



## New Machar School Newsletter December 2020



### Our School Values

**Achieve**

**Include**

**Motivate**

### Our School Motto:

*#beyourbestself*

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a term it has been. December is always a very busy time of year in school; however, this year has been very different to normal and we hope you have enjoyed our Christmas Advent Calendar. The children will all enjoy "Party Day" today, a mixture of Christmas activities as well as their class party. We have had to learn to adapt very quickly to a COVID Christmas at New Machar and whilst it has not been anything close to our usual festive calendar, we hope your child has enjoyed the countdown to Christmas none the less. Grateful thanks are extended to our wonderful staff for ensuring the safety of all pupils during this time.

**Mr B Carle, Head Teacher**

### 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](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures)

Aberdeenshire Information Line: 0370 054 4999

New Machar Pin number: 022330

It is also important that children are dressed appropriately with warm clothes and a cosy jacket for the winter weather as the playground can be a very chilly place!

### Christmas Fundraising

I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to every single one of you who purchased a raffle ticket for our Christmas Sleigh. We raised over £600 - this will provide us the opportunity to replenish resources across the school, which will benefit all our pupils. Our fabulous Parent Council have been extremely busy with their continuous support towards our school - thank you to everyone who bought a raffle towards their Christmas Hamper as well as those who purchased items from their online Christmas Shop. We look forward to continuing to work together throughout Term 3.

## **COVID**

At this point I would like to thank you all for your flexibility and support in helping us out with our operations in terms of keeping our school and community as safe as possible from COVID transmission. Please see below a reminder of what should be done in relation to a possible COVID symptom within your household.

- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and further information on testing can be found on NHS Inform. They should begin 10 days of self-isolation whilst waiting on results.
- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and begin 10 days of self isolation. The 10 day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school, public areas or use public transport.
- Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If your child's result is negative, they can return to school when they feel well and have had no fever for 48 hours (without needing paracetamol). The house isolation can be lifted.
- If your child's result is positive, you will be contacted by Test and Protect and advised accordingly.

## **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High Temperature
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

For most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

## **Closing Remarks**

As we approach the end of a very difficult and busy year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at New Machar School for their hard work and commitment over the past year- I feel honoured to be part of such a great, hardworking, supportive team. I have thoroughly enjoyed the creativity shown by everyone during our IDL, Lights, Camera, Scotland! A big thanks to our AIM Ambassadors for keeping us up to date with all the great learning in class. I can't wait to see what our next IDL "Newmachar and Beyond" will bring.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for their tremendous support over 2020 and wish you a very safe, relaxing Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## **Dates for the Diary**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - School Re-Opens at 9am

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - P1 Enrolments (Online registration)

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - Nursery Enrolments (Online registration)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Mid Term Break - SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - INSET Days - SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 - School finishes for Easter break

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - Term 4 starts at 9am

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 - May Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - OCCASIONAL DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - School finished for summer break.

**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