

Meldrum School Newsletter

2nd July 2020



Staffing Update

We have a number of staffing updates to share with you ahead of next session. Emma Cooper will be remaining with us here at Meldrum for the session ahead. Susan Selby also remains with us to continue her probationary period. We are delighted to welcome Rhona Shiell and Finola Robertson, probationer teachers, who will join us for the next year.

We will be saying goodbye Lorraine Howard at the end of this term. Lorraine has been working in our Enhanced Provision class this session and we would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication. Ailsa Mann will also be leaving us in September to begin a post graduate Educational Psychology course at Dundee University. Thank you to Ailsa for her hard work over the last school session and we wish her all the best in her studies.

Next Session

Our school role for next session has risen to 408 children in P1-P7 and 66 children in nursery. Due to our increasing role, we have been allocated an additional class for next session meaning we will have 16 classes from August.

P1H	Mrs Sylvia Harvie	Room 3
P1C	Mrs Emma Cooper	Room 2
P1/2B	Ms Clare Brady	Room 1
P2MP	Mrs Nicola Mackay/Mrs Laura Pirie	Room 4
P2L	Miss Rachel Lorimer	Room 5
P3YE	Mrs Maureen Young/Mrs Becca Elder	Room 6
P3S	Mrs Susan Selby	Room 8
P3/4S	Miss Rhona Shiell	Room 9
P4MA	Mrs Rebecca McEwan/Mrs Angela Aitken	Room 10
P4/5WS	Mrs Katie Witt/Miss Angie Stemp	Room 11
P5B	Miss Sally Buist	Room 12
P5CC	Mrs Jenny Calder/Mrs Karen Crooks	Room 14
P6R	Mrs Fin Robertson	Room 16
P6D	Mrs Kim Davidson	Room 17
P7C	Mrs Emma Cruickshank	Room 18
P7B	Mrs Maureen Barclay	Room 19
Enhanced Provision	Mrs Lesley McCranor/Mrs Katrina McCartney	Room 15

Details of your child's class and teacher will be emailed to you today. It is important to note that these emails will be sent individually to you so will not all arrive at the same time.

It has been agreed by Aberdeenshire Council that schools can implement 'soft start' arrangements for children returning to school. This is to support all children as they transition back to school after several months away. P2-P7 children will come in on either Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th August for a full day then all P2-7 children will resume full time from Friday

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14th August. Details of which Soft Start Group your child is in will be communicated to you today along with their new class information.

Monday 10 th August	Tuesday 11 th August	Wednesday 12 th August	Thursday 13 th August	Friday 14 th August
INSERVICE DAY	INSERVICE DAY	Group A children only	Group B children only	All P2-7 children resume

Arrangements for Nursery and P1 children on these days will be communicated separately.

At the moment, we are planning for a completely normal return to school in August. The Deputy First Minister intends to provide a further update on 30th July. Should there be any change to our plans following this announcement, these will be communicated towards the end of the school holidays or on the inservice days at the start of term. Our contingency plan remains the same (see newsletter issued last week).

Aberdeenshire Council have collated a list of Frequently Asked Questions around returning to school and they are available here <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25386/covid-faqs-schools.pdf>

Google Classroom

All Google Classrooms will be archived from the end of term and will not be available to access over the summer holidays. Don't forget to check out Google Classroom on Friday to see our Virtual End of Term Service!

Belongings and Lost Property

Due to current circumstances, unfortunately it is not possible for you to come to school to collect any belongings or lost property at the moment.

Seesaw

Next session, we will continue to use Seesaw as a tool for your child to share their learning with you. 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. New P1 parents and will receive necessary permissions etc at the start of next session. Please note, this session's Seesaw accounts will be archived/reset during the summer holidays, so please save any photos/videos you would like to keep as soon as possible.



Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Service Transition Support

Please find below some links you may find helpful to support your child during their transition back to school.

There is some specific information for nursery/P1 and P7/S1 transitions as well as more general suggestions:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/transition-support/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/transition/>

The Aberdeenshire ASN website also has lots of resources and ideas:

<https://asn-aberdeenshire.org/transition-resources-for-returning-to-school/>

Shine a Light on Lockdown

Thank you to those of you who have already submitted something to Shine a Light on Lockdown. Aberdeenshire Council have received lots of imaginative submissions documenting young people's time in Lockdown.

The site can be found by copying and pasting the following link into Chrome as your browser.

<https://sites.google.com/as.glow.scot/shinealighton-lockdown/home>

Submissions will continue to be accepted over the summer break and into the new school year. Aberdeenshire Council would welcome submissions describing recent events such as virtual sports days, messages of thanks and support for schools or individual teachers and particular transition events schools have been organising. They would also like to shift the focus now onto what everyone is looking forward to doing again in the new school year. If your children/young people or indeed your family would like to make a submission please complete the form attached to last week's newsletter and email it with your submission to pupilparticipation@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

A Message From Aberdeenshire Council Catering Department

Our Catering Teams are looking forward to welcoming everyone back and providing you with nutritious school lunches again.

The provision of primary school meals will start with a tailored menu for the first two weeks of term, allowing our team to plan for different scenarios as we move forward in an ever changing environment. School lunch is an important social aspect for our pupils and has been sorely missed during the 20 week absence.

A copy of the tailored menu is available via this web [link](#) or from your school directly. Queries for dietary requirements will be managed onsite by your school catering team.

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Due to current COVID 19 guidelines we require your support to restrict the handling of cash in schools to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. Please can we ask all parents to register prior to the start of term to make online payments. To register or make payment please follow this link <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/meals/online-payments/>

Finally

What a term it has been! I would like to say a huge thank you to all our children and families. The way you have embraced Remote Learning and the resilience you have shown over this time has been amazing. Thank you also to our fabulous team of staff at Meldrum School who adapted quickly to a new way of working and have worked tirelessly over the last few months to support our children.

And to our P7s, this has definitely not been P7 Finale any of us would have planned. We can't wait to welcome you all back in the Autumn for a celebration of your time at primary school. As you move on to the next chapter, I hope you take away many fond memories of your time at primary school. You will always be welcome back here at Meldrum School so pop in and say hello sometime.

Yours sincerely

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

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher