



Portlethen Academy  
Bruntland Road  
Portlethen  
Aberdeen AB12 4QL  
Telephone 01224 782174  
Fax 01224 782076  
portlethen.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk  
www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **School Session 2019/20 Occasional Days and Additional In-Service Training (INSET) Days**

We are currently working on establishing our school calendar for next session. The standard dates are available on Aberdeenshire's website <https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/school-term-dates/#term19-20>

In addition to these schools have to allocate several further days next session and these are highlighted below.

#### **Occasional Days**

Every year schools must allocate what are called Occasional Days. The number of these varies from year to year according to other holidays and have to be taken to fit within contractual obligations. We agree these as Portlethen Schools Cluster and have consulted with staff and Parent Councils on the allocation. Our survey concluded that the dates in Session 2019/20 will be:

**Monday 23 Sept 2019**, coinciding with an Aberdeen City holiday

**Thursday 13 Feb and Friday 14 February 2020**, this has been our pattern for several years now and links to a holiday on Monday 17 February and 2 INSET days on Tuesday 18 and Wed 19 February. This means pupils will be off for a week and return to school on Thursday 20 February.

#### **Additional In-Service Training Days**

In session 2019/20 the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Teaching Unions have agreed 2 additional days to address workload issues. The actual dates are agreed for each separate local authority. Aberdeenshire will take these days on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Pupils will start the 2019/20 session on Wednesday 21 August and finish that term at the close of school on Thursday 10 October 2019.

We appreciate that additional days when pupils are not in school can create difficulties with care and with parents/carers own leave arrangements so wished to alert you to these as quickly as possible now that they have been confirmed.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

**Neil Morrison**  
Head Teacher