Tough Primary School

Tough, Alford, AB338ES
Head Teachers - Laura McAllister & Kerry Porter
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☎ 019755 20395

September 2020

Newsletter

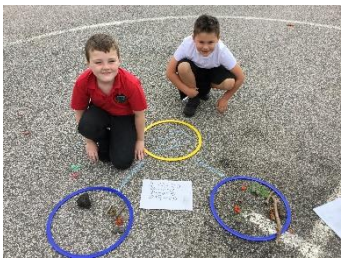
Dear Parents

Welcome

Welcome back to Tough School for session 2020/2021. We are so pleased to be back and are delighted in the resilience demonstrated by all pupils on their return. We are especially impressed with their efforts and understanding on the new rules and routines in school in place to keep us all safe and healthy. A special welcome goes to our new pupils Lukas in P3 and Kinloch in P4!

Reminders

Please can all pupils bring a named, waterproof jacket to school every day in case of wet or cold weather and their own sun cream and sun hat to use in case of sunny weather. Pupils should also remember to bring a named water bottle as we are unable to drink directly from the water fountain at the moment. They may also bring their own hand sanitiser to use and hand cream if they wish. Pupils should have a P.E. kit in school every day and suitable clothing for outdoor learning in all weathers, including wellies.



Please remember to name all items.

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. You may also email the school if your child is going to be off for longer but please be aware that the school email is accessed during the school day on Monday to Thursday only.

If there are any changes to your child's end of day arrangements, the school needs a written email 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.

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

Parking

As a reminder, parking is not permitted on the yellow 'zig zag' lines outside the school. This is to ensure that children and parents can walk safely to and from their cars and clearly see any traffic coming.

Parent Council/School Interest Committee

Our Parent Council and School Interest Committee hold a joint meeting usually on the second Tuesday of each term. For the foreseeable future this will be a virtual meeting which all parents are welcome to join to hear about what is happening in the school, share any queries and find out about fundraising.

We had our first meeting on Tuesday 1st September and the minutes of this meeting will be with you soon. A notice of each meeting will be sent from the school office in the first week of each term and hopefully the fact that no babysitters are needed will make it easier for more parents to join in!

We have included some information on how you can sign up to Easy Fundraising. this means you can raise funds for our school Parent Committees while you do your online shopping!

Staffing

Mrs McAllister and Mrs Porter continue to job share the Head Teacher position and teach P5-7 with Mrs Porter teaching the additional hours in this class. Miss Sutherland is teaching the primary 1-4 class. Mrs McCue will be teaching P.E with both classes and French with the younger class. 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.

Kodaly

Mrs Helen Malone will be providing resources for us to work with both classes on Kodaly this term. Class teachers will be provided with a weekly video from her and some follow up activities. The Kodaly Method is a way of developing musical skills and teaching musical concepts beginning in very young children. This method uses folk songs, 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.

In the Classroom

This term we are learning about Forces and Electricity in Primary 1-4 and Extreme Earth, looking at weather and natural disasters, in P5-7.

School Improvement Plans

Our main focus this year will be on Health and Wellbeing. We will also continue to develop Literacy along with Planning and Assessment.

For Health & Wellbeing we will continue the work we started with Forest Schools last session and develop our outdoor learning skills across the school. We will also be building on our achievement of being a Bronze level Rights Respecting School by working towards our Silver Award. We plan to evaluate and plan for a more structured formal Health & Wellbeing curriculum and continue to build on positive transitions for small year groups and Primary 7s.

In Literacy we will be focussing on functional writing, using the 'Talk for Writing' method we put in place last session as well as enhancing our non-fiction reading resources.

Look out for more information on all the work we are doing on the areas above through Seesaw learning, Facebook sharing, 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 online for them to access and practise throughout the week. We will use Seesaw for this instead of Glow as it was used so well by pupils when the school was closed. 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 or pictures can be uploaded to Seesaw. You will be provided with new home learning codes next week as the ones we used in lockdown have expired.

Parentsportal

Parentsportal.scot is a digital service to help replace the traditional school bag run by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing selection of online services.

As parentsportal.scot is securely linked to your **myAberdeenshire** account it also makes it a one-stop-shop for digital services already available in Aberdeenshire. You should have received information about how you can sign up from the school. If you need any help please contact Irene McWilliam during school hours, Monday to Friday.

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

Kind Regards

Kerry Porter & Laura McAllister
Head Teachers (Joint)

Dates for the Diary 2020/2021

Monday 10th August, 2020	In Service Day Staff Only
Tuesday 11th August, 2020	In Service Day Staff Only
Wednesday 12th August, 2020	Term Starts
Friday 9th October, 2020	Last Day of Term
Monday 26th October, 2020	Term Starts
Monday 16th November, 2020	Flu Immunisations
Friday 20th November, 2020	In Service Day Staff Only
Friday 18th December, 2020	Last Day of Term
Tuesday 5th January, 2021	Term Starts
Monday 15th February, 2021	Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 16th February, 2021	In Service Day Staff Only
Wednesday 17th February, 2021	In Service Day Staff Only
Thursday 1st April, 2021	Last Day of Term
Monday 19th April, 2021	Term Starts
Monday 3rd May, 2021	May Day Holiday
Monday 7th June, 2021	School Closed – Holiday
Friday 25th June, 2021	Last Day of Term
Monday 16th August, 2021	In Service Day Staff Only
Tuesday 17th August, 2021	Term Starts
Friday 15th October, 2021	Last Day of Term
Monday 1st November, 2021	Term Starts
Thursday 18th November, 2021	In Service Day
Friday 19th November, 2021	In Service Day
Tuesday 21st December, 2021	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 5th January, 2022	Term Starts

Information for School Closures/Adverse Weather

Telephone Information Line: 0370 054 4999

Tough School Pin Number: 02 2720

ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE - SCHOOL CLOSURES

ABERDEENSHIRE TWITTER

(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