

NOVEMBER 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

Health and Wellbeing Week



Each term we start with a

themed week, usually this is a whole school co-operative week where the children work in their mixed stage groups. This term our theme is *Keeping Safe*. Under the current restrictions we cannot mix the children from different classes so this year each class worked on the lessons independently. We used lessons developed by Coram Life Education, the same organisation who deliver the Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre (ALEC) workshops. Lessons were targeted at the different age groups and included recapping class charters, thinking about why we have rules and how these help to keep us safe, people who can help us in different situations, assessing and managing risk, safe use of medicines, alcohol and cigarettes. All classes also had a session on basic first aid. The lessons all very much build on the HWB work we do in school generally and the specific work on positive mental, emotional and physical health and wellbeing we have been undertaking as part of our returning to school work.

Further information on Coram Life Education can be found on the link below:

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/>

Topics

P1/2 - Electricity

P3/4 - Electricity

P5-7 - Living Organisms

Upcoming Events

There are 2 national days coming up next week which we are going to mark in school. Firstly **Armistice Day** falls on **Wednesday 11 November**. As in previous years each class will do some work on the history and meaning of Remembrance Day and the symbolism of the poppy. The whole school will hold a minute silence followed by a recitation of *For the Fallen* by Robert Laurence Binyon and *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae by P7 pupils. Normally we

don't sell poppies in school as they are widely available in shops etc but this year many of the volunteers who would normally carry out collections are not able to do so. If you would like poppies prior to Wednesday 11 November please send your donation in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the number of poppies you would like. If you just want a poppy for your child to wear on 11 November they can bring their donation on the day. Please note we can only supply **a maximum of 4 poppies per household**.

Secondly, Children in Need falls on **Friday 13 November**, Pupil Council would normally be busy organising whole school activities for this. The theme this year is "Five to Thrive", to reflect the current situation daily activities have been organised for each class throughout the week. Again, these activities very much reflect the health and wellbeing work we have been doing in school. On Friday 13 November rather than a dressing up day we will be having a whole school dress down day where pupils can give a donation to come in their own clothes, if pupils would like to wear something yellow or spotty they are welcome to.

Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across the country. Book Week Scotland 2020 will take place 16-22

November. There are a range of online events for adults and children, see the link below for more information.:

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

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 about each of the bags can be found on the appropriate link below:

P1: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/bookbug/gifting-the-bookbug-primary-1-family-bags>

P2: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/read-write-count-for-p2>

P3: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/learning-resources/read-write-count-for-p3>

Techfest

This year Techfest has gone digital! The Festival of Science, Technology and Engineering which normally takes place in Aberdeen in September will now be online from 5 - 25 November. There is a wide range of weekend and evening events, some aimed at families and some aimed at adults only. Take a look at the link below for further information including a whole festival programme and details on how to book your tickets. There are also competitions for children from age 4 - 18.

<https://www.techfestsetpoint.org.uk/online-festival-2020/public-programme>

School Meals

Please find attached the menus for this term, a digital version of these can also be found on the Aberdeenshire website:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25717/school-menus-autumn-winter-2020-21.pdf>

Please discuss these with your child so that they know which options are available and help them make a suitable choice before they come in to school.



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to this appeal. We had 12 boxes which Jan collected this week. Jan usually comes to the school once a term as a

representative of Maud and New Deer Churches to take a whole school assembly. Due to the current situation this is not possible but the church are looking at providing some form of digital assembly which can be shared with individual classes.

COVID19

We continue with our enhanced hygiene measures outlined in the August newsletter and 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 unless there is an emergency.

Please note our latest guidance is that: "Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to all school sites (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents at drop off and pick up." I would be grateful for your support in this.

In school the advice remains to ventilate the classrooms where possible, this may mean our classes are slightly cooler than they would normally be, please can you ensure pupils come to school with a jumper or cardigan so they are comfortable. Similarly, the children will be outside as much as possible at break and lunchtime as well as some outdoor learning during class time. Please can you ensure they come to school with appropriate footwear and jacket.

Just a reminder that staff, parents, visitors or children **should not** go to school if they:

- have developed COVID-19 symptoms or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or
- are from the same household as someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or
- have returned from a country not-exempt from self-isolation requirements
- have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from [NHS Inform](#).

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](#).

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.



#OnlineSafetyAtHome

From Thinkuknow



https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03f521e658-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_21_04_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03f521e658-54385293

Diary Dates

Mon 16 Nov	Book Week
Fri 20 Nov	In Service Day – school closed to pupils
Wed 2 Dec	Flu Vaccine
Wed 9 Dec	Flu Vaccine – back up date
Fri 18 Dec	End of Term
Tues 5 Jan	Start of Spring Term

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher