



Lesley Mair (Acting Head Teacher)
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23.9.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I complete my second week at Macduff School I am writing to share my incredibly positive experience and to update you on what is happening in school. I knew already that Macduff School is a wonderful place but the reality is even better than I had imagined. Your children are a credit to you, they are fun, interested, interesting and engaged. The staff team know them so well, care very deeply and offer an outstanding school experience.

Staffing:

Our Senior Leadership Team while Mrs. Sutherland is on secondment and Mrs Chisholm is on maternity leave, consists of myself, Mrs. Simpson DHT, Mrs Grant acting DHT and Miss Cottingham acting DHT.

We would like to congratulate Miss Morrison on gaining a Senior Practitioner's post, though we are very sad to lose her. Mrs Wood will replace Miss Morrison as the new P1/2 teacher. Mrs. Wood is a familiar face to the class and of course a very experienced and long standing member of the Macduff Team so I am confident this will be a very smooth transition for the children.

Pupils Leaders:

We have an amazing team of pupils who are taking on important leadership roles in the school. This includes the Pupil Council, the House Captains and vice Captains, the Eco Group, Play Leaders and the Mental Health Team. They are an integral part of the success of the school. We have also been proud to select our lovely P7s as school prefects. They are already stepping up to the role and showing real leadership during outside times.

Outside Times:

It is always good to give the children a good run around and fresh air at breaktime and lunchtime so the majority of the time, even if there is a bit of drizzle, our aim will be to do that. We can see all seasons in one day in Macduff so it is important that everyone brings a coat every day. Please make sure all belongings are clearly labelled.

Social Media:

We are really sad that restrictions have not yet lifted enough to welcome parents, carers and volunteers back into school. In order to share the learning with you we have decided to make use of the Macduff Primary School Facebook and twitter pages. We are even considering embarking on Instagram for those more arty moments. Please complete this form to indicate whether your child can be included in any social media posts. [here](#)

The school website is currently being updated and it is our intention to put up and coming events on the website so that the information can be accessed easily at any time.

Healthy Eating:

Just a reminder that we actively encourage healthy eating. Sugary snacks tend to give a very short boost of energy followed by a blood sugar low so they are not ideal for giving long lasting energy for the school day. We appreciate anything you can do to reinforce this good approach with your child's snack or packed lunch. Water bottles should only contain water, not juice. Children only need one item for snack at playtime as time is short and they also need to be able to run around and play.



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Attendance:

We are currently monitoring attendance and with this in mind I wanted to remind you about the Aberdeenshire policy which states that when a pupil's attendance drops below 90% it triggers a fortnightly check with contact with parents. Very low attendance could involve a referral to other agencies to support the family. Clearly there are often very good reasons for non-attendance and this is always taken into account, especially during a pandemic, but it remains important that where possible pupils attend school.

Staff Carpark:

Please do not park in the staff carpark as it is in constant use and staff come and go from 8am to after 6pm.

Christmas:

I know it's only September, but I am keen to reassure you that we do have our thinking caps on so that we can bring back some sparkle this year, even if regulations cannot be lifted. Christmas Parties will go ahead and I will be writing to Santa to ask him to fit us into his busy schedule. We have some other ideas up our sleeves that include parents and carers. All will be revealed soon but I will just say, you may wish to invest in warm wellies!

School Improvement Plan:

Every year we put together a set of improvements we wish to make to continue on our school's journey to excellence. This year we are exploring the following areas:

- Positive Behaviour Policy – a small working group of parents, pupils and staff will work alongside Ruth Muir Educational Psychologist, to develop a whole school policy that is bespoke to our school.
- Curriculum design – Mrs Clarke is working with the staff team to further develop our curriculum to allow for greater flexibility and creativity.
- Assessment – Alongside with our work on analysing data we are going to develop a whole school approach to collecting useful information and data that will give continuity in how we meet individual needs.

I look forward to meeting more of the community as restrictions lift and we get back to some form or normality.

Kind Regards,

Mrs James
Head Teacher