



Covid-19 Update

As we enter a new school year Covid 19 is very much still with us. The updated risk assessment is available to view on the website.

Covid 19 Symptoms

Due to the continuing high numbers of Covid 19 we are advised by NHS to be extra cautious of symptoms presenting in school.

- **New/continuous cough**
- **Loss or change of taste or smell**
- **Temperature over 37.5C**
- **Sore head**
- **Upset tummy**

If your child is complaining of feeling unwell, we would ask that you keep them at home for the day to ascertain how serious the complaint is, rather than send them to school.

When we send children home, we then need to evacuate the class and deep clean equipment and furniture they have been in contact with, adding to the workload of staff in school. So, we appreciate your support with making the decision ahead of the school day.

There are exceptions that can be discussed with staff for example if you suspect your child is feeling anxious and a more nurturing approach is required. The more information we have, the more we can support you at this time.

We greatly appreciate your continued patience

Message from the Head

I am delighted to have been appointed as the acting head teacher of Johnshaven School. I have been welcomed by all in the community and I thank you for that. It has been difficult to get to meet all parents due to covid restrictions so I am planning a virtual coffee afternoon to give you the opportunity to meet me and ask any questions. We will be in contact soon with an electronic invite.

I have been teaching for 16 years in Aberdeenshire Schools. I started working at Lumphanan School as a class teacher and then moved to Laurencekirk School where I spent a lot of time teaching the upper stages. I went on to become Principal Teacher of the Mearns Cluster for primary schools, which allowed me to become involved in many projects such as curricular development and training staff new teaching strategies within schools in south Aberdeenshire.

During this time, I successfully interviewed for acting depute head teacher posts and worked at both Auchenblae and St Cyrus Schools.

Recently, I have worked as the acting head teacher at Tullynessle School where I developed a passion for outdoor learning which I would like to continue here at Johnshaven.

This term has been a whirlwind of excitement with Disney filming, Royal visitors, Harold the Giraffe, and visits to NEOS studios. We have planned future events and will keep you informed of these.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone soon.

ADMIN REQUESTS

- School phone number **01561 400690**
- If you know your child is going to be late please call, prior to 9am to let us know.
- When calling to inform us of an absence please let us know the reason for absence.
- If you would like another adult to collect your child, please inform us in advance of the end of school day.



School Aims

Before lockdown 2.0 we were working on our vision, values and aims. Here is a reminder of our whole school aims:

- * We are confident, independent learners who know how to support others
- * We are resilient learners who work well as individuals or as part of a team
- * We are responsible learners who follow rules and respect others' differences
- * We are focused, creative learners.

Our vision statement was agreed towards the end of term:

All aboard the JS Success!



SeeSaw



We are delighted to be able to use Seesaw again after Aberdeenshire Council have resolved the data security concerns. Staff and children are both using SeeSaw to post their work and achievements. We welcome parents to post comments and to contact the teaching staff directly. Please remember that staff cannot reply to your posts during teaching times. If you wish to report an absence, request time away from school or have changes to your child's home time arrangements please contact the school office.

Pupil Voice



The children are busy setting up forums such as JRSO, Young Librarians etc, this allows learners to:

- * learn about their right to participate voluntarily in decision making
- * be enabled to participate through a variety of ways of expressing their views
- * have a say in shaping educational provisions in their setting and beyond
- * learn through participating in decisions within a wide variety of educational activities and processes leading to meaningful impacts and outcomes

School Improvements

We have started discussions on improving writing throughout the school. We will be gathering evidence to help us audit our writing provision to ascertain where we are, what do we need to do to improve and what evidence do we need to gather to show the improvements. We will be talking to the children to find out how they feel about writing and we will be looking at setting up a parent working party to help us write a writing policy.



Staffing

We have welcomed Mrs Hannah McGregor to the post of Pupil Support Assistant. Being mum to Heidi P2 and Ben in P4, Mrs McGregor will be a familiar face to many children and families. Mrs McGregor is settling in brilliantly and is already a very much valued member of the team.

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to Miss Jaffrey who has moved on. Miss Jaffrey was with us for only a short period of time but made a lasting impression. We wish Miss Jaffrey all the best in the future.

Interviews have been held for the vacant Pupil Support Assistant role and the role has been offered to a very experienced candidate. Final employment checks are underway and as soon as these are complete, we will be able to confirm a start date. We will keep you up to date with all developments.

As communicated before the summer holidays, our ASL teachers Mrs Meller and Mr Hewitt have returned to teaching full time in the academy. These two days are currently being filled with supply staff but will be filled by one permanent ASL teacher shortly. Again, this post has been filled, awaiting final employment checks.

We look forward to updating you on both of these new members of the team in the coming weeks.

Updated Guidance for Reducing the Risks in Schools

This version of the guidance has been in place since 9 August 2021, with updates made on 15 September as detailed below. It sets out that local authorities and schools should continue to apply the mitigations that were in place at the end of last term, with the exception of some modifications as set out in this guidance. It is expected that this updated guidance will remain in place until at least the October holidays.

Risk Assessments

Will remain in place and will be regularly updated to reflect the changes that are required to keep the school community safe whilst allowing meaningful learning to take place.

Environmental Cleaning

Our enhanced cleaning provision of high touch surfaces will continue at midday. Our cleaning at the end of the day will continue to include covid reducing measures.

Hand Hygiene

All entering or leaving the school building will wash hands using soap and water. The children and staff have been reminded of effective hand washing. When hand washing is not available hand sanitiser will be used.

Face Masks

All adults working with children or moving around the school estate must wear type IIR facemasks. These are available in the staffroom. When working outdoors staff can remove their face masks.

Physical Distancing

Adults and children must physically distance a minimum of 1 metre from each other in the school estate. There are exceptions to this such as applying first aid when PPE must be worn to reduce the risks.

Drop Offs and Pick Ups

To allow for adults to physically distance from each other and children we will continue to have the P1 to 4 children using the entrance on Seaview Terrace and the P5 to 7 children using the entrance on Back Lane. We will also continue the flexible drop off time with the children arriving between 8:50am and 9:10am.

Assemblies

Current restrictions remain in place allowing virtual assemblies in the classroom or gathering outside.

Lateral Flow Tests

Staff can opt into twice weekly lateral flow tests to ensure that the school community and themselves are protected.

When a test gives a positive result staff will self-isolate and book a PCR test via NHS Inform. They will follow advice from the NHS and keep school informed.

Pupils Suspected of Having Covid

If staff suspect a child has symptoms of covid, they will be removed from class and placed into the isolation room (the staff room). Parents will be contacted to collect their child from school and advised to contact NHS Inform to seek advice. If a child has a positive covid test we request that school is informed so we can initiate our outbreak management procedures.

Bubbles

Bubbles or groupings to prevent cross contamination are no longer required. Johnshaven School has continued to use bubbles for this term, and we will be asking staff, children and parents if they wish them to continue next term if the mitigations continue at this level.

Ventilation

All areas of the school where adults and children gather must be well ventilated. This can mean it gets chilly in classrooms during the colder months and we respectfully request that children have warm clothing. Recently, we have received our CO2 monitor and are measuring carbon dioxide levels in all areas of the school.

PE

There are no changes to PE provision, and we will continue to offer PE activities outside. We will request that on PE days that the children arrive to school in their PE kits that are suitable to be worn outside. If the weather is unsuitable then we will reschedule PE to another day, and you will be informed by teaching staff on SeeSaw.

School Trips

We are allowed to have local excursions such as trips to the beach and park if they are risk assessed. Whole day trips are allowed if mitigations are in place, and we are covid compliant. Currently overnight trips are not allowed.



Johnshaven School Recovery Curriculum

Our Recovery Plan 2.0

The recovery curriculum below focuses on targets of Social and Emotional Wellbeing as well as outlining a pathway back to learning for all. Staff will be using this curriculum model to support children as they reengage (again!!) with the life of the school.

Aims

Our recovery curriculum aims to restore the mental health and rebuild the resilience of our pupils to allow them to become successful learners again by:



 Recognising the experiences had by all	 Restoring trust and relationships with staff	 Re-establishing friendships and social interactions
 Regaining structure and routine	 Rebuilding a sense of community	 Regulating their emotions and managing behaviours
 Re-engaging them in learning	 Supporting transitions	

Curriculum

Our recovery curriculum will focus on...

 Health and wellbeing	 Opportunities for outdoor learning
 Short literacy and numeracy sessions	 Sustainability
 Expressive arts	 Focus on skills for learning

Blended Learning

 Classroom learning	 Home learning
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This will be the focus of our main curriculum upon our return to school. For most pupils, this approach will meet the aims we have set out, although their journeys will happen over different time frames. From the activities planned, staff will be able to identify those who need more support in their recovery which will lead to a personalised response.

Those 5 losses, of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom, can trigger the emergence emotionally of anxiety, trauma and bereavement in any child. The overall impact cannot be underestimated. It will cause a rapid erosion of the mental health state in our children. .” (Barry Carpenter & Matthew Carpenter 2020)

