



New Machar School Newsletter

November 2019



Our School Values

- C**ommitment and Cooperation
- R**espect and Responsibility
- A**chievement and Ambition
- F**riendship and Fairness
- T**eamwork and Trust

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable holidays. We are very much looking forward to a busy yet exciting term as we prepare for the festive period. We will continue to communicate with parents/carers via Group call messenger/Twitter /Facebook, so keep an eye out for some exciting events coming up!

Mr B Carle, Head Teacher

Our School Motto:

#aimtobeawesome

Dates for the diary

Please check our school website for dates for your diary - our Parent Calendar will be very useful, especially with the Festive Season approaching!

<https://newmachar.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/New-Machar-School-Parents-Calendar-2019-2020.pdf>

Whole School Christmas Performance - Change of date

Please note that due to the General Election being held on Thursday 12th December and the likelihood of the Axis Centre being used as a Polling Station, we have had to make a change to our morning performance which was planned for Thursday 12th December. Both school performances (AM/PM) will now take place on Wednesday 11th December. More information regarding tickets/times will be issued soon.

Family Christmas Event

Our first ever community family Christmas event will take place on Thursday 28th November from 3.30pm-7pm. The event will be packed with local stall holders and community groups, Christmas crafts which are being handmade by all of our pupils, a Santa's grotto (we will be sending out information to book your slot for this shortly!) and festive refreshments provided by our Parent Council plus many more. We are hoping this will be a very successful event and brings the whole community together. Further information regarding the event will be shared separately.

Staffing

We recently appointed Miss A. Bell (Early Years Practitioner) who will be joining our Nursery team on Thursdays/Fridays. Miss Bell will cover Mrs Shand's days whilst she is off on maternity leave.

DHT Interviews

Following interviews held on 4th November, we unfortunately made no appointment. I hope to re-advertise the post

EYP vacancy

We currently have an additional 17.5 hrs EYP vacancy advertised - this post will be fixed until July 2020. We hope to interview for this post in the next few weeks.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

As we approach the winter months, it is important that you keep up to date with the procedures of Adverse Weather. In the event of adverse weather, information regarding school closure/partial closure/changes to school transport arrangements can be found on the website below or by dialling the Aberdeenshire Information Line (number noted below). **Please note:** You will need to enter the New Machar Pin Number to hear information on the Aberdeenshire Information Line. We will also update parents on both our Facebook and Twitter social media pages as well as through Groupcall messaging as soon as we possibly can. Please note that if school transport is not operating in the morning, this status will remain the same for the entire day. It is then parental choice if you would like to drop/pick up your child if transport is not running. Please only do this if it is safe to do so.

Aberdeenshire Council Website: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0370 054 4999

New Machar Pin number: 022330

P3H+P3R lines/bad weather procedures

As many of you will know our playground can be a very busy place in the mornings. Can we kindly ask all parents/carers to leave appropriate space outside our P3H/P3R classrooms to allow the children to line up accordingly. In the event of bad weather, pupils in P3R and P3H should enter the main building via the P4/P5 door and line up in the hall where they can wait until the bell rings. Class teachers will pick them up from the hall and escort them over to their classes.

Seesaw

You will have recently received our updated Seesaw Guidelines. Please read them carefully in order to ensure you are using the app correctly. As stated previously, the messaging tool should not be used to initiate a conversation with your child's teacher. Following staff/parent feedback on the Guidelines issued, we will provide a clear update on what the messaging tool should be used for moving forward.

P7 Edinburgh Trip

I am continually planning the P7 Edinburgh trip in the background and hope to have a meeting in January to confirm the final itinerary as well as share information with pupils/parents/carers. Please continue to make your monthly payments - this allows us to book activities in the background!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Last month we organised a very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning which was extremely well attended. We raised over £400! Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event. It is a cause that is close to many of our staff and parents so the support is extremely appreciated.

Parking

We continue to be concerned about some of the parking during drop off/pick up times. Despite numerous pleas asking parents/carers to be mindful of where they park, we still witness cars being parked on corners/pavements, making it extremely dangerous for our pupils as they enter/leave school. New signage funded by our Parent Council will be arriving shortly which will hopefully increase an awareness of the dangers of parking in a hazardous place.

Photographs

School photographs (individual/siblings), will take place on Thursday 14th November. Please ensure appropriate

Uniform/Swap Shop

This is a polite reminder that all pupils should wear school uniform on a daily basis. Pupils should refrain from wearing jeans/large printed hoodies. Please note we have a swap shop located in the main reception of the school for both New Machar Primary and Dyce Academy uniforms. We welcome any of our parents/carers to have a look on the rail - should you wish to purchase an item of clothing there will be no fixed price, simply a small donation.

Vision/Values/School Motto survey

As part of our ongoing commitment to move our school forward, I am looking at rebranding our current school vision/values/motto. New Machar School has developed into a thriving, exuberant learning environment during the past few years and I would like this to be replicated in our vision, values and motto. A survey in the format of a Google Form will be sent out to all parents/carers before the end of this term in order to gain your views. I would encourage as many responses as possible in order to ensure you say is heard. We appreciate the support we get from our parent community and I would like you all to be involved in this process. Please support us by completing the form when it is shared with you.

Contact Details

Please remember to inform us of any changes to addresses/contact numbers/emergency contacts so we have your most up to date information. The easiest way to do this is to inform Mrs Forsyth at the main office either by email, telephone or by popping into school with the changes. With the winter months approaching, it is essential we have your most up to date contact details in the event of a school closure/transport changes.

Bike/Scooter Shelter

Following funding from Aberdeenshire Council, work has already commenced on our new Bike/Scooter shelters. The bike shelter will be located at the front of the school with additional parking for scooters just beside the P2/P2/3 doors. This is something that has long been in demand and once completed we would encourage pupils to fully utilise them.

Children in Need

Children in Need will be celebrated on Friday 15th November 2019. As a result we will be selling a number of Pudsey merchandise from next week: Wristbands £1, Key-Rings £2, Raffles for Children in Need goodies £1 per ticket, Dress as you please on Friday 15th £1.

School Website

Please continue to check our school website for important information and helpful documents.

<http://newmachar.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

Kind regards,

Brian Carle

Mr B Carle

Head Teacher