

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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

I can't believe the term has flown past so quickly and we are approaching the October Break. It has been a whirlwind of a term with many changes in procedures and guidance but I am extremely proud of the way the children have adapted and taken this in their stride. I am very aware that much of this is due to your support at home and I am most grateful for this.

We have tried to keep as many things as we can as normal as possible but have had to adapt and change some but there are still many things we are not able to do. We are particularly missing being able to invite parents in to school and also our whole school collaborative work.

## P1 Virtual Parents Meeting

We did manage to hold a virtual P1 Parent meeting to give the new P1 parents a flavour of what their children have been doing since starting school. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend, I do hope you found this useful despite the difficulties we experienced with the connection!

## Reporting to Parents

In place of the usual parents meeting in term 1 we issued a Short Report to parents on Wednesday 30 September to give you an indication of the level your child is working on in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing and general information on how they have settled back into school as well as individual achievements and targets which your child had identified in discussion with their teacher. I hope you found this helpful. Thank you to those who have returned the questionnaire acknowledging receipt of the report which was included, if you have not managed to do so please could you complete it before the end of term.

## House Captain Elections

This is only the second year of our revamped House system and P6/7 pupils were invited put themselves forward for election to the position of House Captain and



Vice Captain. Each candidate submitted a presentation electronically and these were viewed by each class. The pupils in each House then voted for the candidates from their House in a secret ballot. Well done to all the P6/7 for their presentations. The results are as follows:

House	Captain	Vice Captain
Braeside	Sam	Tyler
Clochan	Greg	
Knaven	Jack	Cara
Savoch	James	Ava

Congratulations to our new Captains and Vice Captains who are wearing their badges with pride. You will notice there is currently no Vice Captain for Clochan, this is due to the make up of pupils in that House - the position has now been opened up to P5s in the House who are currently preparing their presentations, we will have a second round of voting this week.

## Donations

We are always very grateful for extra funding to support the work we do in school and enhance the experiences we are able to offer the children. This is never more true than in the current climate. We have been fortunate to receive donations from 3 different sources recently.

Firstly, Cameron in P3 very kindly nominated us to receive the proceeds from his Dons Day which he enjoyed back in March, just before the beginning of lockdown, to celebrate his birthday. We have used this to buy a new game for each class to use during wet breaks or Golden Time. The pupils were all involved in choosing the games which have just arrived this week.

We have also received donations from both Auchnagatt and District Early Learning and Childcare Centre and Auchnagatt Gala Committee which I plan to combine. I am looking into the feasibility of using this to purchase a shelter for the playground. This would allow us to make more use of our playground when the weather is less favourable, allowing pupils to get outside for fresh air at break and lunchtimes and to take part in outdoor learning as part of their classwork.

## **Flu Vaccination**

The annual flu vaccinations are due to take place in school on Wednesday 2 December with Wednesday 9 December as a back up date should there be any issues. Information and consent forms from NHS Child Health Programme have already been sent home, if you have not yet returned these please do so ASAP.

## **Enhanced Hygiene Measures**

We continue with our enhanced hygiene measures outlined in the last newsletter and available in the most recent Risk Assessment available on the school website.

Once again 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. I know this incurs a slight inconvenience but please do continue to do this, I have noticed more cars coming in to the school carpark recently and would urge you to avoid this unless there is an emergency.

## **Homework Jotters**

To minimise jotters, worksheets etc travelling between school and home pupils were issued with all their spelling/sounds for the term so homework jotters could remain at home with weekly work being uploaded to Google Classroom for marking. This has worked really well, thank you for supporting us with this. Please can you ensure homework jotters are returned to school by Friday of this week so they can be quarantined over the October break before being updated for next term. Please note staff will not be going through the books to mark this term's work they will only be adding Term 2 work before returning them home again. Any work which you wish to be marked must be uploaded to Google Classroom, if you have any difficulties with this please contact your child's class teacher through their GLOW email or contact the school office for support.

## **Nearly new Uniform**

Just a reminder that we have a small stock of nearly new uniforms in school, particularly in the age 9-10 size for sweatshirts and in both the age 7-8 and 9-11 sizes for polo shirts. We have a smaller stock of 5-6 and 11-12 sizes of both items. If you would like to access these please contact the office.

## **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>

Updates can also be found on the link below:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/covid-19/>

If you are affected and need assistance, please visit [Grampian Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Assistance Hub](#).

## **Staffing**

Our staffing for next term will remain the same with Mr Redpath continuing to cover P5-7 in Mrs McDonald's absence. Mrs Johnston will continue to provide 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.

## **School Meals**

After following a restricted menu this term the School Catering Team are planning on a return to a full menu next term, this will run from 26 October through until the Easter Holidays. Please find the menu attached, this will also be updated on Aberdeenshire Council's website after the end of this term. I encourage you to take time to discuss this with your child prior to them coming in to school each day so they know what they can choose for lunch.



## **Bookbug & Read, Write Count Gift Bags**

Book Week Scotland is an annual event which takes place across the country. This year Book Week Scotland is 16 - 22 November. During this week Book Bags will be issued to P1 pupils and Read Write Count Bags will be issued to P2 & 3 pupils. These bags are produced by Scottish Book Trust in conjunction with Education Scotland and the Scottish

Government. You will find lots of resources and activity ideas to help your child develop and practise their literacy and numeracy skills. More information on Book Week Scotland including the contents of the bags and information on activities and resources for both parents and children to enjoy and celebrate books and writing can be found on the link below:

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland>



### Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Over the last few years we have supported the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, please see the information below from Jan Sanders:

*A huge thank you to Auchnagatt Primary school pupils and community for agreeing to get involved in the Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal this year. Its been such a hard year for everyone and so generous of you to make this gift which will make such a big difference to the lives of others.*

*Despite the difficulties that they face everyday, through poverty, illness, disability and other disadvantages receiving a shoebox can bring so much pleasure to the children and adults who receive them, lighting up their faces with joy. Your gift makes such a difference to lives that often feel hopeless. Last year over 110,000 shoeboxes were delivered to some of the poorest parts of Europe and Pakistan.*

*You can find out more about the work of Blytheswood and hear some of the stories of those who have received shoebox gifts on the Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal 2020 website.*

*A checklist of suitable items for the shoebox along with instructions is attached. If you have difficulty sourcing a shoebox a drawstring bag (no bigger than 500mm X 300 mm can be used instead)*

*Your filled shoeboxes need to be brought to the school by Friday 30th October*

*Thank you so much for your help with this Jan*

*You can find out more information below:  
<https://www.blythswood.org/shoebox>*

If you would like to donate a Shoebox please drop it off in, or have your child bring it in to, the school foyer from where they will be collected.

### Online Safety

As children continue to spend more time online I have again included the ThinkUKnow website which has a wealth of trusted information for parents and pupils which is regularly updated as well as advice on where to go for help.

A teal-colored banner for ThinkUKnow. It features the ThinkUKnow logo (a black and white graphic of a person's head) on the left, followed by the text '#OnlineSafetyAtHome' in large white letters, and 'From Thinkuknow' in smaller white letters below it. At the bottom right, there is a small illustration of three diverse children holding hands.

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm\\_source=Thinkuknow&utm\\_campaign=03f521e658-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2021%20%20&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0b54505554-03f521e658-54385293](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03f521e658-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2021%20%20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03f521e658-54385293)

### Diary Dates

Mon 26 Oct	Start of Winter Term
Mon 16 Nov	Book Week
Fri 20 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Wed 2 Dec	Flu Vaccine or 9 Dec
Fri 18 Dec	End of Term
Tues 5 Jan	Start of Spring Term

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson  
Head Teacher