

# Meldrum School Newsletter

## 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for the term ahead. We certainly did not expect to find ourselves in another lockdown situation and a further period of time learning from home. Staff have been working hard this week to prepare for remote learning and to support the children of key workers who have been attending school. Below are details about how remote learning will look like at Meldrum School over the next few weeks. Thank you to Coop and Key Store in Oldmeldrum who have kindly agreed to keep a stock of jotters, pencils, rubbers and sharpeners for us. These resources are there for you, should you need them for remote learning activities, so please help yourself when you are shopping at the Coop and Key Store. As always, should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office [meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Remote Learning

We have made some changes to our remote learning delivery but many of the arrangements will remain the same as during the last lockdown. Following feedback, we will be making use of Google Meet, a secure video calling feature available as part of Google Classroom, to enable children to have face to face contact with their teacher and classmates. In order to use this feature, we need to share specific information with children and parents/carers and ask for you to grant permission for your child to take part. This information will follow at the beginning of next week and we plan to begin using Google Meet from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Learning activities will be accessed through Google Classroom. Each morning, teachers will post **one literacy task and one numeracy task** which children can complete and share with their teacher(s). **A weekly grid with additional activities** will also be posted. In addition to this, Mrs Reid will post a **weekly Health and Wellbeing task** for each class and Mrs Cooper will post a **weekly PE task** for each class. All activities will be available for your child to access all week so they can complete them at any time. Teachers will also post videos each day. These may take a variety of forms, for example, a morning message, reading a story to the class or to explain a piece of learning.

You should not feel under pressure to complete all of the activities. We understand that working and learning from home is a big challenge so please do what you can, when you can to engage with the set learning tasks.

As well as delivering remote learning, some days teachers will be in school supporting the children who are accessing school. On these days, the teacher will post learning activities as normal but will not be available throughout the day for immediate feedback on any work submitted. This is likely to be one day each week and teachers will post a message on Google Classroom to let you know when this is happening.



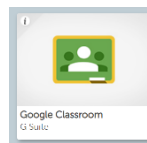
To Access Activities in Google Classroom

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



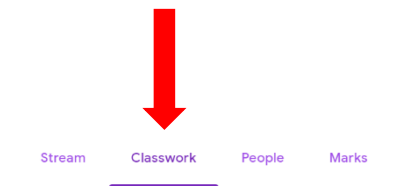
3. Click the Google Classroom tile



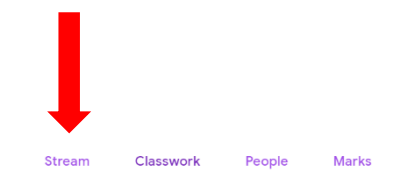
4. Click your child's class tile

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.



6. Messages from the teacher will be available in the Stream. Children can also post here too.



If you have any problems with login details etc, please email the school office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Staffing

Congratulations to Nicola Park who was appointed to the permanent Early Years Senior Practitioner post just before the Christmas holidays. The Early Years Lead Practitioner post has been advertised and should be appointed shortly. Lesley Robinson will be leaving her Early Years Practitioner post at the end of January to take up a new post at Rothienorman School. We wish her well in her new post. The recruitment for the Depute Head Teacher post is ongoing.

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### Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions

Nursery admissions fortnight runs from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and P1 admissions week runs from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Further details and information about registration are attached below.

Yours sincerely

*Carol Harper*

Carol Harper

Head Teacher

## **PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT FOR AUGUST 2021**

Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 admission is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2021.

Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2021 should now register their children for the appropriate local primary school.

To register for a primary school place, for a school within your catchment area, please complete the online application which can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForSchoolPlace>.

It is usual practice for children to attend their local catchment primary school, however, you have the right to apply to place your child in a school other than your local school. Please complete an out of zone placing request. (You should still register your child in a school in the area you live in until you know the outcome of your application) Out of Zone Request form can be found at:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/out-of-zone-school/>

With COVID 19 restrictions in place please email the school a copy of the below or alternatively bring these with you when your child starts school:

- the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth and;
- evidence of the parent/carer's home address (for example your council tax bill or a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).

All schools in Aberdeenshire have the same start date, in the middle of August each year. You will be informed of this year's start date prior to the summer holidays.

Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services makes no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

## **ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE FUNDED PLACE APPLICATIONS 2021/2022**

From August 2021, all children are eligible to receive up to a maximum of 1140 hours of funded Early Learning and Childcare per year, or a pro rata amount, from the term after their 3rd birthday. Parents/carers can choose whether these hours are accessed in a local authority nursery or within a playgroup, private day nursery or childminder, which has been commissioned by the local authority.

Those children who are three before 31st August 2021 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in August 2021; children who are three before 31st December 2021 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in January 2022; children who are three before 28th February 2022 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in April 2022. Funded places for session 2021/2022 are available at both local authority nurseries and with playgroups, private day nurseries and childminders, which has been commissioned by the local authority.

Information and the online application form for local authority nurseries, commissioned playgroups, private day nurseries and childminders will be available from **18th January 2021 –29th January 2021**. These can be obtained online from <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/>

All Early Learning and Childcare settings that provide Early Learning and Childcare funded places are regulated by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, and are quality assured by Aberdeenshire Council. Parents/carers should note there are separate approaches for applying for funded places in school nursery classes and for applying for funded places in commissioned playgroups or private day nurseries. These are as follows:

#### **For entry to a local authority school nursery class**

For children who become eligible to commence their Early Learning and Childcare funded place in the **2021/2022** session, applications should be **submitted online between 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. A list of all provision is listed in the '*Applying Early Learning and Childcare for Your Child – Application Booklet*'. Booklets are available from the website at <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-and-childcare-information/>.

Evidence of the child's date of birth (original birth certificate) and evidence of home address (for example council tax bill, a recent utility bill or recent bank statement) will be required, once you have received confirmation that your child has been offered a place.

#### **For entry to a commissioned playgroup, private day nursery or childminder (funded providers)**

Parents/carers should first apply directly to the commissioned playgroup, private day nursery or childminder of their choice from the **18th January 2021**.

Once a place has been secured, Parents/carers will then be asked by their funded provider, to apply online for a funded place for the confirmed number of hours. This funding will be paid direct to your chosen funded provider by Aberdeenshire Council. If the Parent/carer does not apply for a funded place, your chosen provider may ask Parent/carers to pay full price.

### **Applications for eligible 2 Year Olds: 01.03.19 - 29.02.2020**

Eligible 2 year olds fall into two categories:

1. Those that are looked after and accommodated or are under a kinship or guardianship order. Application forms are completed and submitted through your Social Worker.
  
2. Those whose families are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits:
  - Income Support
  - Job Seekers allowance (income based)
  - Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement allowance
  - State Pension Credit
  - Any income related element of the Employment & Support Allowance
  - Child tax credit but not working tax credit and your income is below £16,105
  - Both maximum CTC & WTC with income Less than £7,320.
  - Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
  - Universal credit and your household take-home pay is £610 a month or less. Your award letter will tell you how much take-home pay is for the claim period.

Application forms should be completed online by the parent/carer. Evidence of benefit will be required.

To obtain a link to the online application or for general enquiries about eligible 2 year olds, please email: [eligible2andcensus@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:eligible2andcensus@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).