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Breadalbane Academy
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Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last four weeks it has been very pleasing to see pupils settle back into school so well after the holidays.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring pupils wear school uniform. Nearly all pupils are in uniform consistently every day. As intimated previously, the Parent Council have liaised with The Thrift Shop so that the uniform there is available free of charge therefore if you are needing uniform, please remember this facility.

As in previous years, pupils are required to have indoor shoes in school. Pre-covid pupils wore indoor shoes whenever they were indoors. To avoid pupils congregating in specific areas, when pupils returned from lockdown, they only wore indoor shoes if the weather was wet/shoes were muddy or when accessing specific rooms such as the drama room. As restrictions have eased, pupils have returned to wearing indoor shoes all the time. For health and safety reasons pupils are required to have footwear suitable for Physical Education. Therefore, unless pupils have specific PE trainers in their gym bag, their indoor shoes need to be suitable for PE.

For health and safety reasons pupils also need to have clothes suitable for Physical Education in school, for example, shorts and T-shirt. To ensure pupils can always participate in lessons there is space for each pupil to leave a PE kit within school. The kit will be sent home for washing at various times throughout the year.

As the weather is changeable and each playground has significant areas of shade at times throughout the day, pupils should ensure they bring a jacket to school.

Outdoor learning encompasses a variety of activities – this can range from art lessons using natural materials to conservation work. Often wearing school uniform along with a jacket and outdoor shoes is adequate, however, if pupils are required to wear different clothing teachers will inform parents in advance.

Clothing grants are also available for those in receipt of certain benefits, for further information please see: [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants-primary-and-secondary)
Any parent who has difficulty in obtaining school uniform or a PE kit can get in touch with me to see how we can support you.



Belongings

To help maximise the chances of any misplaced items being returned please ensure that items are labelled. It is useful, where possible, if water bottles are also labelled as some are quite similar. Water bottles should contain water; if this is not possible, eg. if your child does not like water, please speak to their class teacher.

Pupils should not bring in toys from home as they are not given the opportunity to play with them in school. There is also the chance of items being damaged or lost which can upset some pupils.

Attendance

Most pupils manage to get to nursery and primary for the 9am start. This is greatly appreciated as it is less disruptive to pupils and staff. Should there be any difficulties getting to school on time please discuss this with your child's key worker or class teacher as soon as possible as we may be able to support you with this. Our parent contact meetings are taking place in the week beginning 26th September; during the appointment, staff will be able to discuss any attendance or lateness concerns with parents.

Events

As covid mitigations have continued to greatly ease we are continuing to resume more of the activities and opportunities that typically took place pre-covid.

A number of our events throughout the year are listed on the school website. While information is shared nearer the time you may wish to note the dates of events such as the Christmas Concert and Sports Day. The calendar can be accessed here: [School Calendar | Breadalbane Academy | Aberfeldy](#)

Parent Helpers

Staff are keen to welcome back parent helpers. Previously, some staff looked for parents to support activities on a regular basis; this could be in the classroom or during outdoor learning. If you are interested in committing to support learning on a regular basis please email me; if you are able to add preferred times and, if you wish, skills or interests you would be keen to share this would be useful. After registering interest, we will be in touch to progress this. In addition to regular support, there are also opportunities to support on an occasional basis such as a class trip – we seek volunteers in the run up to specific events.

Staffing Update

Our Primary Pupil Support Teacher, Mrs Morton, is about to begin studying to teach Gaelic. The Strep course is being undertaken over the course of the year and we look forward to Mrs Morton returning to her PPST role with further skills. The PKC Inclusion Team are seeking a PPST for the duration of Mrs Morton's studies. In the meantime, Mrs Munro will be undertaking this role. Mrs Munro already knows the majority of our pupils from her previous post as Nurture Teacher as well as when she has been working on a supply basis within the school.

As our GME parents are aware, we have not yet been able to recruit for Mrs Menzies' maternity leave. The advert has been extended again and is being promoted through various means.

We also have a vacancy within our Gaelic nursery following our Gaelic Play Assistant, Mrs Mullin, leaving at the end of last session. We are continuing to advertise this post. Another staffing change for nursery is our nursery teacher allocation; due to our pupil numbers, this has been reduced to a part-time post. Mrs Hunter continues to be our nursery teacher on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. She is also working within the school on Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays.

Communication

All parents received termly overviews last week in order to discuss and support their child's learning. Future overviews are issued in the second week of term. The school website contains a wealth of other information you may find useful. Each class has a page for the termly overviews. Within the Parents Info section [Parent Info - Breadalbane Academy](#) there is the school handbook and information on a range of subjects from ParentPay and the school day to the Parent Council.

As primary homework has recommenced, primary parents receive emails every Monday detailing the homework as well as any other information teachers need to share with parents. The nursery news continues to be emailed weekly to nursery parents.

As usual, if you wish to contact myself or another member of staff please email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk or phone the school office on 01887 822300.

Yours faithfully

V.L. Marshall

Vicky Marshall
DHT (Primary)