



Uryside School News

The life of the school



Week Ending: Friday 4th December 2020

A reminder of the events that are coming up this month. Information on all of these are below. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our foodbank and preloved Christmas jumpers appeals:

- **7th December Santa Run and Christmas jumper day**
- **9th December online Christmas Disco Party**
- **11th December Christmas lunch and lunchtime concert**
- **17th December online Panto and Christmas Parties**
- **18th December Inverurie Events Christmas Party**

Adverse Weather Conditions

Conditions were especially treacherous this week on the roads, pavements and surrounding streets. We appeal to everyone to drive and park with extra care, leaving that little bit earlier as conditions turn wintry. Uryside School remains on the priority 2 rating for snow clearance meaning schools and car park areas to be cleared at the latest on the second day of adverse weather. Mr Ross goes above and beyond to grit and clear as much of our vast playground area as possible, prioritising fire exits and a safe path to the main entrance. Where possible, we tried to place members of staff to aid children and adults crossing particularly treacherous areas. We encourage our school community to report any accidents or episodes of dangerous driving to the police.

Santa Run and Christmas Jumper Day

Uryside Parent Forum Events Team are organising a Santa Run in conjunction with the Sports Captains. It will be on Monday 7th of December (weather permitting). All children to wear their Christmas jumpers, or something festive (red/green/gold/sparkly coloured, tinsel or Santa hats). Recommended donations are £1 (but please donate what you can) by Friday 4th December please! There will be some festive activities along the half mile route and all children will receive a medal for taking part. Nursery classes are included too.

Christmas Virtual Disco Party codes

We have teamed up with Kidnetick once again to offer pupils across the school a virtual Christmas Party event on Wednesday 9th December.

P1-P3 – 6pm start

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86787058212?pwd=bnZWUkJYM0Nvejl0b280NXR3eF15Zz09>

Meeting ID: 867 8705 8212

Passcode: 083780

P4-P7 – 7.15pm start.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88128157682?pwd=WnVMQUU5FOXpGNDNsSHBGUVZQY3JiQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 2815 7682

Passcode: 537518

A video guide on how to connect is also available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_roIUQswaVA&t=5s

Inverurie Events Christmas Party

Some festive cheer for what has been a tough period for all...#INverurie Events are hosting Santa's School Party online. The Committee felt compelled to try and provide young-ones the spirit, joy and ethos of Christmas.

The format will be interactive, engaging pre-recorded videos which will be published/premiered on our Social Media channels. Hosted by Neil Mellis - along with the talents of his son Scott and friends Nick Innes and Karen Robertson - the plan is to entertain, dance, sing, have a wee quiz, perform a few shout-outs all with Santa's involvement too!

- Nursery to P3s @ 18:00 - Friday 18th December
- P4-7s @ 19:00 - Friday 18th December
- Via Inverurie Events Facebook Page
(<https://www.facebook.com/eventsinverurie>)

We hope by publishing these parties at these times, parents, schools, friends and families can all join-in, share and enjoy the light-hearted fun!

Homework Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone for completing the homework questionnaire, we had a great response of over 160 replies. A summary of the feedback as follows:

2. The homework that has been set is manageable.

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

● strongly agree	45
● Agree	93
● Disagree	24
● Strongly disagree	5



6. As a parent, I find the maths videos helpful in enabling me to best support my child

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

strongly agree	32
Agree	100
Disagree	14
Strongly disagree	1
don't know	20



9. I believe regular homework is important to support the learning my child completes in :

[More Details](#)

strongly agree	69
Agree	73
Disagree	17
Strongly disagree	8



Full results are [here](#).

You said, we will do:

“I feel the maths video and task thereafter is just too much” (a number of comments about balancing family time, after school activities and issues with SeeSaw trying to record the answers on the worksheets)

We will move the maths worksheets to voluntary and teachers will also post the answers to these on SeeSaw. There will be no expectation for pupils to complete these worksheets, they are there for extra practice; the most important part is having the pupils watch and engage with the videos.

“My child is not able to watch the videos independently or complete the tasks”

The maths videos were chosen to be preview learning, learning that will occur in class that week. We felt, following feedback from our online learning, that parents wanted guidance on how best to support their child on learning that was occurring in school that week. Some pupils will be able to complete these tasks independently, others will need support to complete the tasks. If this is putting too much pressure at home, please don't feel you have to complete every task or all aspects of the video. We have produced a brief video on how maths is taught at Uryside School and is available to view here:

<https://vimeo.com/486743274>

“I’m glad to see reading books have started to be sent home.” We had a number of comments highlighting this aspect or saying it is not always consistent or just started.

A number of classes have used the Reading Oxford Owls as resources to practise reading, as this has become exhausted or not suitable for some readers, classes have begun issuing books home. We are trying to do this in a safe manner, quarantining those returned for the necessary period.

Some classes use a whole class novel approach from time-to-time, hence why videos or audio books/read-to-me extracts have been used.

The issue of homework/no homework is always a contentious issue but it would seem over 80% of our parent body is in support of our change in approach. We feel positive parental engagement will produce a positive impact on pupil’s learning in school.

Homework should not be a burden on families or create unnecessary stress or pressure. Our message is do what you feel is manageable to support your child’s learning. As ever, please feel free to contact us with any points or questions via the school email address. Our homework policy is available to view here:

<https://uryside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/home-learning-statement-update.pdf>

A really useful guide in supporting children with Learning disability/ASD that was released during lockdown might be a good resource to any parent coping with challenging behaviours at home:

<https://uryside.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Supporting-children-with-ASD.pdf>

Face Masks and Updated Risk Assessment

Keeping Uryside safe for everyone remains our goal and minimising risk; thank you for continuing to wear face masks in and around our campus and adapting to our ever changing guidelines. Uryside School has updated it’s risk assessment and is now available [here](#).

Absence from school

Please can we ask that pupils are not sent to school feeling unwell. We are asking all parents to be extra cautious at this time.

If your child is sent home from school, please only return them when symptom free. Should any child be sent home and



parents decide to send them for a COVID test, please do not send siblings to school until the test results have been returned negative. A guide to absence periods for a range of common illnesses can be found [here](#).

Other absence related guidance was issued on previous newsletters, these can be found [here](#).

Any child self isolating or off for any other extended period can now access our online learning virtual classroom which is packed with a wealth of resources to keep the pupils busy and learning, it can be accessed via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Urysidevirtualclassroom>

Recording Absence

Please leave a message on the school absence line (01467 536800) or send an email to uryside.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if your child is absent, or going to be absent, from school first thing in the morning. Please advise us how long they will be absent for or leave a message or email each day of absence. A number of parents are choosing to communicate this via SeeSaw but this is not checked every morning by teachers and it is important school receives accurate information regarding all pupil's absence. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Mr Ross Retirement

As many of you will know Mr Ross will be retiring at the end of this term. He has been much more than just a janitor to Uryside School (and Market Place before that). He's played an important part at all of our Christmas events, he always has a cheery story for the children and parents and has brightened up our cold mornings with his crazy hats and sense of humour. The Parent Forum will be coordinating a retirement gift for Mr Ross, from the parents and children of Uryside. If you would like to contribute, there will be a collection envelope in every class where the children can safely give a donation. Any money should be brought into class by Friday 11th December. Mr Ross will be presented with his leaving gift on 18th December. Thank you.

Inverurie
Nativity
Sheep Trail

1st - 24th December 2020



One of the **Shepherds** wants to go and visit **Jesus** in the stable,
but he can't find all his **sheep**!

Can you help him by completing the **Sheep Trail**?

Complete the **Sheep Trail** by finding the sheep's names.
He visited shops on the **High Street**, **West High Street**
and at the **Garioch Shopping Centre**.

A form and more information can be found online at
[Inverurie Nativity Sheep Trail 2020 - St Mary's Church, Inverurie](http://stmarysinverurie.org.uk)
(stmarysinverurie.org.uk)
or on Facebook [St Mary's Episcopal Church, Inverurie](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysEpiscopalChurchInverurie) | Facebook



Holiday Dates:

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2020
TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2021
MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2021
TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2021
WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021
OCCASIONAL DAY
THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 2021
MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2021
MONDAY 3RD MAY 2021
OCCASIONAL DAY
FRIDAY 25TH JUNE 2021
MONDAY 16TH AUGUST 2021
TUESDAY 17TH AUGUST 2021
FRIDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2021
MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2021
THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2021
FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2021
TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2021
WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
SCHOOL RE-OPENS
MID-TERM HOLIDAY
IN-SERVICE DAY
IN-SERVICE DAY
TBC
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR EASTER BREAK
SCHOOL RE-OPENS
MAY DAY HOLIDAY
TBC
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS
IN-SERVICE DAY
SCHOOL RE-OPENS
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR OCTOBER HOLIDAYS
SCHOOL RE-OPENS
IN-SERVICE DAY
IN-SERVICE DAY
SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
SCHOOL RE-OPENS

More holidays information can be found here:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/parents-carers/school-term-dates-and-in-service-days/



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