

Meldrum School Newsletter

May 2020



August Return

Thank you for your patience as we plan for our return to school in August. As you will appreciate, planning and preparation for the safe return of over 500 children and staff is a complex process and requires detailed planning, taking into consideration guidance from the Scottish Government, Aberdeenshire Council and the NHS.

In our plans for our return, we have many aspects to consider, particularly the need for social distancing. Other aspects which require consideration in our planning include enhanced hygiene considerations and cleaning, school transport, arrangements for break and lunch time, toilet arrangements, corridor arrangements, pick up/drop off arrangements and use of equipment. It is important to note that, for logistical reasons, plans for August will look different in each school.

From August, children will experience a mix of face to face teaching in school and remote learning at home. Learning in school next session will initially take place in smaller Bubble Groups. As we plan these Bubble Groups, we will endeavour to ensure that siblings across P1-7 attend school on the same days.

As per previous communication to nursery parents from Aberdeenshire Council Early Years Team, the number of nursery sessions we are able to offer will also be reduced.

I appreciate that these changes to school life will mean that families need to make adjustments to work and childcare arrangements. These alternative arrangements are paramount to the health and safety of all in our school community and are only temporary. We look forward to getting back to a more normal way of working as soon as it is safe to do so. Further information will be shared as soon as we have all plans in place.

Please also see attached a collective letter from all Head Teachers in the Meldrum Cluster about returning to school.

Virtual Sports Day

Thank you to all children (and adults) who have been joining in with Virtual Sports Day activities over the last week. It looks like you all had lots of fun! A big thank you also to the group of staff who worked hard to put these activities and videos together.

End of Term Gifts

At this time of year, staff and children often choose to swap end of session gifts. Due to current health and safety restrictions, this will not be possible. We would like to suggest instead that you consider a donation to Aberdeenshire North Foodbank. You can donate here <https://www.nowdonate.com/checkout/k5056mo6y0uvhg386e6r> Alternatively, food can be purchased and left as a donation at their permanent collection points:

- **Inverurie:** Tesco, Morrisons, Poundland, McLeish, Royal Mail Sorting Office
- **Ellon:** Tesco, Co-op, Esslemont and Greens

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Cooking at Home

Aberdeenshire Catering Service continue to share recipes to encourage children to get involved in the planning and preparation of meals at home. All of the recipes can be found here <https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/school-meals-lunchtime-recipe-ideas/>

Shine a Light on Lockdown and Learning from Your Time in Lockdown

Aberdeenshire Council have created a Google site for pupils, staff and community members to share the positives of Lockdown and to have a record for archive purposes of the good things that have happened during this time. Further information and information about how to take part is attached below. A Learning From Your Time in Lockdown questionnaire has also been created to collect pupil views about what learning has been like during lockdown. The questionnaire can be found here https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC3UrvdfLkINHorfZNN1PF_pUQlpJMzVPS1Q1UDkwOFNDMURYNVZDSkVWMS4u The deadline for submission is Monday 22nd June 2020.

Feedback

If you have any queries, concerns or feedback to share with us, please get in touch meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carol Harper'.

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher



Thursday 10 June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Head Teachers across the Meldrum Cluster are working together to plan for the return to school in August. From the 15th June, we will have small groups of staff accessing our school buildings to plan and implement these arrangements. Although digital/online learning will continue during this time, there will be less online support available on the days when staff are in school.

It is appreciated that we will all have many questions about the months ahead. Here are some of the facts that we are certain our 'new normal' will look like across the Meldrum Cluster:

- Each school will have to reduce the size of classes and reduce the number of pupils in school at any one time.
- Each school will have to keep children in the same small groups during their time in school.
- Each school will need to put in place clear protocols/timings for drop offs and pick-ups at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Each school will need to increase the frequency of cleaning.
- Each school will need to reduce the use of shared items and equipment in class and utilise outdoor space to provide educational experiences.

Details outlining school transport arrangement and school lunch arrangements are still being finalised.

For clarification, **no pupils will be expected to return to Meldrum Cluster Primary Schools before the summer holidays.** All pupils will be given the opportunity at some point from 11th August and during August to experience time in school.

This does mean that some of our new Primary 1 pupils will not be able to visit the school prior to August. We guarantee that come August, our transition process into school will take this into consideration.

In our plans for our return, we will be considering how we can accommodate social distancing which has been so important in reducing the spread of COVID-19. This means that we will have to think differently about how we deliver learning and it is our plan to have a blended approach of in-school and learning at home. Further details will be given around what this means for each child and family prior to the summer holidays.

This will be very different for all of us and we understand that this temporary way of learning will mean that families need to make adjustments for work and childcare arrangements and so it is important for you to know prior to the start of the summer holidays, in order to be able to make these arrangements.





Things are constantly evolving and changing and your school will always try to get communication right. Information will be shared through our usual methods. In particular there is likely to be communication which is relevant specifically for your child/ren which may not be the same as for other families, so it is essential that you follow any guidance which is given to you directly. We will endeavour to keep you updated with what our plans are prior to the end of term.

In the meantime, please stay safe and we thank you for your patience, support and understanding as always.

Yours sincerely

Meldrum Cluster Head Teachers

Adrian Anderson, Head Teacher, Barthol Chapel School

Alison Gagne, Head Teacher & Nicole Scott, Head Teacher (Acting), Cultercullen School

Su Padfield, Head Teacher, Daviot School

Lizzie McMahon, Head Teacher, Logie Durno School

Ian Jackson, Head Teacher (Acting), Meldrum Academy

Carol Harper, Head Teacher (Acting), Meldrum School

Colette Fraser, Head Teacher, Methlick School

Laura Dlugonski, Head Teacher, Old Rayne School

Janet Hill, Head Teacher, Pitmedden School

Stephanie Stephen, Head Teacher, Rayne North School

Rachel Wood, Head Teacher, Rothienorman School

Lara Conn, Head Teacher, Tarves School

Emma Gibb, Head Teacher, Udny Green School





Shine a Light on Lockdown

Across the world, life is a bit different just now. Millions of people across the world have had to adjust to a new way of living, and for most of us, that has meant time in lockdown, cut off from friends and families, and unable to do the everyday activities that we are all so used to.

But life will go back to normal eventually, and school pupils of the future will learn about, and be fascinated by the events of 2020. So, we would like to keep a record of people's memories and experiences of this exceptional time.

Although lockdown life has not been easy, there have been many good things that have come from it. With usual activities having been suspended, lots of us have done different things, learnt new skills, and discovered things about ourselves, our communities and our world that we might never have discovered.

So, we would like you to tell us about this good stuff! We would like you to shine a light on lockdown. There are lots of things you could tell us about, but here are some suggestions to get you thinking:

- new skills you have learned
- new experiences you have had
- unexpected friendships that have begun
- unusual celebrations in a socially distanced world
- things you have done in/for - people in your community
- things others have done which have helped you or your family
- things you are proud of about this time
- things you are thankful for
- things that are happening/have happened in your community to support other people,
- the funny things you will remember
- good things you know are happening in, and to, the world around us – the environment, the natural world, the kindness of strangers
- good deeds you are doing or know others are doing....

The list is endless!

You can shine your light on lockdown in any format you want:

- in writing - in a story, a play, a newspaper article, a cartoon strip, a poem...
- in a recording - a song, a short film, a piece of music...
- in photographic/picture form - some captioned photos, a cartoon strip, drawings, sketches, paintings...
- in a model or piece of artwork...

It could be something that was done as part of home learning which you would like to share with others. Let's make a positive record of the good things happening right now!



Who can submit lockdown memories?

Anyone in our school communities can submit an entry – pupils, teachers and other school staff, parents, carers, grandparents...

All submissions will be shared on a specially created website - the *Aberdeenshire Shine a Light on Lockdown* Google site.

How do you submit something?

- Complete the relevant form on the next page of this document
- If you are a school pupil, your parent/carer must complete the Permission Section
- Email this form and your entry to pupilparticipation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

[If you have any problems making a submission, contact Christine McLennan on 07876476868](#)

What will happen next?

- [An email acknowledging receipt of your submission will be sent to the home email address automatically](#)
- [Your submission will be posted on the *Aberdeenshire Shine a Light on Lockdown* Google site](#)
- Submissions will include only your first name, your school, and if you are school pupil, your class or year group
- [A link to the website will be shared with you](#)
- [A link to the website will also be shared with your school, and with the Council's Corporate Communications Team.](#)

Please note the following:

- If your submission is particularly long/big, only part of it may be posted on the website
- If the submission contains inappropriate content – pictures, photos, language – it will not be posted on the website.

Submission Form

This form is in 2 Parts.

Everyone must complete part 1

The information in Part 2 addresses the need for consent to be given for the publication on-line of any work submitted. This part needs to be completed by

- Parents of any pupil under the age of 13 who wish to make a submission
- Pupils aged 13 or over who wish to make a submission
- Adults who wish to make a submission

Shine A Light On Lockdown	
Part 1: Please fill in the following:	Part 1
Full Name	
Class or Year Group (for school pupils only)	
School Name	
My home e-mail address	
Part 2: Parents of pupils under the age of 13, and pupils aged 13 or over who make a submission, must initial to show they are aware of the following:	Part 2: Initials of Parent or Pupils aged 13 and over
<i>I have already completed an Education and Children’s Services Photography and Video Recording permission form giving permission for photos and videos to be shared.</i>	
<i>I consent to my child’s work being shared on the Aberdeenshire Shine A Light On Lockdown website</i>	
<i>I understand that Aberdeenshire Council will not keep photos for any longer than is necessary and will dispose of them after a period of five years, unless they are images of historical interest when they may be archived for a longer period.</i>	
<i>I understand that if there are any concerns about the content submitted, the Council may not post it on the website</i>	

Please send the completed form, along with your submission, to pupilparticipation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

[Please ensure Part 2 has been completed according to the instructions given.](#)