



27 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Email Communication from school**

It has been brought to our attention that some parents/carers have not been receiving emails sent from school. This appears to be mostly affecting those with a BT email account. If you have not received any emails since the beginning of term can you please check your junk folder and mark the emails as not being junk or spam. E-mail is our primary method of communication with families.

### **School Survey**

A school survey was sent in the first week of term. The above concern about missed email communication was brought to our attention as some parents raised concerns at not having received the link. Please check your junk mail for this link too as we will close the survey on Friday and feed back responses at our 'Parents conversations' in the last week of term.

### **Groupcall Xpressions**

Please can we remind all parents to download the Groupcall Xpressions app for mobile phone or tablet. This is free for you and school. At present only 52 parents have downloaded the app. We will only send reminders via the Xpressions app.

To start receiving messages via the app:

- Visit your phone or tablet's apps store and install the Groupcall Xpressions app
- Enter your email address and mobile number as requested
- A verification code will be sent to your mobile as a text
- Enter the code
- Click Next for more details

### **School Uniform**

It is lovely to see all our pupils in school uniform. School uniform consists of a white polo shirt/shirt, royal blue jumper or cardigan, dark skirt/trousers and dark shoes. As we approach the colder months please ensure your child has a warm waterproof coat, hat, scarf and gloves as we do make the most of our school grounds with outdoor learning.

### **Adverse Weather**

Aberdeenshire Council operate a telephone information service which is used if there is a risk of adverse weather. The access number is **0870 054 4999**, Enter Newtonhill's pin number **02 2360**, press **1** to hear Newtonhill's message. The Aberdeenshire Council website also contains up to date information on school closures.

### **Class Assemblies**

Please note the date of your child's class assembly in the dates for your diary appendix. Please be aware that there is always the possibility that these may change due to unforeseen circumstances in school or changes in the school calendar. We will where possible give as much notice as possible if a class has to

change their date. Parents will be invited to attend their child's class assembly but we do ask that parents arrive no more than 5 minutes before the assembly is due to start.

### **Health and Safety**

A number of issues have been raised with the school in the first few weeks of term. We have had issues around stranger danger to which we followed up with a school assembly. Road safety is often brought to our attention and we regularly speak to all pupils on road safety and we have a Junior Road Safety group within the school. We would also ask all parents and carers to be extra careful in and around the school. Parking is still an issue for us and we receive regular calls from neighbours reporting their frustrations at inconsiderate parking. In addition to this the sheer volume of traffic makes it more dangerous for our pupils walking to and from school.

We ask and encourage all our pupils to wear helmets for cycling and scootering and would kindly ask that you support us in this. We would also suggest that bicycles and scooters are locked during school hours. Recently we have been made aware of young people placing themselves in potentially dangerous situations at the cliffs, the beach and in fields surrounding our village. We will always address these situations in school to support and educate our young people on the potential dangers and appreciate your support in delivering the same message.

We have been made aware that some parents and carers are bringing dogs into the school playground. We kindly request that if you need to bring your dog when dropping off or collecting your child that you stay out with the playground area.

### **Parent Conversations**

As we come close to the end of term 1 we would like to invite you to have a brief conversation about how your child has settled in to the new school session. Attached is an additional letter detailing the dates and times and a response slip. Please return this to school by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October**.

### **Class Events**

This academic session we are hoping to try something slightly different to our previous fundraising events. We are hoping each class or year group will take responsibility for an event whether that be to support fundraising in school, a local charity or a national event. We have not finalised a timetable for this yet but our first event will be on the last day of term. Primary 6 and Miss Bainbridge are organising a 'School House' day. Details will follow and monies raised will be donated to the Newtonhill Play Park Improvement Project.

### **Holidays in Term Time**

We have numerous notifications and requests for families to take their children out of school during term time. Whilst we would discourage this and emphasise the importance of term time attendance we cannot refuse this request. However due to the high number of requests we are unable to reply directly to each letter. We will not be able to issue work for children to complete whilst they are away as it is the teaching and learning they are missing rather than the learning activity. All term time holidays will be noted as unauthorised in line with Aberdeenshire Council policy.

### **Parental Involvement**

We are really keen to share what happens in school and the learning that takes place. We know that our open evenings have been well received and we will continue with this. Our curriculum evening last session was also well received and we would like to share more of what we do with parents. At our 'parent conversations' please can you take a moment to let us know what type of event would be most suitable for you to attend so that we may organise this.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs Lesley Tullock**  
Head Teacher

## **Newtonhill School**

**Dates for your diary** – additions and updates will be added and emailed to you as and when necessary.

### **OCTOBER**

10 – Nasal Flu Programme  
11 – Parent conversation evening  
12 – Parent conversation evening  
13 – School Fundraising Event – House Day  
13 – Last day of term  
30 – First day of term 2

### **NOVEMBER**

1 – F.O.N. School Halloween Disco  
13 – In-service day  
14 – In-service day

### **DECEMBER**

2 – Christmas Fair  
5 – P6/7 assembly  
Week of 11-15 Christmas events (dates and details TBC)  
22 – Last day of term

### **JANUARY**

8 – First day of term 3  
30 – P6 assembly

### **FEBRUARY**

6 – P3MR assembly  
6 – School Disco  
8 – Holiday  
9 & 12 – Holiday  
13 & 14 – In-service day  
20 – P5 assembly  
27 – P2M assembly

### **MARCH**

6 – P7 assembly  
27 – P3/4 assembly  
29 - Last day of term

### **APRIL**

16 – First day of term 4

### **MAY**

7 – Holiday  
12 – Spring Fair  
8 – P2S assembly  
15 – P4/5 assembly  
29 – P4 assembly

### **JUNE**

5 – P1 assembly  
7 – School disco  
25 - Leaver's assembly

### **JULY**

6 – Last day of term