



Dates for Your Diary

Term 1

Date	Time	Event
30/09/22	14:00	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon
07/10/22	09:30	P1-4 Assembly
14/10/22		Last day of term

Term 2

Date	Time	Event
31/10/11		Return to school
11/11/22	09:30	P5-7 Assembly
17/11/22	All Day	In-Service
18/11/22	All Day	In-Service
23/11/22	15:30	Parents' Night
14/12/22	TBC	Nativity
23/12/22	13:30	Christmas Parties
23/12/22		Last day of term

Term 3

Date	Time	Event
09/01/23		Return to school

Message from the Head

Welcome to a new school year and we are delighted to welcome all our new pupils and their families.

Our new term started with the sad news that Queen Elizabeth II has passed away and we send our condolences to the Royal Family. We will be discussing with the children how they would like to mark the event and would welcome ideas from our parents.

Dr Julie Kelly has left the school to take up an exciting new opportunity as a scientific officer with NHS Tayside based at Ninewells Hospital. Julie was a valued member of staff who had a particular interest in the school garden. She supported all our learners and had a very caring nature. We will miss Dr Kelly and we wish her success in her new post. We are currently recruiting a new Pupil Support Assistant and I hope to have them in post before the October holidays.

We are very excited to announce that we have been awarded two grants to refurbish the GP room with play equipment that is suitable for early years and first level. We have bought a play kitchen, role play area, puppets, and small world toys. The second grant has helped us to expand our outdoor environment. We have bought a new picnic table and some tuff trays with storage below for outdoor learning and a shop for role play. Our thanks go to FoJ (Friends of Johnshaven School) for applying for these grants on our behalf.

We will be sending out a survey soon to request volunteers to help with our many projects.

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.

Reducing the Cost of the School Day

“Education is free, but a lot of school things are not.” Quoted from a Member of the Children’s Parliament, age 11.

This statement is very true and in the current economical climate of rising costs many families are finding it a challenge to provide the essentials for their children never mind the extras. At Johnshaven School we are striving to help families by reducing the number of fundraising events and theme days where families feel obliged to buy new outfits for a one-off occasion. This reduces families feeling stigmatized or being excluded. We also have other ways to help.

School Uniform Shop

School uniform is a cheaper option of clothing than wearing play clothes, but these costs can spiral. At Johnshaven School we have a “new to me” uniform shop where all items of clothing are free. The shop is open on request and at all parent events. We also take donations of old uniform, and we thank all who have given us unwanted school clothing.



Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants

Currently all Primary 1 to 5 pupils receive a free school meal regardless of their family’s income. Unfortunately, the Scottish Government has paused the roll out of free school meals to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils. The government’s decision was made to allow further work with COSLA, the national association of Scottish councils, and all local authorities to fully assess the financial and infrastructure challenges that have been highlighted for the final phase of the expansion plans. We will be in touch with further information when a decision is taken by the government to progress the roll-out to all Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

If your child is entitled to free school meals, then it helps you and the school to apply for this grant as you will automatically be

considered for a school clothing grant. The school receives extra funding as our Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) is calculated using the number of free school meals allocated to each school.

If you wish to find out more information or to apply, then click the link below: [Free school meals - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

Or pop into the school office where we are more than happy to help.



Travelling to School

Are you entitled to free school transport? If you live within our catchment area and are more than 2 miles away, then you are entitled to free school transport.

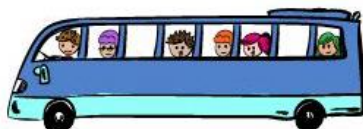
You can also receive transport if your walking route to school is deemed unsafe for a child accompanied by a responsible adult even if you live within two miles of school. To apply for this, just pop into the school office.

Free Travel Scheme

All under 22’s are eligible to apply for free bus travel within Scotland. The easiest way to apply for this is via Parentsportal, please click the link below:

[Parentsportal - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

If you are having difficulty with Parentsportal please contact the school office and we are more than happy to help.



Best Start Grants

These are three cash payments that are made at important stages of a child’s life:

1. **Pregnancy and baby** payment is made from 24 weeks up to the day the baby is 6 months old. If you have fostered or adopted a child, this payment period is extended until age 1. The payment is £606 for your first child and then £303 for any subsequent children.
2. **Early learning** payment of £252.50 is for children aged between 2 years old to 3 years and 6 months old.
3. **School Age** payment of £252.50 is available to families of children starting Primary 1 and can be claimed from the 1st June until 28th February the year the child starts school.

If you wish to find out more information or to apply for any of these grants, please click the link below:

<https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods>

Book Swap / Game Swap

Our ECO School Group have set up a book swap and a game swap. The children will be invited to take a book or a game from the box which can be taken home. Once the child is not wanting to read the book or play the game, please return so other children can have the benefit from these items. If you wish to donate to the swap, then books and games can be brought in at any time.



