



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



19 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – 19 November 2021

I write to update you on the following:

- Covid-19 Mitigations Update
- Christmas 2021 Update
- S1 Parents' Evening
- School Toilets
- School Photographs
- CFINE Food Bank Collection
- Pathway Planning Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities
- Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

Covid-19 Mitigations Update

On Tuesday 16 November the First Minister made a statement to the Scottish Parliament explaining that there would be no changes to the mitigations in place including in schools. The next review will be in three weeks. You can read the entire statement [here](#).

This means we will continue to:

- Use separate entrances for different year groups at the beginning of the day, after break and after lunch.
- Require all staff and pupils to always wear face coverings while in school unless exempt or whilst sitting eating in the canteen.
- Require all young people to wash their hands frequently and to sanitise their hands on entry to and leaving classrooms and also on entry to the building.
- Ask all families to engage with the LFD testing regime of twice a week testing using Lateral Flow Devices available from school or the community. See below for a link to information on the school website.
- Limit gatherings of young people such as whole year group assemblies.
- Follow Scottish Government guidance on track and trace as we have been doing since August.

Christmas 2021 Update

Given all the above the following are planned for the end of this session:

- Christmas Assemblies which will be planned and delivered by our pupil Head Team through a pre-recorded video.
- We will have a Christmas Tree in the Foyer
- A *Design the School's Christmas Card Competition* – advertised already to young people through Google Classroom
- A Christmas Jumper day – date to be confirmed.
- A final collection of non-perishable items for a local foodbank – see below.

We will not be holding our annual ceilidh which is normally a great way for young people to put into practice all the skills they have learned in social dance. However, taking two year groups into the Games Hall to be physically active, even with all the doors and windows open would not be sensible. I have ordered a Christmas Tree for the Foyer which will bring a little festive cheer and brighten up the entrance to the school.

Christmas Holiday dates are as follows:

Last Day of Term: Tuesday 21 December 2021
First Day of Term Thursday 6 January 2022

S1 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 1 December 2021

For those of you who haven't been part of a parents' evening at Bridge of Don Academy you may find it different from those held in your child's previous school.

Covid mitigations have led to Aberdeen City schools adopting an online system where parents can discuss their child's progress by video call.

For parents who are unfamiliar with the system, a letter will be issued a week before the Parents' Evening. A link will be given to the Parents' Evening Booking System web page which will ask for information to be entered to identify them as the parent/carer of their child. Once logged in, they will be able to make appointments with their child's teachers depending on availability.

On the evening itself, once logged in, parents will see a list of their appointments and a link to click which will automatically start a video call with each of their child's teachers. The call will end after five minutes and the next one will begin a few seconds.

Times will be available from 4.45pm until 7.30pm, with a 15-minute comfort break at 6.00pm.

More information will be provided to parents when we open the system for bookings next week.

School Toilets

I am disappointed to report further incidents of damage to our toilets by pupils this week. We continue to investigate using information from teachers about who has been out of class at the time of the damage.

We have noticed that a significant number of pupils ask out of class within the first 15 minutes of lessons after lunch and when we speak to them, we discover that they have not had time to go to the toilet because they have returned too close to the start of afternoon classes after visiting local shops for lunch. Young people should make use of the toilet facilities during the lunch break and need to plan their time carefully if they use the local shops to buy lunch to ensure they have time to go to the toilet before classes in the afternoon.

We are aware of the young people who need to be able to visit the toilet quickly and for them the inconvenience of toilets being closed because of damage must be a challenge. No-one will be prevented from going to the toilet but with that right comes the responsibility to respect the facilities and report any damage quickly. We would appreciate parents/carers reminding young people about this. We will also ask teachers to discuss in their departments their approaches to managing toilet visits which can be an interruption to learning and teaching and to continue recording pupils out of class. We will then be able to be in touch with parents/carers if the number of visits seems high.

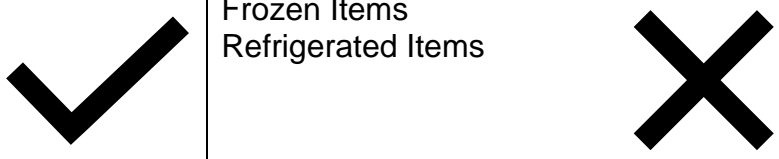
School Photographs

Individual and family portrait photographs will be taken in school on Friday 26 November 2021. Class photographs will be taken either later this term or in the New Year.

CFINE Food Bank Collection

Seven Crates were collected from school on Thursday 19 November made up of donations from pupils and staff. The next collection will be on **Monday 20 December**. We will be collecting non-perishable food and essential items for CFINE. To find out more use this [link](#).

<i>Yes please</i>	<i>No thank you</i>
Tinned Food Cereals Pasta Condiments and spices Juices Toiletries Nappies	Fresh Food Frozen Items Refrigerated Items



Collection points are located throughout the school as follows:

- Assembly Room,
- Home Economics classroom,
- Ground Floor - G17 (Miss Strachan's room),
- First Floor - F12 (Miss Devlin's room),
- Staffroom
- Top Floor - T3 (Mrs Lees' room).

Pathway Planning - Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Opportunities

DYW opportunities are regularly available on Google Classroom and the school website for young people to see. This week the following have been posted:

- RGU Open Day
- You can be a Doctor
- Army Work Experience
- NESCoL February Courses and Open Days - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/archives/8361>

Further DYW opportunities can be found using the following link - <https://bridgeofdon.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp/?p=8358>

Covid-19 Guidance for Parents and Carers

- Procedure if a young person becomes ill during the school day
- Advice for families following a case of Covid-19 in their child's year group
- Lateral Flow Testing

Information on all the above is now located on the school website [here](#).

Contact with School

When e-mailing please provide your child's name and registration class and a note of the nature of the concern so it can be forwarded appropriately.

Pastoral Care

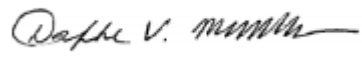
Braemar House: Miss Howard
 Crathes House: Mrs Napier
 Drum House: Miss Smith
 Fyvie House: Mrs Marshall

Year Heads

S1 and S2: Mr Haggarty
 S3 and S4: Mrs Cruickshank
 S5 and S6: Mr Jamieson

I know that times continue to be challenging for many of you and would encourage you to contact us here at school if you think we can help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dafne V. Munn" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher