



ELLON ACADEMY WEEKLY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS



To: All parents/carers
From: Pauline Buchan, Rector
Subject: Weekly Information Up-date
Date: Friday 8th January 2021



Happy New Year to all our Ellon families, albeit an exceptionally different new year experience for 2021. I hope that all our families have been able to make the best of the current situation and enjoy the festive period as much as has been possible. We all have such a lot to contend with and the current weather doesn't help, but it's maybe the one thing we can count on – ice in January!

Here are the updates for this week:

Icy Conditions at Ellon Academy Community Campus – Contingency Plan

Due to the dangerous and icy conditions around the campus this morning, we have decided that from Fri 8.1.21, the following will apply during lockdown and until we are fully open again:

- All pupils (Keyworker/vulnerable children) should enter at the pupil doors. Sanitising stations will be set up there.
- All buses/taxis and parents should drop off and pick-up pupils in the bus park. This will support the janitorial staff to concentrate on key areas of the campus for gritting and clearing.
- All staff should park in the first 2 sections of the car park at the staff entrance/Games Hall side only. This will help give priority for the janitorial staff in gritting paths and a smaller section of the car park.
- Our Supervisory Janitor has posted signs on the gates of the main entrance to direct drivers to the bus park.

Thank you in advance of your support and co-operation to ensure that the campus paths and car parks are safer for all during this time of inclement weather.

Virtual Assembly:

To keep things as near normal as possible, we will continue to post our weekly virtual assemblies on-line. This week's one was posted yesterday, and hopefully in the coming days, we will have more to share with pupils and families.

Next Parent Council Meeting

The next virtual Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February at 7pm.

Returning to Remote Learning from Home in January 2021

Provision for Key Workers and Vulnerable Children/Young People:

Although this week has been an extended holiday for pupils, we have had the pleasure of having some children/young people accessing provision in school. The children of keyworkers and those more vulnerable youngsters have been in school and taking part in activities set up by a team of dedicated staff. Pupils have the choice of hot/cold snacks, drinks and lunches at break and lunchtimes. It has been good to chat with the young folks and we are more than happy to support our parents/carers who need this essential service. The registration form for a place will be issued again next week for parents/carers who are Category 1 or 2 Key Workers just in case anyone missed this first time around.

Learning from Home:

Staff have been working remotely from home, planning and preparing for on-line remote learning for all our pupils starting from Monday 11th January. The Learning Schedule will be sent home to all parents/carers, along with a guide to remote learning and what that entails. We are also happy to support families with ICT to support learning from home, so please get in touch if you require a device for your child to access during lockdown.

Children of Key Workers and vulnerable children who are accessing the in-school provision will also begin on-line learning from Mon 11th January. Their experience will mirror their peers at home so that no pupils are at any learning advantage for equity reasons. The school day will follow the usual timings, apart from Mondays and Tuesdays when the lunch time will be from 12.10 – 1.00pm to match those times on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Therefore, on Mondays and Tuesdays, lunch will be after Period 4 and the afternoon session will start at 1.00pm – 3.30pm.

On-line Registration:

All pupils will receive an invite to their Registration Google Classroom and so that we can track and monitor pupils' wellbeing and engagement, we will be asking pupils to log on to their Register Class at 10am each school day morning to check in with their register teacher and register class to encourage and support them to engage in the learning for that day.

Google Guardian:

You will also have received a letter regarding Google Guardian, and we encourage all parents to sign up for this service which is linked to your child's Google Classroom account. Google Guardian will push out notifications of work due etc for your child/children, which we hope will be helpful for all parents/carers. The email to sign up will be sent separately.

SQA:

I had hoped that I would have some up-dates to share, but no further information at present. I will share future up-dates as soon as they are received.

January Assessment Block:

The senior phase assessment block has been cancelled for obvious reasons, and following SQA advice, we will make decisions as to what is best for our learners going forward. This was mentioned in my virtual assembly this week, so if you missed it, please follow this link: https://fb.watch/2T_1OsbbNN/

Website up-dates:

Please follow the link below to the latest up-dates on our Ellon Academy school website:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parent-zone/>

- Letter from the Director, Laurence Findlay
- Up-dated Ellon Academy Covid Risk Assessment (v008)
- Parent/Carer letter re Google Guardian
- Weekly Information for Parents/Carers 8.1.21
- Weekly Home Learning Schedule w/b Mon 11.1.21
- Parents/Carers Guide to Remote Home Learning

Thank you once more for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

P Buchan

Pauline Buchan, Rector 8.1.21