



BRIDGE OF DON ACADEMY

Be Caring Be Honest Be Respectful Be Your Best

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Head Teacher: Daphne McWilliam



23 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Head Teacher's Update – Monday 23 November 2020

I write this week to update you on the following issues.

- Pupil Behaviour at Lunchtime
- Colder Temperatures
- Severe Weather Arrangements

Pupil Behaviour at Lunchtime

I wrote to you last week expressing disappointment at the behaviour of a small number of pupils at the shops during the lunch break. Colleagues have been supporting the local shops and are pleased to report that no issues have reported this week and that our pupils have been courteous, co-operative and well behaved.

In relation to this, a reminder that S1 pupils are not permitted to leave the school grounds during lunchtime, unless they normally go home for lunch.

A number of the junior pupils take advantage of the space on the playing fields. This space, however, is open to the public and we have had concerns raised about the amount of litter being dropped by those in the area. The size of Westfield Park means it could be several metres before pupils come across a bin for their rubbish, but I would ask them to carry all packaging and other items litter with them until they can drop into the nearest bin.

As always, I greatly appreciate your support as we work with others in our local community.

Colder Temperatures

Last week's cold snap was a taste of what the temperatures can feel like during the winter months. Schools are required to ensure fresh air is circulating in classes by opening doors and windows to reduce the risk of the virus spreading via airborne particles. Despite this, and pupils being made aware of the colder temperatures in classrooms, I still see pupils coming to school wearing a shirt but with no pullover or outdoor jacket. Please ensure your child comes to school with layers of clothing which can be taken off and put back on again as required.

Severe Weather Arrangements

Our staff were reminded last week about the procedures regarding school closure or late starts due to the severe weather. It is extremely rare for the school to be closed, but in the event of severe weather during the night or in the early hours of the morning, the following options are all possible:

- open school one hour later than normal for all pupils and staff;
- open school one hour later than normal for non-bus pupils and staff;
- open school for non-bus pupils and staff;
- close school to all pupils, open to staff;
- close school to all pupils and staff.

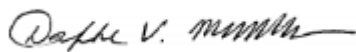
30% of the teaching staff live in outlying areas and, despite leaving home earlier when there's bad weather, can still be held up due to increased traffic or unsafe road conditions. If we do not have enough staff available to cover classes, the opening may be delayed by one hour to give colleagues the chance to arrive safely to school.

The decision to cancel buses is ultimately down to the transport companies who will assess the risk to pupils and drivers.

In the event that the school is closed or opens later than normal, we will notify parents via:

- The School Information Line (0870 054 1999, PIN code 011020)
- Aberdeen City Council's School Closures website (<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/school-closures>)
- School website
- Groupcall

Yours sincerely



Mrs D McWilliam
Head Teacher