



@BerviePS on Twitter

Bervie School

www.bervie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support, patience and understanding as we all adapt to school life in our 'new normal'. It has been lovely to welcome the children back and all staff have been impressed by how well they have settled and adapted to new routines. We are reviewing and updating our procedures on an ongoing basis in response to changes in guidance and will continue to communicate with you around this. Once again, thank you for your cooperation as we adapt to new ways of working.

Heather Grant
Head Teacher

General Information

As we all become more settled and familiar with the new routines, it is important that we continue to be vigilant to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff, families and the wider community. We continue to reinforce good hand hygiene with the children as well as reminding them of the need to distance from adults where possible. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at home.

For younger children who are bringing a packed lunch to school, we would again ask that packaging is partially opened to minimise the need for adults to open packaging for them. Crisp packets and biscuit wrappers can be tricky for little fingers!

Communication with staff

A reminder that all communication with school staff should be via telephone or email. We are unable to hold face to face discussions at present, particularly at the school gate where 2-meter distancing must be observed.

We ask that you are also mindful of the privacy of staff and do not contact them regarding school matters through social media or personal phone numbers. All school based enquiries must be directed via the school office.



Upcoming Events

September 21

BSA AGM 7.00pm

October 9

Dress as you Please

Settling in Reports sent home

Contact Details

School phone number:
01561 400 685

Outgoing calls appear as:
0345 608 1208

Email:
Bervie.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Unfortunately, P7 will be unable to hold their annual Macmillan Coffee Morning this year. They are working hard on other fundraising ideas as an alternative. More information about this will be sent out soon.



Staffing Update

It has been lovely to welcome new staff to our team this session. We have welcomed Miss Taggart and Mrs Rose to Bervie for their probation year. We also welcome Mrs McLeod to our team as a PSA. Mrs McLeod will be with us 3 days per week. We are delighted that Mrs Hay, PSA will now be with us for 4 days per week. Sadly, Mrs Cummins, PSA is still absent at present and this is likely to continue. We wish her well and look forward to having her back with us as soon as possible. In the meantime, Mrs Cummins hours are being covered by relief staff.

First Aid

If your child receives first aid in school, we will now send an email home informing you that your child has been treated instead of sending the first aid record slip. The email will inform you of the injury and the treatment given. We will continue to record this in our first aid log and will hold a copy of this in school. Should the injury be more serious, or your child has a head bump, we will of course inform you by telephone as well as sending an email.

Reading

Due to current guidance around Covid, we are unable to use reading books as normal at the moment. We are continuing to use Giglets to support reading which the children will be familiar with from home learning. We would encourage you to support your child's reading at home. Younger children will benefit from regular stories and older children should be encouraged to read texts regularly throughout the week.

BSA

The Bervie School Associate AGM will take place on Monday 21st September at 7.00pm. This will be a virtual meeting due to current restrictions. Our thanks to our outgoing Chairperson, Gordon Watt for his hard work and support during his time as chair. We are looking for a new Chairperson to support our partnership working. If you would like to join the meeting, please email the school office and a meeting invite will be sent to you. BSA play an important part in our partnership with families and the community and it would be great to welcome new faces to the group.

Settling In Reports

Our Settling in Reports will be sent home on Friday 9th October. The reports will centre around our Recovery Curriculum and will not have an academic focus. Our priority has been to settle the children back into school with a focus on health and wellbeing and our reports will reflect this.

School Holiday Dates

October 9th

End of Term 1

October 26th

Start of Term 2

November 20th

In-Service Day

December 18th

End of Term 2

January 5th

Start of Term 3

February 12th and 15th

Occasional Day Holidays

February 16th and 17th

In-Service Days

April 1st

End of Term 3

April 19th

Term 4 starts

May 3rd

May Day Holiday

June 25th

End of Session 2020/21

We are unable to issue a school calendar of events at present as many of our annual events will be planned in line with updates to national Covid guidance.

Government Guidance Covid 19

Updated Government Covid 19 Guidance around the numbers of people and number of households who can meet up came into effect this week. With this in mind, it is vital that we all play our part in adhering to the rules to ensure the safety of pupils, staff, families and our wider community. This message has been reiterated by NHS Grampian Health Protection Team who have asked that we communicate the importance of sticking to the rules across our school communities.

Social Media

We know that many of our older pupils are likely to have a level of access to social media platforms. As a school, we continue to discuss the risks, benefits and responsible use of social media as part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum and encourage you to reinforce this at home alongside supervising your child's usage. It is worth noting that all social media platforms have age ratings for use and most of them require children to be 13 or older to hold an account. Occasionally, situations arising from use of social media do spill over into school. There are many organisations who provide practical ideas and information to support families with various social media platforms. The website www.internetmatters.org has excellent information and tips, including the following around age ratings:

Most social media apps have a minimum age rating of 13.

If a social network has set an age limit it means that some of the content may not be suitable for a younger child.

Recommendations if your child is under the minimum age for a social network and they want to join:

- Research the social network, find out what type of content your child may be exposed to. Decide whether they're ready for it. Encourage them to join age-appropriate social networks like Kuddle.*
- Discuss if they're mature enough to handle the type of content they may see on social platforms and if you feel comfortable with them possibly being in contact with adults and strangers.*
- We'd strongly advise you to follow the minimum age rating. If you do say yes, use strict privacy settings and either 'friend' your child or ask a family member to.*

Please take time to look at the website for further information and support as well as monitoring and discussing responsible and safe use of social media with your children.

The infographic is titled "Age guide for social media platforms" and is provided by internetmatters.org. It features a blue background with white text and icons. At the top right, the "internetmatters.org" logo is displayed in a green box. Below the title, it says "Find out the minimum age required to use the most popular social networks". The infographic is organized into five columns, each representing a minimum age rating: 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18. Each column includes a white person icon with the age number inside, and a list of social media platforms below it. The 13 age group includes TikTok, Periscope, Instagram, Twitter, Odnoo, G+, tumblr., Pinterest, reddit, and facebook. The 14 age group includes LinkedIn. The 16 age group includes WhatsApp. The 17 age group includes Myspace. The 18 age group includes Flickr, Kik, Tinder, YouTube, Foursquare, and Yik Yak (with a note "18 only").

Age Rating	Social Media Platforms
13	TikTok, Periscope, Instagram, Twitter, Odnoo, G+, tumblr., Pinterest, reddit, facebook
14	LinkedIn
16	WhatsApp
17	Myspace
18 (13 with adult permission)	Flickr, Kik, Tinder, YouTube, Foursquare, Yik Yak (18 only)

Annual Updates and Reminders:



Child Protection

All schools are required to carry out annual training and report any situation where we think a child could be at harm as a consequence of possible abuse. Where there is the possibility that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, the school is required to refer the child to Social Work, the Police or the Reporter. Under these circumstances, the parent would **not** normally be consulted first. Bervie School has its own Child Protection Procedures in compliance with Aberdeenshire policy, which must be followed. Copies of the procedures are available should you wish to see them.

Medication

Please note that no medication can be administered by the school to a pupil without parents' written consent. If your child requires to be given medication during the school day please contact the School Office to request the appropriate consent form. Due to staffing pressures, only essential medication will be administered by the school staff e.g. inhalers, long term medication. Should your child require a short course of medication please consult your Doctor as most GPs are happy for this to be administered before/after the school day. Please advise us of any changes to your child's medical information so we can ensure we hold the most relevant details for him/her.



Use of the School Car Park

This is a gentle reminder that the school car park is for school staff only and should not be used for school or BOOST drop off or collection. To ensure the safety of all our children and visitors, please refrain from crossing through the car park to leave or enter the school building. Primary 1 and 1/2 children should not use the car park as a thoroughfare to their entrance and should enter via the main gate, following the path around to the sensory garden area. This path should also be followed on exit. We would also ask that parents and carers respect road markings and refrain from stopping or parking on double yellow lines around the school as this does create risks for our pupils as they try to cross the road safely.

