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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to all our returning families and an equally warm welcome to all our new families who have joined us. It's been wonderful to have everyone in school this week and hear about their adventures over the summer break.

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to revisit, or in some cases introduce, the children of our school values – **Commitment, Aspiration and Nurture**. In our assemblies and within classrooms, we have spent a great deal of time discussing our school rules and routines. Our school values, rules and routines are the foundation to ensuring that Grampian is a safe and happy place for the children to learn and for our staff work.

We know that in order for us to truly **Unlock Positive Futures** we must work together with parents and carers to be united in our message about the importance of education and all the wonderful opportunities it brings. In addition to a reminder of our school rules, I have also attached a copy of some key routines – **'The Grampian Way'** – that we ask all parents and carers to be familiar with and talk to their children about at home.

Reading and Homework (Year 1 – Year 6)

This week class teachers have been completing phonics and reading assessments with the children to ensure they receive an appropriately matched reading book. By Monday 12th September, all classes will have a reading book which should come to and from school each day. This routine is laid out within **'The Grampian Way' to arrive at school**.

On Friday 16th September, all class teachers will be setting the children's first piece of homework for the new school year. Homework will continue to include phonics or spellings plus either a piece of maths or English work. The children will have already been taught the key learning for their maths or English work prior to it being sent home for homework. The homework is a way to consolidate and have additional practice that is distanced from the teaching that happened in the classroom. In addition, I will continue to send home a mission every fortnight which is linked to our assembly theme and events from around the world. All homework will be available via the school website should a copy be misplaced.

PE Kits & Swimming Kits (Year 1 – Year 6)

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already sent in PE kits for this term. For the benefit of new families, we ask that PE kits are sent in at the beginning of each half term and remain in school on the children's peg. We will send all PE kits home at the end of the half term so that they can be washed and returned to school at the start of the next term. Please ensure all PE kits are labelled so that the children are able to identify their own kit should it get misplaced. The children's PE day will change so it is important that they are in school every day.

Year 5 and Year 6 have already started their weekly swimming lesson which happens each Tuesday. The children travel by bus to Moorways. Mr. Clamp and I will be joining the swimming teachers at Moorways this year as we aim to get as many children as possible swimming and safely enjoying the water. We encourage parents and carers to send the children with goggles wherever possible. Those children who have long hair must have this tied back and encouraged to wear a swimming hat. Staff are able to help the children put on their swimming hats.

Year 6 will continue to swim until Christmas. In January 2023, Year 4 will begin their weekly swimming lesson as part of the PE curriculum.



Punctuality

It will be no surprise to parents and carers to hear that arriving at school on time each day is incredibly important. The children's first lesson of the day starts just after the register is taken. We kindly ask that all parents and carers aim to arrive at school by 8:45am so that there is plenty of time for the children to arrive in their classroom, put their things away and settle for the register. Our Key Stage 2 children (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6), have already started coming straight into school at 8:45am. Our Key Stage 1 children (Year 1 and Year 2) will also start to come straight into school from Monday 19th September after they have become very familiar with their new staff and classrooms.

We also ask that the children are collected on time each day. The children in school (reception - Year 6) finish at 3:30pm. The morning session in nursery finishes at 11:45am. There may be times when parents and carers wish to speak to staff at the end of the day, we kindly ask that parents and carers wait until staff have dismissed the rest of the children. Staff must ensure that the children are dismissed safely to the carers so staff will ask that carers wait until the class is dismissed.

Lunches

School lunches must be pre-ordered, via the School Money App, by midnight on the day before. Wherever possible, we encourage families to pre-order on a Sunday for the week ahead but pre-orders can be made for the entire term.

If your child is entitled to free school meals then you must still pre-order via School Money but you will not be asked to make any payment when the order is placed.

For parents and carers who may be providing their children with a packed lunch or playtime snack from home, please ensure that this is nut-free. We are a nut-free school and this is very important for the safety of our pupils and staff. All snacks and packed lunches must be provided in accordance with our packed lunch policy which is available on the school website.

Breakfast Club

From Monday 12th September, we will be opening Breakfast Club in the school hall. Families are welcome to come along from 8:30am. Families coming to Breakfast Club should enter the school site via the front gate on Grampian Way.

Breakfast items will be free of charge for pupils who attend our school. Breakfast menu includes: cereal, porridge or a buttered bagel. Parents, carers and other children are able to purchase breakfast items at a nominal charge (40p). Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 must be accompanied by parents and carers at Breakfast Club. When the children have finished their breakfast, parents and carers are asked to take the children to their classrooms to start their school day. Pupils from Year 4 may attend Breakfast Club unaccompanied and when they have finished their breakfast, they will be sent to the KS2 playground to go to their classroom. In order to ensure we can start the school day promptly at 9am, we will shut the door to Breakfast Club at 8:50am.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Murfin
Headteacher