

Glenbervie School Newsletter

Article 29

Autumn 2016

*You have the right to education which develops your personality,
respect for other's rights and the environment*



In this, my first newsletter of the new school year I am delighted to welcome you all to a new school session at Glenbervie School. A very special welcome to those of you who are joining Glenbervie for the first time. We very much look forward to working with you and your children in the coming years. Do make sure to look out for our Parent Partnership events for the many opportunities to take part in school life. We are always keen to have new helpers.

In addition to emailing a full-colour copy to all parents, and posting a copy on the school website, we will continue (if requested) to send home a photocopied copy. Please let us know if you require this paper copy, as we are trying to be an Eco friendly school having just submitted our application for our fourth green flag. You will notice that much of this newsletter is covering important procedures and provides a reminder of some of the items covered in the autumn newsletter of previous years.

Please retain this newsletter for future reference.

Welcome to Glenbervie

We are delighted to welcome our Primary 1 pupils to school. They have been looking very smart in their new uniforms and they have already settled in to school life very well. We look forward to meeting our P1 parents in the trial P1 lunch on Wednesday 24th August and then having a short chat with you about our P1 Curriculum. Our buddies from P7 have done an excellent job helping the P1



settle into school routines and the School House captains have been exceptional in this short time.

We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Gail Sangster as our Supply Core Teacher. Mrs Sangster will be teaching the children on a Wednesday. We also welcome Miss Lynsey Houston to our Primary 5/6. I thought it may be useful to confirm with you again the present staffing configuration:

P1/2/ - Mrs Gemma Cerretti(M, T) Mrs Lisa McConachie (W, Th, F)

P2/3/4- Mrs Fiona Ingram (M-F)

P5/6- Miss Lynsey Houston (M-F)

P6/7 - Mrs Erica Edwards (M, T) Mrs Trudi Brown (W, Th, F)

Ms Chris Gowie - SfL Teacher - Mon

Mrs Jenny Glennie- PE and Core cover (All classes) - Tues, Wed

Mrs Gail Sangster Core vacancy cover (all classes) - Wed

Strimming

As always after the summer, the Harvey Garden has become a bit of a wilderness. The long vegetation makes it difficult for us to undertake activities with pupils.



school@theharvey



In the past we have been very fortunate to have some parents volunteer some time to trim back the growth. If you are able to help us out in this way please contact the school office. The village plan to have a Tidy up day and BBQ in the garden on Saturday 24th September and I'm sure all volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Annual Calendar 2016-2017

I have attached a list of all planned events which we currently have in the school diary to this newsletter. Obviously these may be subject to change and other events may crop up during the session, but I hope this helps you plan your work and home schedules in advance. The children's class teacher will also send you a short newsletter to inform you of class information for the term.

Please use envelopes!

A reminder of our procedures regarding money that is being brought into school to pay for school dinners, trips etc. The school operates under strict guidelines from Aberdeenshire Council on the handling of money and we would



ask you to ensure that you follow these guidelines:

- Ensure all cheques or cash are in a sealed envelope
 - Clearly mark on the envelope the nature of the contents
 - Teachers are not allowed to open envelopes that may contain money, therefore notes for the teacher must be clearly marked.
- Please ensure that any cheques are completed - 'phone the school if you're unsure about the payee or amounts.

Catchlites School Photographers

Catchlites will be visiting the school on Friday 23rd September. Pupils will be photographed individually, with siblings if requested, and in class groups. More details will be included in a separate letter. It would be helpful if a member of the Parent Council (GSP) could attend on the morning to assist.



Active Schools

Pupils were very fortunate to take part in a variety of activities last session led by our co-ordinator Doreen Seery. As ever we would like to continue with our new co-ordinator Robert Kupris, but volunteers are required. We hope to get our football and netball teams up and running this session. We still require an adult volunteer to run our football team, so if you can help, please get in touch. Mrs Glennie will also try to continue our Badminton Sportshall Challenge. More details will follow.

Security Procedures

We continue to strive to ensure that our security procedures are robust. We value our 'open door' policy, and want to encourage parents to feel free to visit school to talk with us. However, please note the following:

- Any parent visiting the school should sign-in; even if only 'popping in' for a few minutes.



Visit our school website: <http://www.glenbervie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>
(An overview of the school and a source of school news and documents)

- Visitors will be asked to remain at the reception area and the member of staff they wish to see will meet them there and, if necessary, accompany them to a place to talk.
- Pupils are instructed not to open the security door to any adult - even one who is known to them.



School Start Time and Pupil Absence

It is essential that we know, a.s.a.p., if a pupil is going to be absent. Please note the following:

- School starts at **8:55am sharp**. It is essential that all pupils are present by that time as it is extremely disruptive to have pupils arriving late.



- Please contact the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent (there is an answer machine to leave a message). Please do not send email notification of an absence as this may not be received before 'safe arrival at school' procedures commence.

- If a pupil has not arrived at school by 9:05am it is likely that a text message or phone call will be made to a parent querying their absence.
- If a pupil is not at school by 9:15 we will follow our safe arrival at school procedures, which includes contacting parents, and if necessary emergency contacts, until we have an explanation for the pupil's absence.

Arrangements for Dropping Off and Collecting Pupils - Important



Please ensure when you are dropping-off and collecting pupils that you adhere to the following procedures:

- Pupils walking to school should enter by the gate next to the rabbits in the morning and exit by the main school gates at the end of the day.
- Parents **MUST** avoid blocking the school road by stopping their car to drop off pupils. This is extremely frustrating for other road users.

- Parents **MUST NOT** park in the bus bay area. This can cause significant problems for school transport.



The Eco Committee has asked the Parent Council (GSP) to lobby on their behalf for appropriate road and bus bay markings to be painted. This has been an ongoing issue for many, many years, but we are hopeful that it can, eventually, be resolved.

Tuckshop

Our school kitchen run a tuck shop at break time for our pupils. Here is our current price list.

Plain, Strawberry or chocolate milkshake	25p
Apple or orange juice	15p
Juicy water	25p
Fruit	20p
Bread Rolls	20p
Home bake	20p
Cheese and Biscuits	20p



Fundraising

Yet again, we have been able to purchase resources and provide fun, quality learning activities due to the generosity of parents, families and the local community. For this we have to thank our Glenbervie School Partnership and you our parent body for the magnificent fundraising efforts last session. It allows us to enhance the experiences and learning in the school and is greatly appreciated by us all. We look forward to another successful year and once again ask as many parents as possible to come forward and give up time to help with this very much appreciated aspect of work within our school community.

Parent Council (Glenbervie School Partnership)

We would like to encourage more parents to get involved in the Parent Council.

The group meets approximately once a term for a short meeting to discuss school issues and plan fundraising activities. If you are interested we would welcome your



attendance at our next meeting at the school. Information will follow. Our AGM will be held in November. If you would like more details please contact the school office or speak to Vivienne Innes, Chairperson.

School Transport

As many of you are aware our transport is now provided by two companies Nicolls and A & I. Parents are reminded that it is **essential** that the drivers of the school bus is kept informed of any changes to arrangements. Parents must ensure that the driver is aware when a pupil does not require transport in the morning or after school. Failure to communicate effectively with the transport company impacts on other families using the service.

School Rabbits

As ever, a big thankyou to our parents and pupils who assist Mrs Meston to look after our rabbits through out the holidays. We are in need of a new rabbit hutch and run, which we can move into the corner of our playground. If you can assist or help with this in any way please be in touch with Mrs Meston

PE Kit Procedures

Pupils take part in a variety of PE and active health activities every week. In order to ensure that your child is able to benefit fully from these they require a PE kit at school **EVERY** day. We are delighted to see the vast majority of pupils wearing the appropriate kit. On occasion pupils may be asked to bring an 'outdoor kit'. More guidance will be given if this is needed.



Home-School Diaries

Partnership with parents is central to the way we operate and I am sure that you appreciate the time taken to complete Home-School Diaries. We have opted for a new diary this year to reduce ink and paper costs in school. We will still be using them as a homework record and as reflective journal between parents, pupils and staff. **Please sign the Home-School Diary to acknowledge that you have seen it.**

Improved Reporting with Parents

As part of school improvement work this year we are piloting the new Improved Ways of Reporting to Parents. You will notice in our annual calendar that there has

been a change in many of the events we have with parents, with the focus being on more face to face contact, rather than one large written report. We will be holding a Meet the Teacher Session on Wednesday 14th September (6-8pm) and Mrs Glennie will have a short chat to parents about the changes at 7pm on this evening, which you would be very welcome to attend.

Communication for parents

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website – if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will

automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner

School Dinners

Just a short reminder that the cost for a dinner is £2.15 per day. Aberdeenshire Council have moved onto the *ipay* online system, but should you have any problems using this please contact the school office, who will be happy to help.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming year as part of the Glenbervie School Community. Please remember that I do have a class commitments, but around this I am happy to discuss anything and I am always at the end of a phone!

Best Wishes

Jenny Glennie

Acting Head Teacher

