



Next Session

We are finalising class structures and staffing for next session. All Aberdeenshire schools are staffed according to a formula, based on pupil roll. Our classes next session will be a combination of straight classes and composite classes across P1 - P7. You will understand configuring classes is a complex process, taking into account national class size guidance, pupil social groupings and class groupings. It is important to note that we are not able to meet parent requests around class organisation. Should you require further information about composite classes, please see [Aberdeenshire Council Composite Class Parent Factsheet](#). Our finalised class structure and which class your child(ren) will be in will be shared with children and parents as soon as we possibly can. Children will have an opportunity to meet their new teacher(s) ahead of the summer holidays.

School Day Restructure

We are in the process of consulting all school stakeholders about a slight restructure to our school day for P1-7 pupils. This involves seeking feedback from pupils, parents, staff, catering, transport around our plans which would take affect from August 2023. The proposal and the reasons for this are set out below.



School Day		9.00am to 3.00pm
Morning Break		10.30 – 10.45am
Lunch	Early Stages	12.15 – 1.00pm
	Upper Stages	12.30 – 1.15pm

Beginning our school day at 9.00am brings us in to line with the majority of primary schools in the Meldrum Cluster and across Aberdeenshire. Previous feedback from parents suggests that our current finish time of 3.30pm often makes attending out of school clubs and activities difficult or impossible. In the darker months, an earlier finish is safer, allowing children to walk home before it gets dark.

Children will still have ample time to eat their lunch and enjoy time outside to play. The half hour overlap in lunchtimes ensures that children can still spend time with friends from other year groups should they choose to do so. A shorter lunch break will mean that our Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) will spend less time covering playground duty giving them more time in their working day to spend supporting children in classrooms.

Should you wish to provide feedback about these plans, please do so [here](#). The form will close at 5pm on Tuesday 20th June.



Clan Big Hop 2023

We recently completed our hare for Clan's 'Big Hop 2023'. The hare will be on display between July and September at Inverurie Heritage Centre. More information about the Big Hop and the work of Clan can be found [here](#).



Smart Watches

If your child has a Smart Watch with the capability of sending/receiving phone calls/messages, we ask that this facility is switched off if they choose to wear them to school. If watches have this enabled at school, we will treat these as we would a mobile phone and they will be collected by teachers and stored for the day.

School Uniform

I am pleased to say that we have had an increasing number of people have benefitted from our offer of pre-loved school uniform which is available to help yourself to every day in the school office. If you have any uniform you would like to donate, hand it in to the school office and we can add it to the rail for others to get the benefit of. We would also appreciate donations of shorts, joggers and tshirts which would be suitable for PE kit.

Car Parking

We have received a number of communications from parents/carers and from the wider community about parking both in the school car park and in surrounding streets. Irresponsible parking is putting the safety of our children at risk and I would ask you to be mindful of this when parking. Please do not park in the bus bay and disabled parking should only be used by blue badge holders, this includes at nursery and MASK drop off/pick up times. Please park in the designated parking bays and avoid parking on the grass verges as this causes damage. Primary 7 have prepared a [video](#) with some reminders!

Cycling to School

It is great to see an increasing number of children cycling to school and we encourage as many children as possible to cycle to school. Our P6 and P7 children are currently taking part in Bikeability sessions to ensure they are as safe as possible on their bikes. We have had some reports of children cycling across local roads without looking and not wearing helmets. If your child is choosing to cycle to school, we would appreciate your support in reminding them how to keep themselves safe as they do so. Bikes should not be ridden in the school





playground immediately before or after school when the playgrounds are busy with adults and children.

Social Media and Vaping

Like most schools across the country, we are increasingly facing the challenges of the effects of inappropriate use of social media and a rise in the number of children who are being tempted by vaping. Meldrum Academy have kindly shared the information which is attached with this newsletter. Please take the time to read and discuss with your child as you feel appropriate. I would also encourage you, where possible, to be regularly checking your child's mobile phones/devices and any social media accounts they may have access to.

Advice About Money, Work and Benefits

Meldrum Cluster has a newly appointed Money Advice and Welfare Rights Officer. Neil Woodward can provide confidential advice and support to all parents/carers. Please contact the school office and we can put you in touch with Neil.

Parent Club also have information about money and work available [here](#).

Head Lice

A reminder to please check your children's hair regularly for head lice. Further information about checking for head lice and treatment is available [here](#). If you discover your child has head lice, please let the school office know as this allows us to track cases and issue class letters as necessary.

Book Fair

We have recently used the commission from our recent Scholastic Book Fair to purchase New books for the school library. Your purchases earned us just under £1100 in commission. Thank you!



Catering

Aberdeenshire Council Catering Service are looking for feedback from yourself and your child. If you wish to complete this, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code.

Carol Harper

Head Teacher

