

Tarves Primary School Newsletter



Friday 30th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

A word from Mrs Conn

I hope you all had a relaxing October break. The children have returned to school well-rested and excited to learn, which is a joy to see. We are in full swing already for the busy term ahead! The new playground markings have gone down a treat with the pupils and wider community alike. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA who have funded this project alongside a secured grant from Formartine Area Council. We are also in the process of turning the outside 'shelter shed' space under the school into a bright and colourful outdoor classroom, complete with a whole-school mural! Watch this space for further exciting progress updates.

As you are aware, we have had to make changes to the plan for the school year due to Covid restrictions. This includes the cancellation and adaptation of some of our main events as we move into the term surrounding Christmas and beyond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding, it is very much appreciated, as we all navigate this together as a school community. The main changes are outlined in this letter thus far, but may be subject to further change. We will do our very best to keep you as up-to-date as possible!

Primary 7 Rota Kids – Food Bank Donations

This year, we are asking, please, for **no gifts** to be handed in to school staff. Instead, should you wish, we are asking that an **optional** donation to the Food Bank be more appropriate. We will be taking collections for this in school. Primary 7 Rota Kids will be in touch with further information in the coming weeks.



Christmas Cards

Again, due to current circumstances, we ask that no Christmas cards be brought into school this year. Instead, we have suggested that every pupil designs and makes **one**, small, A5-sized 'Happy Christmas' message which will be displayed as a whole school in the front hall. These will be quarantined as appropriate. Class Teachers will give further instructions to the children nearer the time. As a staff, we will be making a donation to a local children's charity.

Primary 1 Nativity and Whole-School Christmas Songs

The show must go on! Our Primary 1 superstars will continue with a virtual version of the Nativity story which will be posted on Google Classroom for Tarves pupils and parents to watch.

We are also in the process of planning an outdoor, festive song medley (complete with props!) to ensure the magic and fun at this time of year is not lost. Again, this will be virtual and posted on Google Classroom for Parents/Carers to enjoy.

Unfortunately, as we are not allowed to do physical exercise inside nor play music for the children to sing and dance along to, we will not be able to hold the 'traditional' Christmas Party this year. Scottish Country Dancing will still take place but will be held outside, weather permitting. Make sure you wrap up warm!

Our children *will* still take part in a range of Christmas crafts and activities, and enjoy a DVD afternoon complete with snacks and treats! Father Christmas will also still be visiting our pupils (albeit, socially distanced) to drop off their class gifts.



Children In Need

Primary 6 are leading the CIN fundraising this year which will be throughout the **week commencing 9th November**. Instead of bringing money into school, we will explore the use of a 'Just Giving' page, should you wish to make a donation. Primary 6 will be in touch with further details soon.

In-Service Day

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils on **Friday 20th November** due to staff training.

Photographs

Tempest Photography will be joining us to take **individual and sibling photographs only** on **Thursday 19th November 2020**. Please can we ask that all pupils wear appropriate school uniform for the pictures on this day. Let us know if you need any uniform as we have plenty available.

Nasal Flu Spray

Thursday 10th December is the date scheduled for the Nasal Flu vaccine to be administered at Tarves via our School Nurse, Leo Walker. Any queries should be discussed directly with Leo who can be contacted on leonora.walker@nhs.net. Attached is an information leaflet regarding the Nasal Flu vaccine for your information. There is also a new School Nurse Facebook page called *Aberdeenshire School Nurses* and Leo will post school health related information for you to access on here.

Please make us aware if any of your children have already had the vaccine during the October holidays so we can remove them from this round of vaccines. If you have not yet returned your consent form, please can we have this ASAP. If we do not receive your form, your child will not have the vaccine.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or comments via the email address tarves.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Handwritten signature of Mrs Lara K Conn.

Mrs Lara K Conn

Attached: Nasal Flu Information Leaflet 2020