

JANUARY 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to the new term I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This is most certainly not the start to 2021 that any of us would have wished or envisioned!

Staff were in school on Tuesday of this week so we could make preparations for the way forward but as far as possible, to keep everyone safe, staff will be working at home. Teachers will be preparing online learning which they will start to deliver next week. Office staff will also be working from home and will monitor emails and calls coming into the school. I will be working in school alongside our PSAs running of the Childcare Hub.

Although this is an incredibly challenging time for everyone we are in a much better position than we were in March with regard to online learning with Google Classrooms already set up and all pupils and staff used to using these.

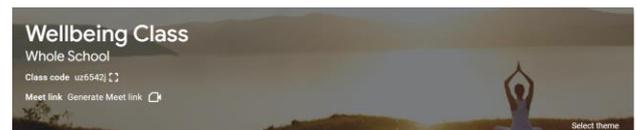
As during the first lockdown the continuation of learning in Literacy and Numeracy is of utmost importance and should be what is given priority during this period of Home Learning.

Tasks and activities from other subject areas will also be shared with parents and pupils and these can be completed **should you have the time and ability to do so**. During next week the 'other' subject area will be dual language - see the next item for details.

We hope that learning can continue and help give you some structure to your day as far as is practically possible, we also acknowledge that these are very difficult times and that trying to support home learning may be incredibly challenging. Please do not put yourselves under any undue pressure in terms of learning - although we absolutely wish to see our children's learning continue to progress as seamlessly as possible- **the most important thing at this**

difficult time is that everyone stays safe and healthy.

If a learning task is causing undue stress, step away from it, have a wee break, try again a while later, and then if your child is still not happy to engage, communicate this challenge to your class teacher who may be able to provide some further support in this regard. Please be assured that, on a daily basis in a classroom, teachers face challenges with pupils' engagement with and understanding of tasks and have to think of alternative ways of presenting work. This is very normal and teachers often suggest an alternative activity/distraction before coming back to the core task.



As with during the last lockdown we recognise the importance of good physical and mental health during this challenging time so will resume using our Wellbeing Classroom. All the children have access to this and there will be weekly activities or resources added for you to access. It is also worth revisiting some of the activities and resources which are there already as most of them continue to be relevant and supportive.

Class teachers are also planning to set up a weekly Google Meet where pupils can drop in for a chat or to ask specific questions about their work. This is new territory for all of us so please do bear with us while we get to grips with the technology. There are also some procedural formalities and permissions required around this which will be issues in a Forms questionnaire which will need to be completed before pupils can take part in these sessions. Look out for this being issued shortly.

Communication

If you have a query about your child's learning please contact their class teacher directly through Google Classroom or their GLOWmail. Any other queries should be directed to the

school, do bear with us if it takes us a little longer than usual to get back to you!

Keeping families Safe

To ensure we continue to follow our Child Protection Procedures we would ask that families make individual contact with class teachers at least once a week. This can be through submission of work or comments via Google Classroom, Google Meet once this is set up or your teacher's GLOWmail.

If we do not hear from you by Thursday, we will make an attempt to contact you.

Resources

Teachers will provide the online resources needed to access the learning they set.

Any practical resources will be things which will be readily available in most homes or can be adapted to use what you do have, if you don't have something don't worry, just make use of what you have or contact the class teacher for advice.



We issued jotters to pupils prior to the last lockdown and I know some of you will still have these but some of your children will have filled these and our P1 parents will not have. It is not essential that children complete work in school jotters, much of the work set will be active, can be completed electronically or, if it does need to be written down, can be completed on loose paper or any notebook. However I am aware that some of you may prefer to keep all your child's work in one place so if you require a school jotter for this please let us know and we can arrange collection from the school foyer.

Literacy Week - Dual language

Our first week back in a new term is always a whole school collaborative week where the children usually work in mixed stage groups. Although we are home learning this year the whole school will still be working on the same theme at a level appropriate to their age and



stage. Teaching staff have worked together to plan learning experiences for the children.

This year the theme is 'Dual Language' which fits in with the Scottish Government's 1 + 2 Languages initiative. We have based the week around a new Family Learning Resource developed by the different councils within The Northern Alliance which Aberdeenshire is part of. This resource has recently been launched and is still at a relatively early stage of development but will continue to be added to over the coming months so it will be well worth checking back regularly to see what's new. I have added the link at the bottom of this item.

As the starting point for the week we will use the Power Language Schools Family French Lesson 1: [French for Families 1 NA - Lesson 1 - PowerLanguage Courses](#)

The lesson is all about greetings which I know is a revision for most pupils but we will use this to work on ways that the pupils can teach this lesson to parents, grandparents, siblings, pets, toys etc at home. The expectations will be different depending on each individual eg younger pupils may only work on ways of saying 'bonjour' in different situations while older pupils may be using more complex language in role play.

The lesson has 4 videos on greetings which we will use as the basis for each day there is also a Cultural Activity and a Challenges section which the children will explore and think about how they can use this at home.

Alongside this there is the rest of the site to explore to a greater or lesser extent depending on how your child responds, you may stick with the French section of the website or may have time to explore the other languages as well.

This resource is primarily a family learning resource but we hope by introducing it as part of the set tasks during this period of home learning this will support you going forward in home learning with your child(ren) once we are out of this difficult period. There are many fun and engaging activities to explore together and we will use this link going forward in termly class newsletters.

Northern Alliance Languages Family Learning website: [Family Learning \(google.com\)](#)

The following week (w/b 18.1.21) as part of their 'other' tasks your child will be issued with their Scots/Doric poem to learn for our annual poetry competition - more details will be issued by class teachers.



Support for parents

Family Nurture

As part of their ongoing focus on nurturing approaches, the Educational



Psychology Service has developed leaflets on key topics which contain tips and advice for parents and carers.

A loving, responsive, and safe parent/carer-child relationship is important for healthy development in childhood. The topics selected aim to help build resilience, connection, and secure attachment. The leaflets translate the research in these areas into simple, practical steps for parents and carers and are available on the following link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeen/shireeps/family-nurture-leaflets/>



There is also a short introduction to the leaflets as well as a range of other supports and advice, including the telephone support service which is again running 3 days per week, available on the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/aberdeen/shireeps/parent-information/>

Online Safety

As children continue to spend more time online than usual 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.

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

Useful Links

NHS

For all the latest Covid 19 information and advice:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Grampian Assistance Hub

[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre - This website is a focal point for information and assistance for anyone affected by coronavirus anywhere in Grampian](https://www.grampiancoronavirusassistancecentre.org.uk/)
[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre \(gcac.org.uk\)](https://www.grampiancoronavirusassistancecentre.org.uk/)

Educational Psychology Phoneline

Available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9am - 3pm. Call **01779 403721**

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher