



August 2022

Dunnottar School

# Newsletter



Twitter  
@DunnottarSchool

## Welcome back!

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to hearing all about the children's summer adventures and my, what a summer it was! The staff all look very healthy, full of enthusiasm and ready to for the new session.

We also can't wait to welcome our new children in P1! I'm sure they will be supported very well by their P3 buddies who will do a great job showing them around Dunnottar School.



Are you one of the 919 people following us on Twitter?

Search @Dunnottar School to hear our news and see our photos.

## Lining Up

Through the self-evaluation process last term, we read the concerns of parents about children waiting at the front of school for the doors opening at 8.55am. We agreed with the concern for safety with the entrances being so close to the busy road outside. We were also aware that some parents felt there was not enough time for children to get into school for the school start time of 8.55am. However, we continued to experience many children arriving daily after 9am, making them late for school (see admin corner overleaf). This resulted either in a delayed start to the school day and lost learning time, or children missing the necessary input to the school day that makes them feel safe, included, and engaged.

Mrs Johnstone also felt that parents of P1 children would maybe feel more reassured if an adult collected and led their children into school. Parents were incredibly understanding to have allowed their children to enter school and find their way to class as term one progressed, but it is not an ideal or nurturing way to start the day for our little otters.

To support the above we are introducing a new routine altogether:

- All children will congregate in the playground prior to 8:55am. P1 parents may enter the playground tomorrow and Wednesday.
- At 8:55am the flag will be flown (the children recognise the flag is our symbol for the start of the day), and children will move into class lines where they will be joined by their teacher. Chalked markers will be drawn on the playground for tomorrow.
- Children will be led to their classes by their teacher.
- Children will be brought to the main playground at the end of school day and will leave from there. Children will NOT be accessing the school gates at the front of school.

## Shields

If your child received a shield at the end of session, and it is still at home, please return them to school so that they can be displayed.

On wet days, children arriving on school transport will be invited straight into school by Mrs Johnstone and guided to the hall where they will wait till 8.55am – the start of our school day. On wet mornings we ask that all other children are dropped off as close to 8.55am as possible to avoid waiting too long in the playground.

## PE Kits

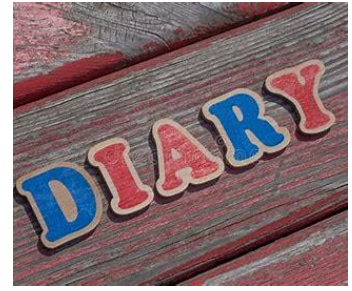
Today we also discussed our PE Routines:

Children **CAN** still come to school, on their PE days, in their PE kit. We do not have access to the facilities we expected to have yet and therefore we revert to the previous guidance.

Shorts, t-shirts (any colour) and gym shoes are required. If a PE kit is not provided on three consecutive occasions we will issue a reminder slip.

A water bottle should also be brought to school daily. We request children fill their bottles with water only.

**Please, please remember to name all equipment brought to school. Our lost property box quickly fills with equipment unclaimed by children. Our PSA team make every attempt to return lost property to the right owner. Parents are very welcome to come in at the end of school day to check for lost equipment.**



A separate 'Dates for Your Diary', for the entire school year, will be uploaded on to our website in the next two weeks.

## Admin Requests

Families arriving after 9am will now be asked to report to the office before going to classes. This is to allow the admin team to track late coming, in accordance with Promoting and Managing Pupil Attendance In Nursery, Primary and Special Schools Guidance, (Updated June 2022) Children **must** be accompanied with a parent who would then sign their child(ren) in to school.

## Assembly Timetable

Parents are invited to their children's class assemblies:

P1 - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May

P2 - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November

P3 - tbc

P3/4 - 31<sup>st</sup> March

P4/5 – 30<sup>th</sup> September

P5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February

P6 – 25<sup>th</sup> November

P7 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January (Burns Supper)

All assemblies will start at **2pm**.

## Home Link Books

Each pupil will be issued with a new home and school communications book this term.

Please sign these when HOLT (Helping Otters Learn Together) tasks have been completed. Set reading pages will be noted in these books.

The Life Skills sheets for each level are included at the front section of the HomeLink books.

Please sign and date as achieved. Also, we would love to see a photo of their new skills learned at home.

Please use this book to communicate with the class teacher, not SEESAW. Be aware that the books may not necessarily be checked every day therefore certain messages might still have to be communicated via the school email or a phone call to the office.

## Art Supplies

The nursery would welcome any donations of art supplies.

Following a clear out during the summer they are finding themselves very short in materials.

## PE Timetable

**Monday** – P2, P3, P3/4

**Tuesday** – P5, P1, P7

**Wednesday** – P4/5, P2, P6

**Thursday** – P1, P3, P7, P5

**Friday** – P6, P3/4, P4/5

## Parental Engagement

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Are you creative? Sporty/active?

Do you have a special talent or interest? Would you like to help support/run a club for our pupils over lunchtime or after school? We are always looking for volunteers to support our extra-curricular activities. Please call the office (01569 690505) if you can help in any way.

We will send out a list of clubs in the September Newsletter once we have confirmation from our partners as to what is running this term and session.

Knitting Club – we are living in worrying times with the current energy crisis. My thoughts often turn to the elderly community. I am hearing stories of them watching TV in bed to keep warm. I have wondered if a knitting club could be established to knit lap shawls which could be donated. Would there be any parents, grandparents or aunties/uncles willing to support this venture?

If so, please email the school office.

## Community Café Dates

P1 – 28<sup>th</sup> April

P2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> March

P3 - tbc

P3/4 – 27<sup>th</sup> January

P4/5 – 17<sup>th</sup> February

P5 – 30<sup>th</sup> September

P6 – 19<sup>th</sup> May

P7 – 22<sup>nd</sup> June (Thank you Café)

All cafes run from 9.30am.

### **Ask me about....**

**Our 'Classroom Charters' and our welcoming class doors. Both child-led ways of ensuring the children belong to their new environment and feel safe.**

**UNCRC - Article 42**

**You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights.**

### **Term 1**

In-service day - Monday 22 August 2022

Term starts - Tuesday 23 August 2022

Term ends - Friday 14 October 2022

### **Term 2**

Term starts - Monday 31 October 2022

In-service day – Thursday 17 Friday 18 November 2022

Term ends - Friday 23 December 2021

### **Term 3**

9 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

Term starts - Monday 9 January 2023

Occasional Days\* - Thursday 9 and Friday 10th February 2023

Mid-term holiday – Monday 13th February

In-service day - Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15th February

Term ends - Friday 31 March 2022

## **Term 4**

**17 April 2023 to 7 July 2023**

Term starts - Monday 17 April 2023

May Day holiday - Monday 1 May 2023

In-service day - Tuesday 3 May 2023

Occasional Day\* - Monday 5 June 2023

SPORTS DAY – 16<sup>th</sup> June: 1pm

End of Term Service: THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> July @ 9:30am

Term ends - Friday 7 July 2023

\*Occasional Days – each cluster of schools in Aberdeenshire Council is allocated three Occasional Days per session which are agreed at Cluster Head Teacher Meetings. School is closed on those days.

Kindest Regards

*Karen Johnstone*