

Gordon Primary School

August Newsletter 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to welcome all our children back to school for the new term. We would also like to welcome our new entrants and any new arrivals to our school and nursery communities. It is lovely to see so many happy smiling faces and so many children looking lovely in their uniforms. We look forward to an industrious term.

Covid Pandemic

As we are aware, this continues to put a strain on everything but we are hopeful that we can continue in the actual school for a full year. To do so we must continue to be mindful of Aberdeenshire **Health and Safety** requirements around covid. These would be :

- For parents and carers to continue wearing masks when in the playground and teachers to wear masks in the classrooms and school
- Vigilant hand hygiene for children and adults in school and at home. (Children should always wash hands before leaving home and on return to the home as well as hand sanitising/hand washing in school.
- Continued touch cleaning at lunchtimes by cleaners
- Soft toys are still not permitted in school
- Windows will continue to be open to increase ventilation: please ensure the children are wearing layers of clothes
- Close covid contacts will be deemed immediate family only unless children have had a sleepover: therefore, sleepovers are not advised.

Important Parental Surveys – please complete

Survey 1

Staggered starts and finishes will continue for the foreseeable future. It may be that we can change at the beginning of Term 2 but we do not know this yet.

Because things have been so different over the past 18 months, I would invite parents to complete a School Day survey to indicate preferred start and finish times and length of lunchtimes. Please complete the form by clicking on the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCy8xnY0IjpiNjl6cA4X13sVUQ0IRV0tLMkpNTDRXT1IQTERFNk9NN0dFVC4u

Survey 2

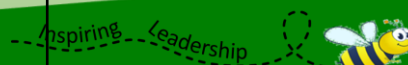
The pandemic has hit many parents hard with some parents struggling to find work. As a result of this and sometimes other factors, families can end up in a cycle of Food Poverty with parents finding it difficult to have enough food all of the time to feed the family. In Aberdeenshire there are various helpful support funds/groups listed below.

Scottish Welfare Fund via Aberdeenshire website/Scottish Welfare Fund or phone 01467537400

Gordon Rural Action
Huntly Foodbank Centre (at the back of Bargain Box)

Web: Aberdeenshire North Foodbank |
Helping Local People in Crisis

Facebook: Huntly Foodbank Centre



I have also included a confidential survey all parents can complete. This survey can remain anonymous unless you wish to give your name.

The survey will be used by the school to gain general information about poverty in the community but I will include a question which allows you to identify your family should you wish more direct support from the school in relation to poverty related difficulties. The Health and Wellbeing of our children and families is very important to us and we are happy to try and support in any way we can.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKCy8xnY0ljpINjl6cA4X13sVUNkQzOEVZT01VU1VKNEdQRjhRVkpVMzQ3Ti4u

Outdoor Learning

Classes will continue with Outdoor Learning this session. On Outdoor Learning Days could children come suitable clothed with waterproofs and wellies. They will get dirty! Teachers will inform you of class Outdoor Learning times through their class newsletters. If you have difficulty obtaining outdoor clothing please let the school know to allow us to supply your child with something suitable to wear

PE Kit

On PE days, children should come dressed in PE kit. This alleviates any need for changing clothes or having additional clothes from home hanging around.

Clothes

Please ensure all clothes are labelled.

Breakfast Club

This has now reopened. It runs from 8.30am in the Assembly Hall. Children should be dropped off at the back office door so they do not come through the carpark. If your child is unsure what to do, office staff will assist. Apologies but parents cannot enter the school premises at this time. The Breakfast Club is **not supervised** but we do pop in to ensure the children are happy. Children **should not** leave the Breakfast Club area until the bell rings for line up. Please ensure you have discussed this with your child before they start attending Breakfast Club.

Children cannot attend Breakfast Club if they are not having breakfast.

Breakfast Club Menu	Prices
Toast	10p
Cereal (Weetabix, Rice Krispies, Porridge)	20p
Glass of milk	20p
Bottled Water	25p
Fresh fruit (40g portions)	25p
Box Raisins	15p
Veggie Sticks	20p
Bread Sticks	10p each
Yoghurt (125g max)	20p

(Most items will be available most days but cannot be guaranteed everyday).



Tuck Shop

Due to the full return to school, tuck shop continues to be available at break times for children.

Cycling to School

Many children are cycling or using scooters to come to school. Please bear in mind that they should always wear helmets and younger children should be supervised by an adult. It is very easy for children to race on ahead and they can be difficult for drivers to see. There are very many cars around at school drop off and pick up times: we ask that parents are extra vigilant over the safety of their children.

Fence

You will have spotted that we have a lovely new fence. Please ensure you close gates behind you to keep all children safe in the playground. If you see someone else has left a gate open please be vigilant and close it. We have many people passing through our playgrounds so vigilance is required at all times. Thank you for your support with this.

Cyclists are expected to dismount at the school gates and walk cycle to cycle racks.

Cars

Please ensure your engine is switched off to ensure engine emissions do not affect our children's health. Thank you again for your support in this matter.

Road Closures

Seton Terrace will be closed from 31st August for 6 weeks to allow a gas pipe to be laid. Please consider which route you are going to take whether walking or driving. School buses will still access The Gordon Schools bus park so congestion is highly likely.

A higher level of congestion will lead to a higher level of danger for your children. Please consider parking further away and walking to the school playground with your children. Please consider whether your children should be walking to school unaccompanied during this period.

Dates for your diary

30th August - Breakfast Club starts

3rd September - School book Sale

15th October - End of Term

Please remember information will continue to be given out in a variety of ways including Facebook and Twitter as well as our usual methods.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/635335880400143/>

https://twitter.com/primary_gordon

