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Newsletter 1

9 September 2019

Dear Parents

**Welcome**

Welcome back to Tough School for session 2019/2020. We hope you had a great summer! It’s great to see all of our pupils looking so smart in their uniforms and ready to learn. A special welcome goes to our new primary 1 pupil Cammy!

**Reminders**

Please can all pupils bring a named waterproof jacket to school every day in case of wet weather. A named P.E. kit should also be in school at all times as we sometimes have to make last minute changes to timetables, and it means that no one misses out.

**Sun Protection**

Please ensure that your child brings a named sun hat to school this term. This will make outdoor learning easier for them, even if the sun is not very bright. Pupils should bring their own sun cream to school, if parents do not wish them to use the school provided sun cream. If you have not informed us already, please let the school know if your child is not to use the school sun cream.

**Medication**

If your child needs to have medication kept at school, for any reason, please ensure we have the medicine. This medicine should be in date and named and we should have the appropriate paperwork to accompany its use. Forms can be accessed from the school office. **A child should never take in the medication themselves - it should always be taken in by an adult.** Please remember to collect any left-over or no longer required medication from the school office.

**Letters Regarding Arrangements and Absence and Lateness**

Good communication between school and home is vital to ensuring the safety of all children. All staff operate under the guidelines below.

If your child is absent for any reason, please phone the school before 9.15am. When the child returns to school, the school needs a small note explaining your child’s absence in writing. This can be via a short, written letter or an email.

If there are any changes to your child’s end of day arrangements, the school needs a written note explaining the changes from both sets of parents involved (if it involves another parent). If this written explanation is in the form of emails, the school needs this at least 3 working days in advance. This is to ensure that your email will be read in time. Last minute changes can be telephoned in, but again needs to be verified by both sets of parents.

If your child has an appointment, the school needs as above – at least 3 working days in advance for emails or a written note. A last-minute appointment can be telephoned in.

The school must be informed of planned, longer absences, such as term-time holidays through an email at least 3 working days in advance or through a written letter.

All children arriving late to school will be marked as late on the register if they need to be buzzed into the building.

Please continue to be aware that children are not to be dropped at school until 8.40am or later according to Aberdeenshire Council policy.

Thanks for your support in ensuring the above guidelines are adhered to.

**Staffing**

The fixed term position in P1-4 still being covered by Mrs Jenny McCue. Sorley Johnston is our visiting specialist and he teaches French with the younger class and Spanish and P.E. with the older class on Mondays. Mr Iain Gilliland will be providing Support for Learning, working with many pupils. Our PSAs, Mrs Hilary Gomeche and Mrs Anne-Maree Smart continue to support us part-time at Tough. Mrs McAllister will be off until at least October and I will continue to cover as Acting Head Teacher until her return.

**P6/7 Joint Residential**

P6/7s from Tough and Dunecht are invited to join the joint residential trip running from the 2nd-6th March 2020 to Glenshee. All P6/7 parents and children will be invited to attend an information evening at the start of October. Accommodation is likely to be in Gulabin Lodge Outdoor Centre and the cost is estimated to be roughly £300. A letter with further information will be distributed to P6/7 pupils within the next week.

**Plays at Dunecht Hall**

As part of learning within Health and Wellbeing, both classes will travel with other cluster schools to Dunecht Hall to watch two different plays performed by North East Arts Touring Ltd. Cloud Man will be shown to P1-4 on Friday 27th September. This play encourages the audience to appreciate the world around them. Mikey and Addie will be shown to P5-7 on Thursday 26th September. This play focuses on truth and responsibility and considering the feelings of others.

**Kodaly**

Mrs Helen Malone will be working with both classes on Kodaly this term. The Kodaly Method is a way of developing musical skills and teaching musical concepts beginning in very young children. This method uses [folk songs](https://www.liveabout.com/folk-songs-for-children-2456579), hand signs, pictures, rhythm symbols, and syllables. It was first introduced in Hungary but is now used in many countries, either alone or in combination with other methods.

**Roald Dahl Day**

We are celebrating ‘Roald Dahl Day’ on Friday 13th September in school. Pupils are welcome to come to school dressed as a character from any Roald Dahl story and there will be a prize for the best costume. We will also be carrying out lots of fun activities as well as learning more about Roald Dahl and the many books he has written.

**CLAN Fundraiser**

Our Rotakids are planning a fundraiser to support CLAN as it is their 30th anniversary this year. They are hoping to join in with the ‘Go purple for Clan’ fundraiser and pupils will be invited to wear something purple to school on Friday 27th September and bring a pound to donate to the charity. More information from the Rotakids will come home to you soon!

**In the Classroom**

This term we are learning about Houses and Homes in Primary 1-4 and Bridges and Structures in P5-7. We are currently arranging K’next Generation workshops to tie in with this learning.

P5-7 will be taking part in a ‘Mock Trial’ with students from the Aberdeen Law Society on 1st October. This ties in well with our ongoing work on Developing the Young Workforce.

Miss Thaisa Valverde, a PGDE student from Aberdeen University will be working with the Primary 5-7 class before and after the October holidays.

**School Improvement Plans**

We will be focussing on four main areas for development this year. Maths, Literacy, Health & Wellbeing and Developing the Young Workforce.

Within Maths we will be developing our mastery approach in learning and teaching by ensuring deep and secure understanding at each stage of learning.

In Literacy our main focus is on Writing. We are using aspects of the ‘Talk for Writing’ programme to build on confidence in storytelling to enhance writing.

Our focus on Health and Wellbeing is linked to Outdoor Learning and we will be carrying out sessions with Lindsay Duncan, a level three forest schools practitioner.

Developing the Young Workforce is a national priority for Scotland, and we have a variety of opportunities planned for our pupils through the session.

We will also continue to develop the work we have started on High Expectations and the Curriculum Rationale for our school.

Look out for more information on all the work we are doing on the areas above through Seesaw learning, Facebook sharing, open afternoons and newsletters in the coming months. Our latest school improvement calendar will be added to the school website by the end of September.

**Homework**

As decided after parental consultation, each week teachers will put your child’s spelling words on glow for them to access and practise throughout the week. There will also be some suggested activities to help them learn their words. There will be one other homework task provided for your child based on that week’s learning in class. Homework can be done in the jotters provided last year or pictures of your child completing activities can be emailed to the school. If your child does not know their Glow login details please let us know.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to working together throughout the school year.

Kind Regards

**Kerry Porter**

Acting Head Teacher

**Information for School Closures/Adverse Weather**

Telephone Information Line: 0370 054 4999

Tough School Pin Number: 02 2720

ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE HYPERLINK "http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures"

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures

TWITTER HYPERLINK "http://twitter..com/aberdeenshire"

http://twitter..com/aberdeenshire

(The web page is re-set at 4pm every day to be clear for next day’s information)

Northsound 1 FM 96.9 Tel. 01224 337000

Northsound 2 MW 1035kHz

BBC Radio Scotland FM 92.4-94.7 MW 810kHz

Moray Firth Radio FM 97.4 MW 1107kHz

Waves Radio FM 101.2 Tel. 01779 491012

Original FM 106 Tel. 01224 293800

**Dates for the Diary 2019/2020**

Monday 19th August, 2019 In Service Day Staff Only

Tuesday 20th August, 2019 In Service Day Staff Only

Wednesday 21st August, 2019 Term Starts

Tuesday 3rd September, 2019 Parent Council Meeting – 7.15pm in school

Tuesday 17th September, 2019 P1 Teacher/Parent Consultations

Thursday 26th September, 2019 P5-7 at Dunecht for Theatre Performance

Thursday 26th September, 2019 Hamewith Concert, Heritage Centre

Friday 27th September, 2019 P1-4 at Dunecht for Theatre Performance

Wednesday 2nd October, 2019 Ski Trip Meeting

Wednesday 9th October, 2019 K’NEX Generation Visit

Thursday 10th October, 2019 Harvest Church Service & Last Day of term

Friday 11th October, 2019 In Service Day Staff Only.

Monday 28th October, 2019 Term Starts

Monday and Tuesday 28th and 29th

October, 2019 Rag Bags to School

Wednesday 30th October, 2019 Rag Bag Collection

Monday 18th November, 2019 In Service Day

Tuesday 19th November, 2019 In Service Day

Wednesday 11th December, 2019 Wole School Christmas Play

Friday 13th December, 2019 Whole School to Aladdin Panto

Thursday 19th December, 2019 Whole School Christmas Party

Friday 20th December, 2019 Church Service & Last day of term

Monday 6th January, 2020 Term Starts

Thursday 13th February, 2020 School Closed – Holiday

Friday 14th February, 2020 School Closed - Holiday

Monday 17th February, 2020 School Closed - Holiday

Tuesday 18th February, 2020 In Service Day

Wednesday 19th February, 2020 In Service Day

Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March,2020 P6/P7 Ski Trip with Dunecht School

Friday 3rd April, 2020 Church Service & Last Day of Term

Monday 20th April, 2020 Term Starts

Tuesday 5th May, 2020 Parents Meetings 5pm-7pm

Wednesday, 6th May, 2020 Parents Meetings 3.30pm – 5pm

Friday 8th May, 2020 May Day Holiday

Monday 1st June, 2020 School Closed – Holiday

Friday 12th June, 2020 Sports Day (1)

Monday 15th -19th June, 2020 P7 Link Week

Friday 26th June, 2020 Sports Day (2) if (1) is rained off

Tuesday 30th June, 2020 End of Year Assembly – 1.45pm start

Friday 3rd July, 2020 Last Day of Term

Monday 17th August, 2020 In Service Day Staff Only

Tuesday 18th August, 2020 Term Starts

Friday 9th October, 2020 Last Day of Term

Monday 26th October, 2020 Term Starts

Thursday 19th November, 2020 In Service Day Staff Only

Friday 20th November, 2020 In Service Day Staff Only