – this is in the form of a text message to all parent contacts. Parents need to be available to pick up at the designated collection time. If this is not possible, then parents would need to email the school directly to advise who will be collecting their child. Please keep phone lines free. We would endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible.

Early Bus Departures

In the event of a closure part way through the school day, a text is sent to bus parents to ensure they will be at home to collect children off the bus. The bus will not depart school until we have heard from all bus parents. Bus parents – please ensure you are able to pick up messages so that buses can leave promptly.

Village pupils/ School Gate Collection – in the event of part way closure, we will set a collection time and classes will be dismissed as per their usual routine/ school gate.

Please note, we aim to minimise parents collecting children earlier than the set time as this complicates the organisation within school.

Aberdeenshire Council Website

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

You also have the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school(s) updates their closure status. We recommend you set this up.

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>

If anyone has any queries regarding the information given above, please get in touch with the school.

Congestion at the school gates

Changes have been actioned within school to reduce congestion at the school gates. These include:

- Dismissal of school bus before 3.15pm.
- Use of all gates by the infant classes.

Discussions continue to be held at Parent Council. We now kindly request that parents themselves exercise their own parental responsibility by standing well back from the school gates to ensure a safe handover, pupil by pupil to individual parents and to ensure dogs are kept well clear of the gates at the other side of the road.

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School Calendar Session 2022-23

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



22 nd 23 November	Flu Immunisations
23 rd December 2022	End of term 2
26 th December 2022 to 6 th January 2023	Christmas holidays
Term 3	
9 th 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
13 th February 2023	Mid-term holidays
14 th and 15 th February 2023	In-service days
29 th March	Reports Issued (P1 to P6)
31 st March 2023	End of term 3
3 rd to 14 th April 2023	Spring holidays
Term 4	
17 th April 2023	Start of term 4
24 th April	Autism Awareness Week
1 st May 2023	May Day holiday
Wed. 17.5.23	Sports Day Details to follow
26 th May	P7 Reports Issued
Week 29.5.23	P7 Residential Trip PGL Dalguise, Perthshire.
5 th June	Occasional holiday - Huntly cluster
7 th July 2023	End of term 4
10 th July to 18 th August 2023	Summer holidays

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