



Elrick School News

May 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half-way mark of Term 4, we wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on things that have been happening in school and plans for the remainder of this session.

It is hard to believe we have only 5 weeks left until we break for the Summer and come to the end of what has been another unusual school year! Although we appreciate that the children have not had the experiences and opportunities as before we do hope that they have some positive memories from 2020/2021! The staff have been incredibly proud of how they have coped under these circumstances and I think it is important that we acknowledge their positive attitude and their ability to make the most of the situation.

Kind Regards
Elrick School SLT



School Improvements

As you will all be aware, Elrick School is due a roof replacement. Work will be starting on Monday 31st of May with the temporary units.

This means that our P7 classes will be relocated to the Community Wing at Westhill Academy for the duration of the work, which is expected to be 3 weeks (31st May – 18th June). The children have all been very positive and are looking forward to the experience of visiting the Academy and the change of scenery. We are extremely grateful to Westhill Academy staff who have been very accommodating and supportive of our situation.

The building work will mean disruption to the school environment and access around the building. Please follow diversions carefully and remind children to do the same. We would advise you to use the outer paths to access the rear of the building as there will only be access to the P4L entrance through the car park.

The main building work will begin at the start of the summer holidays with a proposed completion date of October. This will mean continued disruption to school access when we return in August, but we are hopeful that most of the work will be done over Summer and there will be minimal disruption to classes. We will keep you updated on the progress of the work and any changes that may occur.

Parking

A reminder that the staff car park is for staff parking only and should not be used for collecting/drop off children unless exceptional circumstances which have been agreed in advance with the Head Teacher.

Our disabled parking spaces have been repainted and we ask that you are respectful of our Blue Badge holders and keep these spaces free for their use.

School Development

All teaching staff have been engaging in 'Emotion Coaching' led by our Educational Psychology Service. Please refer to <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeenshireeps/family-nurture-leaflets/> if you would like more information on how you can support your child by using this approach at home.

A number of staff have been engaging in 'Mathematics and Numeracy' Professional Learning. This has been supported by Education Scotland. The purpose of this training is to reflect on approaches used to ensure high quality teaching and learning in this curriculum area. In addition to this, we have a small group of staff who are working with the Northern Alliance, exploring how we can encourage 'Growth Mindset in Maths' and develop our children's curiosity and confidence to try new things, explore different ideas and extend their mathematical thinking.



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Staff have also continued to develop 'Making Thinking Visible'. This has been led by Miss Montgomery and the focus has been on embedding thinking routines across the school, encouraging children to explore the type of thinking required to solve problems and dig deeper within their learning.

Connecting Scotland Devices

We are now in Phase 3 of the Connecting Scotland Project and to date we have received 21 Chromebooks and 4 iPads to support some of our pupils in accessing learning through technology. I am delighted that our request for an additional 25 iPads has now been approved and identified children will be receiving these in due course.

Health Week

As you will be aware, this week is our Health focus week. We have various activities planned (if weather permits), including Metafit with Mrs Thomson, Dance with Miss Anderson, Tennis with Mrs McLelland and Mrs Reid, and Rugby (Adam Reid). In addition, each zone will have the opportunity to take part in 'Sports Day' races. We are disappointed that we can't invite spectators to school but hopefully next year we will be permitted to welcome you all with open arms!! If activities must be cancelled due to bad weather, we will do our best to reschedule later!

Reporting to Parents

Our annual school report for parents was issued on **Friday 14th May 2021**. This was a new reporting format, and we are keen to gather your views to inform our planning for next year. **Please click on the link to complete the evaluation on Google forms.**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC3udY4o1yftHqPUdLWSmIVFUQUdMQiFVTUNGR1hNWEpiWTVNVkQ2ME9SNS4u

There is also the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher starting this week. Appointments have been issued to those who requested one. If you missed this opportunity but would like an appointment, then please contact the school office in the first instance.

School Awards

We are excited to have registered for two school awards to work towards next session – **Leading Parental Partnership Award** and the **Wellbeing Award for Schools**.

The Parental Partnership Award was selected as we appreciate the importance of working together with our parents and local community in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for our pupils, families and wider school community. We hope that in engaging in this award we can strengthen existing relationships whilst developing new links and ways of working. If you would be interested in joining a working group to support us in this journey, then please email, Fiona.J.Thomson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to express your interest.

Health and Wellbeing is a priority for all, and we know that for all of us to reach our full potential and progress academically we need to feel safe, happy and healthy. Wellbeing **MUST** be the foundation that we build from. If you would be interested in joining a working group to support this development, then please email, Jenny.Anderson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk to express your interest.

Parental Feedback

We value our partnership with families and the community and we invite you to use the link below to comment on any aspect of school life at the moment or to share a compliment or complaint.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC3udY4o1yftHqPUdLWSmIVFUQUdMQiFVTUNGR1hNWEpiWTVNVkQ2ME9SNS4u

This is an anonymous survey to gather views and opinions, so if you would like a response to your feedback then please use the school phone number 01224 472910 or email us at elrick.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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