

Newsletter – Term 3 2023/24

### Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year to all!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and say a quick hello. I am very excited to have started at Cultercullen and am quickly getting to know your children.

I know that change can cause uncertainty and worry, but I would like to reassure you that, with the help of the incredibly supportive staff team, I am working hard behind the scenes to get to grips with all things Cultercullen. After just the first week, I already know that it is a positive, welcoming community and the children have a fantastic attitude towards their school and their learning. I appreciate the community spirit of the school and am delighted to be part of it, even if just for a short time.

I look forward to getting to know you all and working together to continue to support your children. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Jenny Chalmers

### Upcoming Events/Diary Dates

An updated calendar is attached of our all our school activities and events. Any future calendar amendments/additions will be highlighted in red.

This term we have our Curricular Evening on the 6<sup>th</sup> February and Parents Evenings on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March.

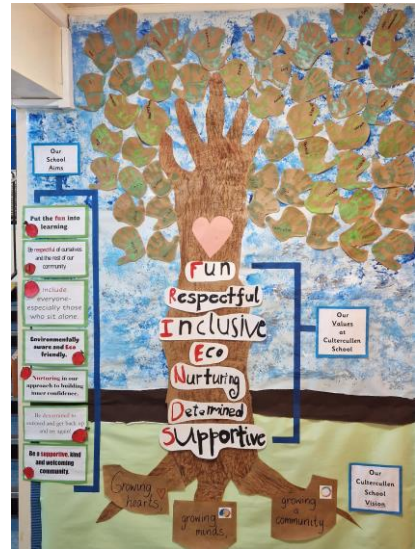
Our Curricular Evening encourages parents and pupils to work together, for parents to learn about an aspect of the curriculum and experience some of the learning opportunities our children have in school. The theme for this year is 'Trashion Show.'

Please see the attached letter which has all the details and a form to complete to let us know if you will be attending. We very much look forward to welcoming you on the night.

Parents Evening slots will be available through Parentsportal again this year. An email will be sent nearer the time asking you to select your appointment slot.

In addition school will be closed between 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February inclusive for occasional day holiday, mid-term holiday and in-service days.

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### Violin & Brass

Miss Davidson will continue to visit on Mondays this term for those children that receive violin tuition.

Mr Oddo will visit on Friday Afternoons for those who have recently enrolled for Brass Tuition.

### PE/Outdoor Learning

PE and outdoor learning days remain unchanged and are as follows:

P1/2

PE – Monday and Friday

Outdoor Learning – Welly Wednesday

P3/4

PE – Wednesday and Thursday

Outdoor Learning – Muddy Monday

P5-7

PE – Tuesday and Thursday

Outdoor Learning – Fresh Air Friday

Children should continue to come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days. For health and safety, it is important that every child wears appropriate clothing for physical exercise, including suitable trainers, long hair tied back and earrings taken out or covered. For outdoor learning the children should come to school in weather appropriate clothing and shoes.

### New topics

Following staff development work on Interdisciplinary Learning last term, our classes will be taking on some whole school projects which focus on the development and progression of knowledge and skills across a variety of contexts. The children have started a 2 week topic on Scotland and have been learning some Scottish language, Scottish poetry, Scottish dancing and about some Scottish history. We will be finishing this topic off with an assembly about Robert Burns and a mini ceilidh to give the children a chance to showcase some of their Scottish dance learning to the other classes.

After the 2 week topic, they will be moving on to looking at 'Our Natural World' which will have a science focus.

### Learning Journals

We will continue to share your child's learning through learning journals. Our children and class teachers love to see your comments and feedback and we would encourage you all to continue with this during the year.

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### Behaviour and Positive Relationships policy update

As part of our regular policy review, we are going to begin looking at updating our Behaviour and Positive Relationships policy to ensure there is a shared understanding amongst pupils, staff and parents about how we nurture positive relationships and what part we all have to play in ensuring this continues to be a strength of Cultercullen school. This will give us a chance to incorporate our updated vision, values and aims into the policy.

Staff will be working on this in collegiate meetings and it will be brought to pupils and parents for input in the near future. We look forward to developing this along with you all.

### Water bottles

Just a reminder that children should bring a water bottle to school daily. These should be clearly marked with their name.

### Contacting the School

Just a reminder that the school office hours are:

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

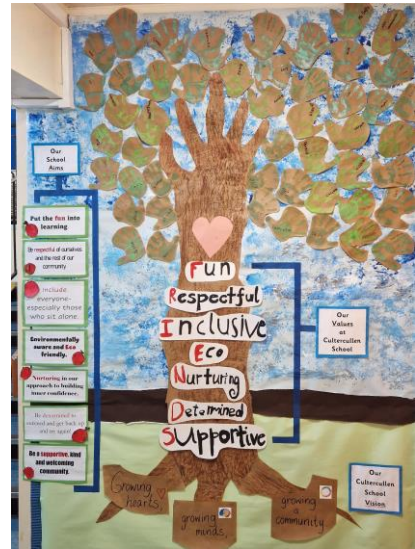
If you need assistance from the office, please try to do so during these times as much as possible. We cannot guarantee we will be able to respond out with these times as our staff will be in class but would encourage you to call the school if it is something urgent. Please can we remind parents the importance of security within school. All parents visiting must come to the main entrance, use the door entry buzzer and speak to a member of staff in the office before gaining entry to the school. Entry to school grounds should not be made via the Community Garden.

### Pupil Absence

Can we please remind parents that if your child is going to be absent from school or have a change of schedule (e.g. going home with a friend) please notify the school office by telephone (01651 267450) or email at the earliest opportunity. If leaving a voicemail, please ensure you clearly state your child's name and reason for being absent. If your child has an appointment first thing and is going to need a school lunch ordered, please ensure you let us know by 9:30am at the latest.

Can we also remind parents that if your child has been vomiting or has diarrhoea then they should stay off school for 48 hours after their last bout.

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### Ragbag

The ragbag bin is nearly full and will be emptied between the 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> January. If you have any donations and the bin is full, please feel free to drop these off at the school office.

### Rotary Quiz

Some of our P6 and P7's will be taking part in the Annual Rotary Primary Schools Quiz on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm at Meldrum Academy.

We wish them all the very best.

### Weather/Adverse Weather

We would ask that you ensure that the children have a jacket/suitable clothing with them daily for outdoor play.

Also Just a reminder that school closures, should we need to close due to adverse weather, will be advised on the following Aberdeenshire council web page –

### [School closures and transport changes - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

As always please ensure that we have up to date emergency contact information. Please either update using Parentsportal or by contacting the school office.

In the event of school closure, the class teachers will be issuing schoolwork on Learning Journals or sending be email.

### Medication in School

Please can we remind parents that if you require your child to have medication in school then we require the following:

- Clearly labelled medication in original packaging
- Measuring spoon/syringe
- The correct medication form completed in full

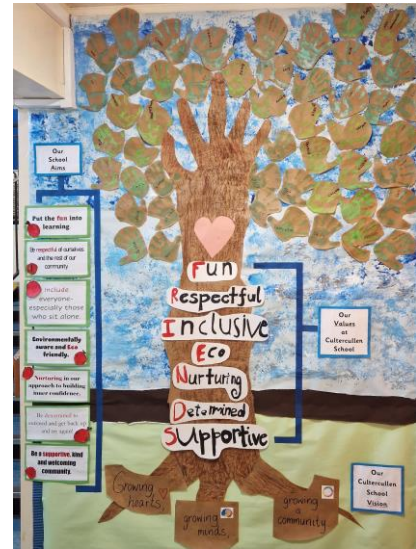
If sending the medication in with your child, please ensure you notify the school office before the start of the school day so that the medication can be retrieved from school bags first thing.

### School Library

The children will continue to be given the opportunity to visit the library regularly on Thursday afternoons, please ensure that the children bring their library book to school each Thursday.

Our school library sessions are run by parent volunteers which we are very grateful for. If you would like to help out and are available on a regular basis, please let us know.

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### [A message from FOC](#)

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising last term and to those involved in organising the Christmas coffee morning, it was a lovely event.

This year marks 150 years of Cultercullen Primary and we will be celebrating our wonderful school with an event on Saturday the 8th of June. Further details to follow but for now, save the date and let us know if you have any ideas you'd like to share on how we can make it a fun and memorable day.

Thank you to our brilliant library volunteers who are doing a great job of helping the children choose new books, reading stories and keeping the library organised. We really appreciate it.

The next meeting will be held on the Tuesday 30th January 6.45-8pm in the school hall, with the option of joining remotely. Everyone is welcome.

### [Final Message](#)

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

**Jenny Chalmers**  
Acting Head Teacher

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