

Meldrum School Newsletter

25th August 2020



It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to school and I have been so impressed with their resilience and adaptability as they get used to our “new normal” in school with lots of new routines and expectations. Thank you to parents for following our guidelines about not entering the school playground. A reminder that the only parents who should be in the playground at the moment are nursery parents and we request that only one parent accompanies nursery children for drop off. The previous guidelines set out in our newsletter on 10th August have not changed and will continue for the foreseeable future.

I would like to assure you that we have considered many possible options for drop off and pick up of children and we feel that the arrangements we have in place are the best of our available options. Our school site is not ideal in many ways due to proximity to roads/pavements etc and feedback from parents suggests many are not able to access the gates safely due to others remaining in the vicinity of the gate once they have dropped their children off. All three playgrounds are supervised from 9.00am so we ask for your support in vacating the gate area immediately once your child has entered the playground. You may choose to wear a face mask in the immediate vicinity of the gate if you feel 2 metre social distancing is not possible.

COVID Symptoms

Children should not come to school if they or another member of your household have – a new continuous cough, fever/high temperature or a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. Your child and everyone in your household should isolate for 10 days/14 days and we advise you to arrange COVID tests for anyone in your household who is displaying symptoms.

Should your child display any COVID symptoms whilst at school, you will be contacted and asked to collect your child (and any siblings) as soon as possible. Your child and everyone in your household should isolate for 10 days/14 days and we advise you to arrange COVID tests for anyone in your household who is displaying symptoms.

- Contact Parent / Carer to arrange collection (highlighting potential COVID symptoms)
- Advise Parent of need to arrange test **and for child/household to self-isolate (10 days/14 days)**

Your child can return to school if everyone in your household who displayed symptoms has been tested and returned a negative test (see blue box for further detail)

Individual & household can return to school/work if everyone they live with who has symptoms tests negative; everyone in their support bubble who has symptoms tests negative; they were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if they were, see [what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus](#); they feel well – if they feel unwell, they should stay at home until they're feeling better.

We appreciate your cooperation in following this Aberdeenshire Council guidance.

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School Lunch Menus

As per the email we shared on Friday, Aberdeenshire Catering Team will continue their tailored two week menu for a further two weeks. This week children can choose from Week 1 of the menu this week and Week 2 next week. The choices will consist of one 'hot' option and one 'cold' option. Dietary requirements will be handled as per current procedures <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25375/primarymenustailored2weeks.pdf>

School Calendar

Usually at the start of each school session, we share our School Calendar of events for the whole school year. As I am sure you can imagine, in the current climate, we are having to review our usual calendar and consider alternatives. Further information will follow in due course.

Homework

Homework this session will be shared via Google Classroom. Children will receive homework tasks each Wednesday and should complete and submit them by the following Tuesday evening.

Your child's Glow login remains the same (these were shared with you around the time school closed in March). Primary 1 Glow logins will be shared this week by email. All passwords have been reset to a default password – Password1. When your child logs on for the first time this session, they will be asked to reset their password. Passwords must contain -

- At least 8 characters
- at least one lower case letter
- at least one upper case letter
- at least one number

Please support your child to support your child to change their password to something memorable as they will need this each week to access their homework (P1-7) and to use in school (P4-7).

Homework will start next week but please log on this week and look out for a welcome message from each teacher on your class page.

To access Google Classroom -

1. Log on to Glow <https://sts.platform.rmunify.com/Account/SignIn/glow>

2. Click the Meldrum School launch pad on the left hand side



3. Click the Google Classroom tile





4. Click your child's class tile



5. The work set will appear in the classwork tab at the top. Depending on the type of task, you can submit a typed document, file or photo to share the learning. To submit - click on the assignment, in the top right corner 'Your Work' box click 'Add or Create' and you can create a Google Doc (which you can type in and send to the teacher) or upload a file you've created already and saved on your device (file, photo etc). Teachers are able to provide feedback on the tasks you submit.



Should you have any problems logging on, please email the school and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Seesaw

This session we will continue to use Seesaw as a tool for your child to share their learning with you at home. Seesaw is a secure online learning journal where children can create and upload their work to document their learning. Children can share photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice recordings via their Seesaw journal. Seesaw Journals are private and are only accessible by the teacher, pupils and parents. Information about registering to see your child's learning will come home at the start of next week. Beginning next week, children will share two pieces of learning each week.

Parent Portal

You recently received email information about the new Parent Portal service that has been introduced by Aberdeenshire Council. Parent Portal is a new form of home/school communication. To date over 50% of parents have signed up. If you have still to register, please do so as soon as possible.

Car Park

We continue to ask you to avoid using the school car park unless absolutely necessary. Following reports of unsafe driving and parking in the school park last week, I would ask that, if you do require to use the car park, that you park in designated parking bays, reverse park where possible and drive and manoeuvre safely.

Yours sincerely

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher