



9 December 2020

Dear Parent

I cannot believe that we are so close to the end of term and I hope you are well and looking forward to the festive period.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Burchell, who many of you will know as Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs (ASN), has been appointed to our permanent position of Depute Head Teacher. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her passion and commitment to the school continue for the benefit of the Milne's community.

Uniform

Please note that students are required to wear their uniform up until and including Thursday 17 December. We do not have 'come as you please days' due to the equity issue and that evidence shows incidents of indiscipline have been more prevalent on these days in the past. Rather, we have days whereby students can choose clothing more appropriate to the activities where the whole school timetable has been collapsed for the day, as will be the case on Friday 18 December. That means that pupils can wear non uniform and dress in a Christmas theme which covers Christmas jumpers and other festive items. Please note that pupils do not need to pay money on this day to wear seasonal items or non-uniform.

S1 Pupils leaving the school grounds

Please note that from Tuesday 5 January 2021, all pupils in S1-6 can leave the school grounds at lunchtime. The vast majority of our pupils visit the high street and are positive ambassadors for the school. A small minority drop litter and can be discourteous to local residents. Please reinforce our messages about social distancing and being a good citizen when out in the community and discuss the potential disadvantages of leaving the safety and regulated environment of the school campus.

Fundraising

From Monday – Wednesday next week, we will be asking for much needed donations to Moray Food Plus. Parents can send in an item of non-perishable food and their child can deposit this in the allocated box at the school office during break periods. Alternatively a donation can be offered as our Senior fundraising team will be collecting during Monday's Wellbeing and Attainment period and will also be available at the end of lunchtimes Monday – Wednesday (at the plasma screen) to collect loose change from lunch. Please give to this as generously as you can as this is a time of great need in our community.

Christmas concert

Please tune in to Keith Community Radio (KCR) on Tuesday 15 December from 7 pm as our annual concert will be broadcast instead of our performance in school. We all hope that you enjoy the music and a huge well done to all families as well as staff who have contributed to this event.

Senior Phase exams

You may be aware of announcements yesterday by the Scottish Government that there will be no final exams across the Senior Phase. Please be assured that we already have contingency plans for this eventuality and Mrs Valentine will be in touch once our arrangements to gather the evidence to demonstrate their attainment have been finalised and approved.

Please see notice from local authority briefing regarding free school meals:

Direct payments for the Christmas 2020 holidays for school pupils eligible for free school meals

The Scottish Government recently announced funding so councils could continue providing free school meals through the winter break, with future funding confirmed to extend support over Easter 2021.

During the lockdown, Moray Council issued electronic shopping vouchers to eligible families. We also collected parent/carer bank account details so that clothing grant payments could be paid directly instead of by cheque. We will be making direct payments into the same bank account for families eligible for free school meals over the winter holiday. Parents/carers with a free school meal award letter do not need to contact us, but if your bank account details have recently changed please email education@moray.gov.uk with 'free school meal payment' in the subject line so we can prioritise your enquiry. Due to the reduced number of staff available to manage telephone calls, please only contact by telephone if you have not had a response to your email within 2 working days.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for the payment?

If your household income has been assessed and you have received a free school meal award letter you will be eligible to receive this winter payment. This scheme does not include other children within primary 1 to 3 who are eligible under the separate Scottish Government free school meal scheme.

How much will I receive?

If your child attends primary school you will receive £25.30, which is 11 school days at £2.30 per week day. If your child attends secondary school you will receive £26.40, which is 11 school days at £2.40 per week day.

When will I receive the payment?

Payments will be made into bank accounts by 16 December 2020. It is possible that your payment is on a different day to someone else you know. If you have not received your payment by 16 December 2020 please email education@moray.gov.uk with 'free school meal payment' in the subject line so that we can prioritise your enquiry.

Who can I contact if I have a query?

Please email education@moray.gov.uk with 'free school meal payment' in the subject line so we can prioritise your enquiry. Due to the reduced number of staff available to manage telephone calls, please only contact us by telephone if you have not had a response within 2 working days. The general enquiries telephone number is 01343 563374.

I hope you have a good week and I will be in touch next week with further updates.

Best regards



Mrs T Cameron
Head Teacher