



**We will change the world –
Vision, Value and Aims of Cultercullen School**

This is how we will change the world around us

We will sit with those alone

We offer help to be a friend to those who stand alone

We think about and encourage others and lend a helping hand

Who we are at school is who we are outside

We share and look for the good in everyone

But sometimes we can improve

We learn to be all that we can be

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NEWSLETTER – TERM 1 2021/2022

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHERS

As we approach the end of Term 1, we would like to thank all our families and staff for their hard work, patience and co-operation since the return to school in August. We will continue to bring any updates to you as quickly as we can and ask that we all continue to follow the government guidelines.

ANNUAL DATA CHECK

Thank you to everyone that completed the recent annual data check either online or returning the paper copies. This information is extremely important and must be always up to date. If any of your child's information or contact details change throughout the year, please ensure you inform the school office. For those that signed up to Parentsportal you can log in and update the details when it is necessary.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DIARY DATES

We have attached a calendar of events for the year. Please bear in mind that these are provisional dates and may be subject to change.

PE

It is helpful if children come to school in their PE kits on PE days. PE days are as follow:

P1-2 – Monday and Thursday

P3-4 – Wednesday and Thursday

P5-7 – Wednesday and Friday

PARENTS EVENING APPOINTMENTS

This year the class teacher will call you between Monday 4th and Friday 15th October for a 10 minute conversation. If there is a date and time that suits you best please let us know.

PUPIL ABSENCE

We are required to keep attendance information for all pupils. If your child is going to be absent or have a change of schedule (e.g. going home with a friend) please notify the school office by telephone or email at the earliest opportunity. If leaving a voicemail, please ensure you clearly state your child's name and reason for being absent. It is an Aberdeenshire Council policy that we are only able to accept these changes/notification from the registered parent/carer. If your child has an appointment and is going to need a school lunch, please ensure you let us know before hand as our lunch order needs to be in by 9:30am each morning to ensure that your child gets a school lunch. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

COVID GUIDELINES

Thank you to all parents/carers for maintaining 2m distance and wearing face coverings at the school gates. We are required to remind you that if your child displays any of the main symptoms or the extended symptoms of Covid-19, they should not attend school until they have received a negative PCR test result. Please let us know of any Covid-19 related absences as soon as possible, as we have procedures to put in place quickly.

We would like to remind parents that we finish between 3.05 and 3:15 to try to provide a staggered pick up.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu nasal immunisations are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9th November. The school nursing team will be wearing full PPE. If you have not returned the permission forms your child will not receive the nasal flu immunisation.



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CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, the office hours are set out below. Please try and call us during these times or after 3.15pm unless it is an emergency, as out with these hours staff may have to interrupt their teaching to answer the phone.

Emailing cultercullen.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk is another way to contact the school. Whilst we endeavour to respond to any emails as soon as possible this is not always possible. As our office is not always open sometimes it may take a bit longer for any emails to be looked at. If you have emailed the school, please do not assume your message has been seen straight away. We will send a response to advise you that your email has been received. If your message is of an urgent nature, then we would ask you to call the school.

Office hours:

Monday	9.15am – 3pm
Tuesday	9.15am – 3pm
Wednesday	9.15am – 12.15pm
Thursday	9.15am – 3pm
Friday	9.15am – 12.15pm

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

We would be very interested to hear what the children are doing outside school as we would like to celebrate those successes with them. We can take a photo and add it to our achievement wall. We look forward to hearing about all those achievements and to celebrating them in school every Friday.

EVENING EXPRESS - POUNDS FOR PRIMARIES

We have registered for this! Collect the special tokens that will appear in the Evening Express between 25th September and 1st November and we have a chance of earning money for our school. Every school that collects a minimum of 250 tokens will get at least £100 each. Please send any tokens into the school office. Thank you!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic book fair will be in school from Tuesday 5th October until 12th October. All classes will be given the opportunity to have a look at the selection of books on offer. Unfortunately, we won't be able to have our open evening this year and provide parents with the opportunity to view the book fair. Instead, children can complete a wish list to bring home and discuss. If you wish to buy from the book fair, we are kindly asking parents to pay online this year. We will be sending out the book fair leaflet and some further information on this shortly. There will be a QR code provided that will allow you to make your payment easily.

The school will benefit from 50% commission of any book sales if we reach a target of £400 which will be used to purchase books for the school.

Children's Eye Health & Sight - FREE EYE EXAMINATIONS

All children in Scotland are entitled to an annual free eye examination by a qualified Optometrist (Optician). These examinations are really important for checking the health of your children's eyes and for making sure that children get any help they may need to make the most of their vision. Sometimes children do not notice that one eye cannot see as well as the other and an eye examination can check to see if your child has any squints or 'lazy eyes' or if they need glasses. Vision can change over time so it is important to have checks regularly to see if there has been any change. The Optician will give a prescription for glasses for your child if they need it. There is no obligation to buy glasses from the same Optician. Your child is entitled to an NHS optical voucher to help cover the cost of glasses. If the glasses you choose costs more than the voucher, you will have to pay the difference. The Optician will explain this in more detail. We would encourage all parents to take their children to any high street Optician.



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WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT P1

Our P1's have settled in extremely well and we decided to ask them how they were finding P1. We thought we would share with you several of their comments.

"I like learning, making new friends. I like to play with the dinosaurs." *Rhowen*

"I like playing with the toys and animals. I like to use the numicon." *Lamara*

"I like playing dominoes and taking turns. I like playing in the house corner and I like doing patterns." *Callum*

"I like the house and the playdough." *Magnus*

"I like to do the sounds, and I like the house corner as there is a new thing in it. I like dominoes, I like the rainbow." *Paige*

"I like the playdough and the house corner, making patterns and playing with the number fan game. I like playing with water." *Florence*

"I like playing in the house corner and making patterns. I like dominoes." *Lachlan*

"I like building a square using 10's, I like making necklaces. ...I like the P1 class." *George*

Mrs Dow will also be calling all P1 parents over the next few weeks just to check in and see how you feel your child is settling into school.

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ADVERSE WEATHER

As we will be into November when we return from the October break, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the adverse weather guidance issued by Aberdeenshire council.

The full guidance document can be viewed here:

[schools-adverse-weather-conditions-guidance-for-parents-and-carers.pdf \(aberdeenshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools-adverse-weather-conditions-guidance-for-parents-and-carers.pdf)

In the event of adverse weather the Headteacher will make the decision whether to close the school based on the information at the time.

If the decision is made to close the school, learning will be found on Glow for P1-4 or on seesaw for P5-7. Please ensure your children have access from home.

The pin number for Cultercullen school, required if accessing the Information Line (0370 054 4999) mentioned in the guidance, is 02-1560.

Storm Address

Please make sure you have storm accommodation in place if you live outside the village. Please let us know either by emailing the school office or you can update this information on the Parentsportal.

FINAL MESSAGE

We would like to take this opportunity to again thank all parents and carers for their continued support.

We wish you all a pleasant October break.

**Alison Gagne & Laura MacArthur
Head Teachers**