

# Portlethen Academy

Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Covid-19: Childcare Arrangement for Key Workers, Free School Meals and Vulnerable Pupils**

As of Monday 23 March 2020 Portlethen Academy is closed to pupils with the exception of those that require Childcare for Key Workers and those in receipt of Free School Meals.

### **Childcare Arrangement for Key Workers**

We have now received a number of applications for childcare arrangements for key workers. We have also emailed out the form you should complete. If you are able to complete this prior to bringing your child to the Academy that would be helpful but if not, we will have copies. Please note you should come in with your child. I am sure you will appreciate Aberdeenshire requires a robust process to ensure the health and well being of all.

On Monday (23 March 2020) the childcare being provided by Aberdeenshire schools will be only be available to Category 1 key workers:

- Health and care workers directly supporting COVID response, and associated staff
- Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work
- Health and Care workers supporting critical primary and community care provision
- Energy suppliers
- Staff providing childcare/learning for other Category 1 staff

**Please note that to be eligible for childcare arrangements, both parents are required to be Category 1 key workers.**

We are relying on parents to not send their children to school unless they are a Category 1 Key Worker. We will be issuing further guidance on available places, how to apply for them and key workers shortly.

Please bring along proof of employment as Category 1 key workers (contract, workplace ID, other verification from your employer) and some proof of your working patterns so we can help clarify whether you are eligible.

Please note that employment in the wider Oil and Gas sector does not mean a parent is a key worker. The Scottish Government guidance refers to employment with Energy Suppliers and we are interpreting that to mean workers involved in frontline energy supply rather than in the wider sector i.e. distribution depot staff, drivers of oil/LPG tankers and home supply, petrol pump attendants and station workers etc

The childcare arrangements are to be used as a last resort to ensure key workers can perform their important duties. It is also important we ensure social distancing as far as possible and keeping numbers of children down will help us to try and do this. Pupils will not be taught and will work on the online Broad General Education materials already available although we may be able to provide some non-team physical activity. Please send them with suitable clothing.

Please note that unless you have a statutory entitlement to Free School Meals, your child or children will need to bring a packed lunch. All children are advised to bring a snack with them.

# Portlethen Academy

Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.

The childcare arrangements will be available from 9am to 3pm.

On arrival at Portlethen Academy you will be asked to show photographic ID (passport, driving licence) when signing in your child or children. We will also ask who will collect your child or children, and they will also be required to show photographic ID. You will appreciate that staff need to be confident that children are being collected by the appropriate adult and the requirement for personal ID will ensure we can keep children safe.

If your child or children have Additional Support Needs and/or other medical/health conditions (including allergies), a member of staff will be available at signing in to discuss and record these though we ordinarily hold these. Please ensure that your child or children brings what they might require in terms of medication/equipment (i.e. asthma inhaler, EpiPen).

### **Children with a statutory entitlement to Free School Meals**

The Aberdeenshire advice is clear that meals will be available but only for those who are currently in receipt of free school meals. This is 30 pupils in Portlethen Academy and we are aware who these are. They will be asked to enter via the front door and to sign in. They must sign out on completion of lunch and should leave the premises by 1.30pm at the latest.

### **Vulnerable Pupils**

We are unable to offer care for vulnerable pupils on Monday 23 March. We will use this day to plan our provision within the resources available to us and we will then contact parents/carers to outline the nature of this. We appreciate this is a key area of concern and we will progress this so that we can provide cover as soon as is feasible.

Finally, we would ask that you ensure you do not bring your child or children to the Portlethen Academy childcare or FSM arrangements if you or anyone in your household has:

- Had Covid-19 symptoms (new, persistent cough and/or fever of more than 37.8 degrees) in the last 7 days.
- Had contact with someone showing symptoms and/or self-isolated in the last 14 days
- Travelled outside the UK in the last 14 days

We all appreciate how challenging a time this is for everyone. We value your cooperation and support in working with us to ensure we keep as many people as safe as possible.

**Please do not send your young person if they or family members meet any of the health restrictions.**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in respect of the above,

Neil Morrison

Head Teacher  
Portlethen Academy

# Portlethen Academy

Learn and Improve. Get Involved. Think of the Consequences. Respect All.