

Tarves Primary School Newsletter



Friday 24th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A word from Mrs Conn

We have had a very busy start to the term with Forest School sessions well underway for all classes. After school clubs have started with support from our parent volunteers in liaison with Active Schools (more information on clubs at Tarves and within the Meldrum Cluster, and how to sign up, is below in this letter). A big thank you to everyone who is giving up their time to support us with these sessions and clubs, it is very much appreciated; we couldn't do it without your help.

There is some congestion at the front of the school, mainly at home collection time, but also in the morning. We have staff on the playground to ensure the children are supervised first thing; there is no reason for parents/carers to stay, under the current circumstances. This will change once the restrictions for schools are lifted, hopefully in the next few weeks. There are also some adults standing directly at the entrance/exit gate to the front of the school which means that parents/carers, children and members of the local community have had to step on to the road to get past. Please can we ask that you are mindful of those around you at this busy time and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

We know things are not quite back to the sense of 'normal' we once had, however, we will continue to, working within our restrictions, involve parents/carers as much as practically possible in any school activities and events. We will be having a Parent/Carer Consultation session in November and more details will follow. As a school, we are prioritising reading and comprehension activities for home, as these are the vehicle to accessing the whole curriculum. Your son/daughter will be bringing a book home with them, should they not have one already, please read as much as possible. Primary 1 will be accessing Phonics on Google Classroom, as arranged with Mrs Anderson and Mrs Joyce. We will be reviewing homework, as appropriate, and further information will be communicated in due course. As you can appreciate, we are working hard to address the challenges to ensure the children are 'back on track' after a significant period of time away from school.

Many thanks for your support and understanding.



Warn and Inform Letters

You may or may not have received a 'Warn and Inform' letter, either from us or if you have older children at the academy, if there has been a confirmed, positive case of Covid-19 in your child's class. These are standardised letters sent to inform you of what to do or expect in the event your son/daughter develops classic Covid-19 symptoms or extended symptoms.

Please do not panic or worry! Receiving this letter does not mean your child has Covid-19 or that you will be contacted by Test and Protect. All we would ask is that you follow the guidance on the letter and please call us if you have any queries. We will do our best to point you in the right direction or advise. A reminder that the Scottish legislation differs to that of England, so do be mindful of this if you are searching for information online.

The latest advice for Scotland can be accessed here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

Hardship Fund and Clothing Donations

A huge thank you to Mrs McLean and Primary 7 for their help with organising the generous clothing donations of uniform and non-uniform to the school. These are available for any parents/carers to access from Nursery to Primary 7. Please contact Mrs Dobby in the office, via tarves.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, to arrange a suitable, short time to collect.

The Hardship Fund, ringfenced by our PTA, is also available. I have attached the policy to this letter with information on how to apply.



Tempest Photography

A reminder that Tempest photography will be taking **individual and family photographs only** on Thursday 30th September. Big smiles!

Spooky Fun

As it is still not advised to gather for a disco, we are proposing the following for a spooky event, should you wish your son/daughter to participate:

Tarves PTA Pumpkin Carving Competition



Grab a neep or a pumpkin, your imagination and get carving / decorating for the chance to win a spooky prize! Dress up is also encouraged, should you wish.

Please take a photograph and upload to your own Google Classroom
by Sunday 31st October 2021.

Entries will be judged on Monday 1st November 2021.

Health and Wellbeing

In addition to the existing health and wellbeing programme we teach at Tarves, we are now including age-appropriate activities from the Blurt Foundation.

The topics we will be covering are:

- Mental Health, Emotions and Feelings
- Self-Care and Boundaries
- Kindness
- Identity
- Resilience and Problem Solving
- Transitions

These mental health activities encourage children to recognise and talk about how they are feeling, teaching them skills to cope with life's ups and downs.

If you have any queries about the content of the Blurt Programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch. More information can be found on their website: [The Blurt Peer Project \(blurtitout.org\)](http://The Blurt Peer Project (blurtitout.org))

Miss McLean and Mrs Keith (Health and Wellbeing Leads)



Pupil Groups and Primary 7 Responsibilities

We are pleased to say that we will be refreshing our Pupil Groups within school. These include Eco-Committee led by Miss Bruce, Pupil Council led by Mrs Pearce and Rights Respecting led by Miss Maturana. We also have Play Leaders, Football Club Leaders, Librarians and Helpers in Primary 7.

I am thrilled to announce that our Primary 7 House (HC) and Vice Captains (VC), voted for by the pupils of Tarves Primary School, for this academic year are:

Haddo	Craigdam	Ythsie	Tolquhon
Rowan (HC)	Sarah (HC)	Lucy (HC)	Isaac (HC)
Brodie and Emma (VC)	Lily (VC)	Max (VC)	Maisy (VC)

Well done to everyone who put themselves forward. You have made us all very proud! Good luck to our new House and Vice Captains who will lead their team this year.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Thank you very much to our parent volunteers in liaison with Active Schools. We have a Tennis Club, Basketball Club and Netball Club starting in the coming weeks. Please check the **Live Life Aberdeenshire** website for activities within the Meldrum Cluster, this can be accessed here: [Meldrum Network - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](http://Meldrum Network - Live, Life Aberdeenshire (lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk))

We are still looking for more volunteers for clubs, please. Any time you can spare, whenever you can, would be hugely appreciated!

Parent/Carer Sessions and Advice

Please find attached information regarding DifferAbled sessions as well as Family Learning opportunities from the Ellon Cluster. Please contact them directly to arrange.

Dates for your Diary

- October Holidays 16th to 31st October inclusive
- Inservice Days – pupils should not attend 18th and 19th November

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.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LC.', is centered on the page.

Lara Conn, Head Teacher

Attachments: *DifferAble Information, Family Learning Opportunities – Ellon, Raring to Go Magazine, JAM Club Leaflet*