



Westpark School

**May 2021
Newsletter**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The summer term is finally upon us, in what has been a very challenging year for schools, children and their families. The summer weather, however, has decided to tease us with only brief glimpses of the balmy extended summer ahead of us. Despite everything, there are positives to report over the past term.

A massive thank you to all of you, friends of Mr Cowie and our wider community for the contributions and patience that has allowed us to finally complete the running track requested by our children a few years ago now. Urban Green Designs did an amazing job of finishing the work within a week. It is exactly what was asked for and the children are enjoying using it at breaktime for running, walking and playing in it like a sand pit. There are still some funds left over from the playground budget, some of which will be kept back for maintenance and the rest used to plant some bushes and shrubs.

Delivery of more Chromebooks, from Aberdeen City Council, has allowed us to provide every child from Primary 7 to Primary 5 with an individual laptop. These are available for them to use in class, to develop the IT skills that have bloomed over lockdown and to enrich their learning. Reports from teachers already describe an improvement in partner working to upskill written work. Children from P4 to P1 also have increased access to laptops too, including the 70 that the school bought in the first term, with children using them to engage regularly in learning supports like Reading Wise and Sum Dog. The improvements to learning and attainment throughout the school, that we expect these devices to bring, more than justifies this investment. The school has also invested in superfast broadband and improved wifi connectivity.

Transition activity is under way, both for our pre-school children moving to Primary 1 and our Primary 7 pupils moving to the secondary school. Although these are still hindered by the essential COVID hygiene measures, all children will have the opportunity to visit the new settings and meet key staff. Websites have been developed and shared with children and parents to enhance the transition.

On the 27th May you will all have the opportunity to tune into our second virtual open day. The last one was very popular with parents, staff and children, and this is likely to be a model that we stick with for at least some open days in the future. The school

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improvement plan for the year ahead is being developed after reviewing the past year, and there will be some parental consultation about this on the open day. One of the things we need to decide is the best way to spend our Pupil Equity Fund; money provided by the Scottish Government to close the poverty related gap. In the past we have invested in maths, language and wellbeing interventions. This year we will continue to invest in Arlene Robinson our Northern Star worker from Barnardo's, who effectively manages a nurture provision to support learner engagement and wellbeing. Some suggestions will be provided for parents to vote for.

Staffing and school numbers, including nursery, are still to be finalised but we are not expecting any large changes in these. Hopefully we will continue to move down through the protection levels, as the pandemic finally moves behind us, so that we can start a new session in August with as full, exciting, and normal a school year as usual. Wishing you all a healthy run into summer, a lovely break, and a great return to school.

As always we will continue to keep you updated of any changes and development plans and welcome your attendance at Parent Voice meetings on the first Monday of each month at 5:30pm to discuss these.

In the meantime, please contact the school office with any queries. Telephone: 01224 692323 or E-mail: westpark@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Jewellery in PE

Aberdeen City Council (ACC) recognises its duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of those affected by its activities. The wearing of personal effects, such as jewellery and watches, can present risks of injury to the person and / or others involved in an activity. Exposure to the risk of injury from such items can principally occur in Physical Education. The basic rule is that all jewellery should be removed as this then removes that particular hazard. Where an item of jewellery cannot be removed then it should be made safe by using microporous tape. Where safe participation cannot be assured then the pupil cannot take part in that element of the lesson. Pupils should remove their own jewellery. If the child is unable to do this themselves, they should not wear any.

Dates for your diary

School holidays: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-term-and-holiday-dates>

Virtual open day: Thursday 27th May

Dress As you Please: Friday 28th May (suggested theme: animals). Suggested donation £1 (to go towards class adopting an animal/school fund)

Virtual parents' evenings: Parents will be invited to make an appointment during the week beginning 31st May. All appointments will be held online, and bookings will be made via this website: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/> Parents Booking have several videos on their YouTube channel which you may wish to take a look at. Booking will open at 6pm on May 17th- more details to follow.

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Sports week: All classes will take part in sports day activities during the week beginning June 14th. Classes will be staggered to avoid mixing in the playground, and we request that parents do not attend this year.

Term ends: Friday 25th June

Summer term begins Tuesday 17th August.

Your Challenge Your Way: September 2021. Families will be invited to enter a fundraising challenge to run, walk, scoot or bike 20/50/100/200 miles during the month of September. If you are able to donate any prizes, please contact the school office.

Sleeping Beauty: The Parent Voice are funding a P1-7 trip to the Arts Centre to see Sleeping Beauty in December this year.

Cowie Cup: The P6 finalists will present to the judges on June 11th. Congratulations to all of them for their efforts to embody the school aims.

Reports: Reports will be emailed to P1-7 parents on May 28th

School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan was shared with parents on Thursday 20th August and is also available on the school website.

<https://westpark.aberdeen.sch.uk/>

RSHP

All classes will shortly begin learning about Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood. The policy is available on our school website:

<https://westpark.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/wp-admin/post.php?post=2490&action=edit>

And resources available here: <https://rshp.scot/> Nursery and P1 follow Early Level, P2-4 follow First Level and P5-7 follow Second Level. Parents wishing further information should contact Mrs Atkinson to request an appointment.

Nursery – Mrs Chalmers, Mrs Seivwright, Mrs Smith, Mrs Macdonald, Mrs Mowat, Mrs Shand, Mrs Gray

In Nursery:

- We have been doing lots of planting and tidying up in the nursery garden.
- We read the story Oliver's Vegetables and we have been tasting different vegetables including spinach and beetroot.
- We have been to the woods and the wildlife garden to climb trees, listen to stories and swing in the hammock.
- We have enjoyed running fast on the new running track!

Primary 1 – Miss Murray

In P1:

- We have been learning to tell the time using o'clock and half past.
- We have been learning all about hedgehogs and we have adopted one as our class mascot.

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-We have been learning about the months of the year and we can now use BSL to sign these.

-We have been learning about the weather and we will be displaying this knowledge for the virtual open day.

Primary 1/2W – Mrs Welsh

Numeracy:

- We are learning to tell the time using o'clock and half past.
- We are learning the days of the week, months of the year and seasons.

Weather and animals:

- We read Augustus and His Smile by Catherine Rayner are making fact files about tigers.
- We have made rain gauges and windsocks.

We are learning to work in a team:

- We will make models of animal habitats.
- We will record our own weather reports.

Primary 2 – Mrs Grant

P2 have been working very hard since returning after Easter.

- In maths we have been learning to read a clock at o'clock and half past, they even challenged themselves to try quarter past and quarter to.
- The class are really enjoying our topic this term, weather, and animal habitats. As a class we have adopted a penguin through WWF and have our very own baby penguin, Percy in class to help teach us about animal Habitats.
- This term we have been practicing our group working skills by working in groups to create animal habitat dioramas.

Primary 3 – Mr O'Neill

P3 have had a very busy term!

For topic, we have been learning about:

- The fennec, red and arctic foxes. We created fact files for each in their habitats. We put these into beautiful artwork and are finishing making a book of our animals.
- Different types of weather. We made different types of weather gauges to measure weather also.
- We have put a lot of effort into our garden projects. P3 has planted and taken care of lots of different types of crops - carrots, radishes, lettuces, and beetroot. The weather has not been kind, but fingers crossed we will see them grow.
- In numeracy, we have made great progress learning about time from o'clock to 5-minute intervals.
- Music, the RSNO workshops and Gaspard's Foxtrot concert were fantastic. The class loved dressing up and coming with tickets to the show. It was amazing.

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Primary 3/4 - Miss Reid

In P3/4 we have been learning:

- How to tell the time using o'clock, quarter past, half past and quarter to.
- To use 5-minute intervals (past and to) the hour.
- Ways to research and write out information in the form of a Google Slides presentation.
- To experience and help nature throughout the RSPB Wild Challenge.
- About different types of weather and what climate change is.

Primary 4 – Miss Bean

In P4:

- We have been learning how to tell the time to the minute on analogue and digital clocks.
- We have been learning how to measure different types of weather.
- We have been learning about the features of a newspaper and writing our own articles.

Primary 5 – Mrs McCreath

In P5:

- We have been creating artwork in the style of Steven Brown. The class have designed Highland cows and animals in his art style.
- In literacy we have been writing imaginative stories. We wrote an imaginative piece that including our highland cow.
- In numeracy we have been working on time and learning about 12 hour and 24-hour time and analogue and digital clocks.
- In health and well-being, we are focussing on tennis skills with Miss Fraser and learning about respect as part of SHANARRI. The class is also aiming to gain their green Blue Peter Badges by taking the Plant, Power and Plastic pledges.

Primary 5/6 – Miss McAllan

In P5/6

- We have been learning how to tell the time using digital and analogue clocks. We have also been converting time from 12 to 24 hours and using timetables to solve problems.
- We have taken part in a RSNO theatre workshop and we are looking forward to watching the performance.
- We have been using research skills to find about endangered animals and we have created fact-files and posters using our research.
- We have started reading "Running Wild" as our new class novel and we have been analysing the characters and making predictions about future characters.

Primary 6/7 – Miss Godoy

In P6/7:

- We have been learning to convert between 12 and 24 hour time.
- We have been learning to create infographics using Google Draw.

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- We have been learning to assess the impact of climate change on animals.
- We have been learning to map the changes to panda habitats and bamboo in China.
- We have been learning to speak and write German animal names.
- We have been learning bike safety skills during our Bikeability training.

Primary 7 – Mrs Macrae

Room 11 has been a busy classroom this term. We are trying to make the most of the last term of primary school and have embarked upon many tasks that will help the Primary 7s transition up to Northfield.

Our new class novel, SeaBEAN has been a hit with all of us, and it was wonderful to get the opportunity to get to meet the author virtually. Our novel has fantastic links with the current topic, Animals and Weather and we have enjoyed looking at the weather and animals local to St Kilda, where our book is set.

In numeracy we have been working on time, with a focus on timetables. Hopefully we will use this knowledge to take some trips around our city nearer the end of term.