



## The Redmyre Review

### Festive Arrangements

I can barely believe we are only three weeks away from the Christmas holidays. Usually by this time of year we would be knee deep in scripts, costumes and props in preparations for our Christmas show. Sadly, this is not the case this year. We had considered some kind of online recording but given that government guidelines advise us that we are not able to sing we felt that any kind of performance would be somewhat lacklustre. We are ever hopeful that we can perhaps do some sort of summer show instead to which we can invite a live audience...fingers crossed. Ordinarily, at the beginning of December we would put out our Christmas post-box for the children to exchange Christmas cards. I'm afraid we won't be putting out the box this year. Just as we want to discourage the children from bringing in personal items from home we also want to discourage the exchange of Christmas cards at school in our efforts to help reduce the spread of infection. I know this all sounds a bit Bah Humbug but it's not all doom and gloom, I am glad to say we will still be able to hold Christmas parties this year it's just that they will be a little different. As we won't be able to use the hall, each class is just going to hold a smaller party in each of their classrooms. Don't worry, we will ensure that all treats and snacks

which we provide for the parties are individually wrapped and we are hopeful that Santa will still be able to 'visit' via video link. The parties will all be held on the **16<sup>th</sup> December**. Children are welcome to wear party clothes to school on that day and we'll endeavour to keep them clean until the parties in the afternoon!!

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December we shall be streaming an online pantomime for the children by a company called Pantoonline.com.

They will be performing Jack and The Beanstalk and beaming it straight to our classrooms.

We will also be holding Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children on **December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Children can wear their silliest Christmas jumpers to school on that day in return for a donation to Save the Children. If you do not have a Christmas jumper or your child's Christmas jumper no longer fits, please do not feel you have to go out and buy one. We would love to see some ordinary jumpers transformed into unique, festive extravaganzas by simply sticking on some tinsel, baubles or whatever you fancy.

Chris and Sandra our cooks, will be doing our usual Christmas lunch on **17<sup>th</sup> December** which is always a fabulous treat.

Remember  
**FACTS**  
for a safer Scotland



I would like to thank everyone for supporting us in continuing to make our school community as safe as we can during this time. As the numbers seem to be plateauing across the country, it is quite apparent that across Aberdeenshire over the last few weeks, we have seen a rise in our positive cases per hundred thousand. Please remember that if your child or anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, and/or high temperature and/or loss of or a change in smell and taste) or been identified through contact tracing your child should not attend school and follow the NHS Inform ([www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot)) advice – isolate immediately and arrange testing.

- A pupil can only return to school if the test is negative and they are feeling better and no one else in the household is unwell.
- If the test is positive the pupil can only return to school once they have completed the 10 day self-isolation period and they are feeling better and no one else in the household is unwell.

### Children In Need

The 13<sup>th</sup> of November saw us raising money for Children In Need through our 'Dress as You Please' day. We had lots of Pudsey tee-shirts, onesies and some people had even grown some Pudsey ears especially for the day!! The Pupil Council were on duty collecting donations and handing out Pudsey outlines for children to design new outfits for him. In all, we raised £117.78 for this very worthy charity. Thank you.



A few of the Pudsey Bear Outfit designs.

### Active Schools

We were delighted to be contacted by Ryan Borland, our new Active School's coordinator, who was keen to get some activities up and running for our children. He was here on Monday and Tuesday of this week running lunch time sessions for our P5s to 7s and our P1s-4s. It's not too late to sign your child up, Mrs Hunter sent the email again at the beginning of this week which has the link to follow for signing up. Although the weather was a little soggy, the children who took part this week all seemed to be having a whale of a time. The sessions will continue up to the Christmas holidays.



I liked playing the games and running about. I can't wait to go back.  
Jack P1

## Log Cabin Update

As you know, last session was a year of fundraising for buying a log cabin for our playground. Despite the year of fundraising being cut short and with the help of a very generous donation from the Parent Council, we were able to raise in excess of £7000 which was a monumental achievement for our small school. As soon as we got back to school after the summer, I got busy making the arrangements for getting our cabin built. Unfortunately, I have come up against a significant amount of 'red tape' and I have discovered that having a log cabin built on council property is not as straightforward or as cheap as having one built in my garden. There are a number of significant costs which will need to be paid to Aberdeenshire Council which I had not factored in such as an engineered concrete base and architect fees. In short, please don't think we have forgotten about this project, there is a lot of negotiating going on behind the scenes and we may have to find a little more money. It will happen, it's just going to take a little longer than first anticipated.



## Goodbye to Seesaw

Last Friday was a sad day at Redmyre as we had to remove the Seesaw app from our devices due to the Privacy Shield not complying with EU legislation. There has been a focus group from across Aberdeenshire to try and find an alternative to Seesaw but we don't know how long this will take. As you know, Seesaw was what we used during our period of home schooling. Whilst I think it is highly unlikely that we shall find ourselves in the position that the whole school has to close, it is possible that individuals or classes may need to self-isolate in which case we shall use Google Classroom to deliver home learning. Your child should be coming home today with instructions and log in details. We would really appreciate if you could log on and leave a message on the stream to let us know it has worked.



Online Pantomime	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Christmas Party Day (all classes)	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Last day of term 2	18 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Back to School <u>Tuesday</u>	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan