

Meldrum School Newsletter

7th January 2022



Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to a new term at Meldrum School.

As you will be aware, COVID 19 self-isolation guidance changed this week and is available [here](#). Please remain vigilant to the most common COVID symptoms

- A new continuous cough
- High fever/temperature (37.8c or above)
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

Just a reminder that we are still required to have windows open for COVID ventilation purposes so it is often a wee bit chilly in school. Please feel free to send your child with an extra jumper/fleece which they can put on as an extra layer on cooler days. We will of course balance ventilation and comfortable temperature by opening and closing windows as required.

Staffing

We were pleased to welcome Jasmine Keir back from maternity leave just before Christmas. We wish Lauren Profeit all the very best as she begins her maternity leave. Our Principal Teacher, Lauren Cunningham, will begin her maternity leave at the end of this month and recruitment for this maternity cover is in progress. In the next couple of weeks, Megan Ewan will take up her new Early Years Practitioner post in the nursery.

Head Lice

A reminder to please check your children's hair regularly (ideally weekly) 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 issues class letters as necessary.

Nursery and Primary 1 Registration

Nursery admissions fortnight runs from Monday 17th January 2021 – Friday 28th January 2021 and P1 admissions week runs from Monday 10th January to Friday 14th January 2021. Further details and information about registration are attached below.

Holidays

In recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, Aberdeenshire Council have made the decision to move the May Day holiday from Monday 2nd May to Thursday 2nd June 2022. Friday 3rd June 2022 will be designated as an additional public holiday.

Meldrum Cluster occasional holidays have not yet been updated on the Aberdeenshire Council website so a full list of holiday dates for the remainder of the school session is below for your information.

Thursday 10 th February	Occasional Day
Friday 11 th February	Occasional Day
Monday 14 th February	Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 15 th February	Inservice Day

Meldrum School Newsletter

7th January 2022



Wednesday 16 th February	Inservice Day
Monday 4 th – Friday 15 th April	Easter Holidays
Thursday 2 nd June	May Day Holiday
Friday 3 rd June	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday
Monday 6 th June	Occasional Day
Monday 4 th July – Friday 19 th August	Summer Holidays

Bounce Back

Our next Bounce Back focus is Courage. Further information for parents is attached below.

Free From Fridays Reminder

The Primary 6 Eco Committee have introduced a 'Free From Friday' initiative. Every Friday, pupils are encouraged to bring a wrapper free snack to promote less litter and waste produced by our school. P6 pupils are collecting class totals and will convert these into percentages. The class with the highest percentage, will be announced at assembly and they will receive the 'Golden Globe' to display for the week. Examples of wrapper free snacks include – fruit, vegetables, snack taken in a reusable tub such as biscuits, popcorn, dried fruit etc.

Thank you and good luck! P6 Eco Committee

Parent Council – Meldrum Parents in Partnership

Our next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 26th January at 6pm. These meetings are held online via Microsoft Teams and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

Carol Harper

Head Teacher

Parent Information: Courage

Fear is a normal human response to situations that might harm us. Fear motivates us to check out whether or not the situation really is as dangerous as it seems and then, if it is, to take action to protect ourselves. Everyone feels scared at times. However we don't necessarily fear the same things as other people. Some people feel scared about riding on a roller coaster but others really enjoy it. But the same people who don't fear going on a roller coaster might feel very nervous when they have to give a speech. Courage means facing fear and not being overwhelmed by it. We need courage if we experience misfortune. We also need courage to face some of the 'everyday' challenges in our lives such as learning a new skill or sorting out friendship issues.

Key points to communicate to your child about being brave

Everyone feels scared sometimes.

Some people pretend they never feel scared but everyone does. Different things scare different people. One person might feel nervous about learning to dive but not about acting on stage. For someone else it might be the opposite.

We all need to use a lot of 'everyday courage' in our lives.

Everyday courage is shown when you try to do something that is ordinary that still makes you feel a bit nervous such as giving a talk to the class, trying out for a part in a play, sleeping over at a friend's house or going to camp.

Weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of trying to be a hero.

A hero is someone who puts himself/herself at risk to protect the safety and wellbeing of another. It is very rare for someone your age to be in a situation where heroism is required. If you are, think carefully before you act as you might not have enough skill to do it and you could get badly hurt or make things worse. Consider calling 000 or ask an adult to help. You can be a hero in smaller ways (e.g. by standing up for someone who is being mistreated at school).

There's a big difference between courage and being foolhardy.

Being foolhardy means being stupid and doing a risky and scary thing (e.g. jumping from a tree branch into a river) just to show off or because people are daring you to do it. If you do something really dangerous, the best you will get are bragging rights and the worst you might get is serious injury or death.

What can you do to help your child to be brave?

- Talk about when you have felt scared and what you did to overcome your fears and be brave. Give examples of times in your life of when you tackled your fears and 'had a go' at something that was difficult. Stress how pleased you felt afterwards.
- Discuss the gains that being brave can bring (e.g. self-respect, confidence, skills).
- Look for examples of courage, heroism and foolhardiness in the media and discuss them with your child to help them to understand the differences between courage, heroism and foolhardiness.
- Encourage your child to have the courage to do what they believe is 'the right thing' even if others don't agree with them.
- Remind your child about the things that took courage for them to do when they were little but now seem easy to them. Explain that things that take courage for them to do now will seem easier and less scary as they get older.
- Stress that throughout life there will always be new challenges that will require courage. Facing our fears is one of the ways we become stronger.

PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT FOR AUGUST 2022

Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 admission is Monday 10th January to Friday 14th January 2022.

All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2023 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2022.

Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2022 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:

- 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 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 2022/2023

From August 2021, all children became 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 2022 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in August 2022; children who are three before 31st December 2022 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in January 2023; children who are three before 28th February 2023 are eligible for a funded Early Learning and Childcare place in April 2023. Funded places for session 2022/2023 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 **17th January 2022 – 28th January 2022**. 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 **2022/2023** session, applications should be:

submitted online between 17th January 2022 and 28th January 2022.

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 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 **17th January 2022**.

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 with dates of birth between:

1st March 2020 and 28th February 2021

Child Born Between	Start of Placement	When to Apply
1 January – 28th/29th February	April	Start of February
1 March - 31 August	August	Start of June
1 September - 31 December	January	Start of November

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 £16,480
 - Both maximum CTC & WTC with income Less than £7,500
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
 - Universal credit and your household take-home pay is £625 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.