



Hillside School and Nursery



Monday 1st June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you all continue to be safe and well during this period and as summer well and truly approaches, we hope that you have been able to enjoy the sunshine in some capacity over the past few days. Indeed, it is quite hard to believe that it is now June and, given that we have only 5 weeks left of this academic session, I am sure you all have questions about next year and the inevitable return to School.

We want to reassure you that we are working hard to consider the way forward. We expect children to begin returning to school from August in a staged manner, and although we hope to have more information sent to you as soon as possible, we do not have confirmed details to share at this moment. Currently, we are engaging in weekly meetings at school, cluster and authority levels, planning for social distancing (including the creation of smaller pupil groups/bubbles), cleaning procedures, staff availability and school/group timetables. All work being carried out by Hillside is and will continue to be informed by Scottish Government guidelines.

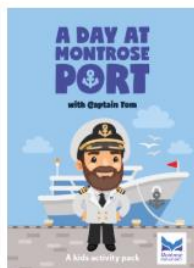
There are likely many questions too about specific classes for next session. Every year, class and teacher configurations are dependent on the number of classes and staff schools are allocated by the local authority. It is likely that new classes will need to be made across all stages as would typically be the case every year but please know that we are very aware of the importance of class to class transitions and are considering how best to support our pupils and families with this. Next session will look different, at least initially, depending on decisions made about the phased return to school, but we will be there to support as best we can and are making every effort to ensure our children feel, safe, happy and welcomed upon their return.

In the meantime, please continue to engage your child/children where possible in-home learning through Seesaw. Each fortnightly newsletter also highlights additional home learning resources you may find useful. This newsletter features links to recipes for home cooking/baking, internet safety resources and a fun filled 'Montrose Port' activity pack!

We thank you so much for your patience as we determine the next phase of schooling during this time. We wish all our families well and will be back in touch soon.

Kind regards,

Jordan Leslie
Acting Head Teacher



Aberdeenshire Educational Psychology Website

A reminder from the last newsletter of this very useful website in support young people through this challenging time:

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshi_reeps/

The EPS also run a dedicated phone line for parents/carers who would like to talk through any education or wellbeing concerns about a child or young person. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 3pm by calling 01779 403721. If parents would prefer a call back they can email eps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk with their name and number.

You Said, We Did

Parents/Carers of Pre School pupils suggested we use Seesaw to support transition. **All Pre School families now have access to their own Seesaw account, which is populated approximately three times per week with posts/activities**

Through our parental questionnaire, many parents/carers commented on the number of incomplete tasks sitting waiting in the child's activities list if you are not completing all tasks in a given week. There was a sense that this might have the potential to become overwhelming for some of our pupils. **We have since started archiving older activities, weekly. At the start of a new week, teachers are archiving uploads, leaving only the previous two weeks available. We hope this allows navigating activities to be more manageable. For families interested in going back to complete older posts, please now keep this timeline in mind. For example, today until next Monday, all posts from week beginning 18th May should still be live.**

10% of questionnaire responses received asked for more Seesaw support videos. **We have revised our school website which now includes a 'school closure' tab. Within this tab you will find what we consider to be the best Seesaw tutorials.**

27.1% of questionnaire responses received asked for more voice instructions for tasks. **All teachers have now explored using the voice/video feature.**



Between 25 and 45% of questionnaire responses received asked for more examples of what completed tasks look like, of links to videos and games, and for more practical tasks. **These were all discussed at recent staff meetings (at Early, First and Second Level) with senior leadership team members.**

Education Scotland – Parental Newsletter

Education Scotland are releasing regular parental newsletters at the moment which include ideas, hints and tips for parents and carers. These include home learning suggestions including activities children can do independently and task families can do together. You can find all issues published so far by following the link below.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/a-weekly-newsletter-for-parents-and-carers/>

Nursery – Primary 1 Transition

Just a reminder to all of our Pre School Nursery parents, that our Seesaw transition accounts are now live. If you login to Seesaw using the details we emailed you, you will now have access to weekly information, posts and activities. We look forward to seeing you there.

Hopefully all Parents/Carers received our Nursery-Primary transition PowerPoint with voiceover notes from Mrs Grieve and Mr Leslie. If you didn't please let us know. Alternatively, you can now view this on our website by following this link:
<http://hillside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/information/>

Primary 7

Last Monday, a TEAMS page was created by Portlethen Academy to support the P7-S1 transition. To access this our pupils must login to their GLOW account and select the TEAMS app from the launchpad. All Primary 7 parents with pupils going to Portlethen Academy should have now received a letter from the academy to explain plans for how the TEAMS group will be used.

Health Week

Mrs Bain (Acting Depute Head Teacher) is currently working closely with Mr MacGregor (PE) and Miss Morrison (Health and Wellbeing/RME) to plan a Hillside Health Week, planned for week beginning 22nd June. Given that we won't be able to have an on-site Sports Day this year, we have plans to offer a series of optional health/PE challenges during this week through class Seesaw accounts. We look forward to sharing our specific plans with you in the next newsletter.

Additional Home Learning Suggestions

Cooking Our Way Out of the Lockdown Blues!

Aberdeenshire Council's catering team have been hard at work creating recipes to share with families in the hope of encouraging children to get involved in planning and preparing meals at home. See below for a link to recipes for chicken curry and butterscotch cookies! Yummy 😊 Please do share pictures of your creations on our Twitter or through Seesaw if you try these.

[Hints, Tips & Recipes No. 2](#)

'Think U Know' at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> has a range of internet safety resources, worksheets and games for 4-5, 6-7 and 8-10 year olds, and useful information links for parents and carers. #OnlineSafetyAtHome

A day at Montrose Port activity pack and competition

https://www.montroseport.co.uk/images/news/Montrose_Port_Authority_Kids%20Activity_Pack_May2020.pdf

Taking inspiration from the Scottish Government's 2020 theme of Coasts and Water, we have come up with a number of fun nautical activities which cover subjects such as social studies, sciences, expressive arts, language and technologies. From identifying the flags of ships that come into the port, creating an acrostic poem, to conducting science experiments, each task is created specifically around the core educational framework of the curriculum for excellence.

The pack also includes a create your own bunting competition.

(Captain Tom Hutchinson, May 2020)