

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Our vision for Auchnagatt School is a secure, happy place to learn where everyone is encouraged to take pride in themselves, those around them and their work and where everyone's efforts are valued and celebrated.

Dear Parents/Carers



A warm welcome back to the new session, I hope you are all well and managed to enjoy some family time over the holiday period. It is lovely to be back working with the children, how they have all grown over the last few months!

We are all adjusting to our new normal and I am so proud of all the children who have come in and adapted to the new routines brilliantly. There are some things we have had to tweak to work smoothly in practise and we will keep things under review as the situation changes and we receive updated guidance.

Although we have all returned to school, this is not a return to normal and there are many things which we would normally do that we are just not able to at the moment, I have outlined some of these below.

A particularly warm welcome to our new P1 pupils who are settling in very well. Last week was their first full week of half days and this week they take the next step to full days, they will all be tired by Friday!

Learning to Learn

We started our session with our Learning to Learn week. This year each class did this separately, rather than our whole school working together. As well as looking at and thinking about different learning styles and creating our class charters linked to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we have spent time on promoting positive mental health. We have discussed the positives and negatives of lockdown as well as emotions - recognising

emotions, what they feel like in different parts of our bodies and how to deal with them. These health and wellbeing lessons will continue throughout this term and as long as required.

You can find out more about learning styles here: http://www.staffs.ac.uk/sgc1/faculty/personal-skills/documents/learning_styles_questionnaire.pdf

Enhanced Hygiene Measures and Routines

Pupils, and adults, are now into the routine of washing their hands every time they enter the school and before they go outside as well as before going for lunch. We are also encouraging hand washing after sneezing, nose blowing etc. We have reinforced good hand hygiene practices with videos and songs and will continue to do this. There is also enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces before and after school and mid day. Soft resources have, as far as possible, been removed from the classrooms and any shared resources are regularly wiped down or quarantined for 72 hours before reuse. Staff are wearing face coverings when they are unable to keep socially distanced from the pupils or other adults in school.

Our current Risk Assessment is available on the school website if you require any further information on the measures in place. This will be updated as advice changes.

Thank you to everyone who has parked at the Village Hall and walked up to school with their children adhering to social distancing, this has really helped to avoid congestion in our carpark and at the school gates.

Parent Council

A big thank you to the Parent Council for providing stationary sets and coloured pencil sets for each child, a subscription to SumDog so this can be used by all classes and also a new laptop to supplement our stock in school which can also be used by all the classes.

Please note we need parental permission before we are able to set pupils up on SumDog, if you

have not yet emailed the school to give your permission please do so and we can get your child started.

GLOW/Google Classroom

The start of lockdown was a huge learning curve for staff, pupils and parents in the use of GLOW and Google Classroom to deliver the curriculum remotely. We will continue to use Google Classroom for homework and should there be a local lockdown or school closure, including snow closures, then this is where staff will post work.

Teachers are in the process of updating their Google Classrooms for this session and pupils will receive an invitation via their GLOWmail to join the new class.

As we are at the start of a new session pupils may be required to **update their GLOW password**, if so they will be prompted to do this when they log in. P3-7 pupils have a sticker in their planner or homework jotter where they can record their new password, please support your child to change their password and record it carefully so they can continue to log in. P1-2 pupils will have their passwords set/reset and these will be recorded in their reading records.

Homework

To minimise jotters, worksheets etc travelling between school and home pupils will be issued with a homework jotter with all their spelling homework for the term. These jotters will then stay at home, as with the lockdown jotters, so pupils can complete their tasks in their jotters and upload a photo of their work to Google Classroom to be marked. Jotters will be returned at the end of the term and quarantined until the beginning of the next term when they will again be reissued with all the spelling for that term.

PE

We are still awaiting updated guidance on PE so at the moment pupils do not need a PE kit. PE will either be in the classroom eg yoga or outdoors and pupils will only be required to take off their jumper and any jewellery.

COVID19 Symptoms

Pupils **should not come to school** if they or a member of their household have developed symptoms (a new persistent cough or increased temperature). Parents should arrange for a test and inform the school. NHS will then give further advice on next steps depending on the result of the test and who in the household is

affected. Please again inform the school of the results.

Further advice can be found on the Test and Protect website:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

Staffing

P1/2 - Mrs G Robertson & Mrs B Johnston

P3/4 - Mrs S McKerrow & Mrs J Thomson

P5-7 - Mr N Redpath covering for Mrs S McDonald

ASL - Mrs C Brooke

PSAs - Miss J Thompson & Mrs C Senior
Administrator - Miss Susan Greenlaw

Administrative Assistant - Mrs Sarah Edwards
Kitchen Staff:

Cook - Mrs Tracy Matthews

Catering Assistant - Mrs Eileen Thomson

Visiting Specialists for Term 1:

Mrs Johnston will be providing some cover in each of the classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings with Mrs McKerrow and Mrs Robertson providing some cover in their own classes on alternate Thursdays.

Topics

P1/2 - Senses

P3/4 - Keeping Healthy

P5-7 - Space

Library

We are working on getting our library up and running so pupils can choose a book each week which they can read at home and in any free time in class. Books will be quarantined for 72 hours on return before being available for reissue. Library day will be a Thursday so if your child has a library book from last session at home please can they bring it in on Thursday.

Achievements

As part of our work in school to raise pupils' awareness of their own learning, reinforce that learning is a lifelong process which happens in many places, not solely in school and that the skills learned in one area can be transferred to activities or problems in another, we have an Achievement Wall to display, share and celebrate achievements out with school. Achievements can be anything that a pupil has been working towards and is proud of eg. successfully growing



plants in the garden or independently riding their bike, not just when they achieve a certificate or medal from a club or competition.

If your child has an out of school achievement they would like to share, please encourage them to let their teacher or a PSA know so we can add this to our display.

Reporting to Parents/Improvement Planning

Normally at this time of year I would be sending home our reporting calendar for the session and informing you of our development priorities for the whole session. Due to the current situation these have been delayed and the focus for our development is COVID Recovery - getting everyone back into school safely, establishing new routines and ways of working and supporting health and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

We need to limit the number of visitors to our school as much as possible and have been advised not to have parents' evenings at the present time so we are looking at alternative ways of keeping you updated on your child's progress. In the meantime if you have any queries or concerns please contact the school office by phone or email.

Diary Dates

Friday October 9	End of Autumn term
Mon Oct 12 – Fri Oct 23	Holiday
Monday Oct 26	Start of Winter Term
Fri Nov 20	In Service Day
Fri Dec 18	End of Winter Term
Mon Dec 21 – Mon 4 Jan 2021	Holiday
Tues Jan 5	Start of Spring term
Fri 12 Feb	Holiday
Mon 15 Feb	Holiday
Tues 16 Feb	In Service Day
Wed 17 Feb	In Service Day
Thurs 1 April	End of Spring Term
Fri 2 April – Fri 16 April	Holiday
Mon 19 April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 3 May	May day Holiday
Fri 25 June	End of Summer Term
Mon 28 June – Fri Aug 13	Holiday

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher