

FEBRUARY 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

It is good to see the days beginning to stretch out again as we move into a new month. Unfortunately we are not yet in a position where it is safe to return to something closer to normality. The First Minister is due to make an announcement later today so hopefully we will get a bit more clarity about the way forward.

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to everyone who managed to complete the Remote Learning Questionnaire last week. Staff are working incredibly hard at the moment and it is important to hear from you what we are getting right and what is not working so that we can concentrate our efforts in the right places. Overall the responses were very positive with the majority of parents responding that both the level of challenge and the number of tasks being set as about right. The Google Meets are also a very positive addition to our remote learning.

There were a small number who responded that too many tasks were being set or that it is very challenging to find the time to support their child with the learning tasks set. I want to reassure everyone that all staff are aware that this is a very challenging time and each family has different pressures and demands. Teachers are setting daily Literacy and Numeracy tasks and tasks from one other subject area and often these contain a range of online and offline activities with options to complete core work or explore a subject more deeply. We have also been making use of SumDog which the Parent Council had funded this session as this was popular with parents and pupils during the last lockdown. There are also some short challenge activities which are intended to be fun and engaging for pupils. There is no expectation that children complete all of these activities in every subject every day, we are trying very hard to provide a range of activities to suit differing circumstances, not put additional pressure on parents. What I would ask is that Literacy and Numeracy tasks are prioritised and within these tasks you make a judgement as to which parts of the tasks are most suited to your own home

circumstances. Each class teacher is also providing a suggested weekly timetable and, as far as possible, tasks are uploaded to Google Classroom before Monday morning. Please do have a look at the timetable and tasks and feel free to move these around to suit your home circumstances, all we would ask is that within a topic the tasks are tackled in order as they do build on each other. An example would be, if you know that there is more pressure on your time on a certain day and the timetable looks as though that day has tasks your child finds more challenging, switch those tasks to a day when there is less pressure and tackle the tasks your child can complete more easily or independently. We do want children to continue making progress in their learning as far as possible in these challenging circumstances but recognise that the most important thing is that everyone is safe and healthy. If a 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.

What I would ask is that to fulfil 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 or your teacher's GLOWmail.

If we have not heard from you by Thursday, we will make an attempt to contact you on Friday.

Poetry Competition

Thank you and well done to everyone who has handed in their poetry competition entries, the amount of work and effort which has gone in to these is amazing! You have not made our job in judging these easy! The poems are now with the adults who will judge each of the year group entries and choose the 2 finalists. We hope to have the first round of judging completed this week with the 2 finalists from each year group being judged early next week.

Mid-term Break

Just a reminder that Friday 12 and Monday 15 February are holidays and that Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 February are Inservice days, there will be no work set on these days and staff will not be available. I do hope everyone is able to take some time to recharge their batteries over this long weekend.

On the Inservice days staff are continuing their training remotely with teaching staff engaging in Emotion Coaching and STEM workshops and PSAs engaging in Emerging Literacy and Mastery Maths workshops.

Resources for Home Learning

Most of the resources below have already been sent out to you by email as they have come in to school but I am aware that there will be an overwhelming amount of information coming in to your in boxes at the moment so I thought it would be useful to collate them all here in one place. All of these are **optional additions** to the core daily literacy, numeracy and "other" lessons which your child's teacher is currently providing.

The website below has been developed by Aberdeenshire Council and contains a wealth of resources to support parents/carers, some of these you will be familiar with as they are used by teachers but there are many more which you may wish to explore: [Digital Support Aberdeenshire - Resources \(google.com\)](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/resources/digital-support)

As part of the National e-Learning offer, e-Sgoil is offering free support to learners during this period of remote learning, these include:

- Daily, live sessions hosted on the e-Sgoil website. Monday to Friday at 10 am for P2-P7, 11 am for S1-S3 and 2 pm for S4-S6. No prior sign-up required - simply direct learners to e-sgoil.com at the appropriate time. Further details, including a weekly schedule, past sessions and associated resources, can be found at: <http://www.e-sgoil.com/lockdown-live/>
- Early years, including Primary 1. Meet internet sensation Dug in his Discovery Den - an ever-evolving online learning environment for our youngest learners. No prior sign-up required. Visit Dug at: <http://e-sgoil.com/earlyyears20/>

A summary of the Lockdown Live materials available can be found here: <http://e-sgoil.com/media/1455/lockdown-live-leaflet-v5.pdf>

The e-Sgoil materials can also be accessed from the Aberdeenshire website above.

The Active Schools team have been busy creating resources to help keep both children and adults physically active as well as mentally healthy. Below is a link to their YouTube channel which has over 20 videos for you to choose from, more will be added on a weekly basis so do keep looking back to see what is new.

[Active Schools: Join In - YouTube](#)

While you wait for new videos or for something different, colleagues at The Daily Mile have created some fantastic resources and games to get you outside as a family to get your mile a day in:

Resources -

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/resources/>

Daily Mile at Home -

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/at-home/>

If you would like to follow Active Schools to keep up to date with what they are doing follow the link below:

Active Schools North - <http://bit.ly/ASNorth>

There are also resource cards for both keeping active and being creative available from the Live Life Aberdeenshire website:

<http://bit.ly/ASAResourceCards> or

<http://bit.ly/ASACreativeCards>

If music making is your thing Drake Music Scotland have a large selection of video resources on their website:

<https://drakemusicscotland.org/resources/>

where children can get involved in activities from singing along to making kitchen drum kits.

Aberdeen Football Club are producing weekly learning packs to support home learning, these include literacy and numeracy activities as well as active and creative activities to keep pupils busy and motivated: [Aberdeen Community Trust | Primary School \(afccommunitytrust.org\)](http://www.afccommunitytrust.org)

Children's Mental Health Week

This week, 1 - 7 February, is Children's Mental Health Week. We would normally do work on mental health as a normal part the daily school routine. During these difficult times children's mental health continues to be an important part of overall health and wellbeing. Below is a link to Place to Be's website which has a range of information and resources you may find useful:

[Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#)

Office 365

Just a reminder that all GLOW users can download the Office 365 suite onto their home devices - look for this tile on your child's GLOW Launchpad:



Further information on this can be found here:

[Office 365 ProPlus - Glow Connect](#)

Support/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](#)
[Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Centre \(gcah.org.uk\)](#)

Educational Psychology Phonenumber

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

Family Nurture Leaflets

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

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

Aberdeenshire Council Employment Support Team

Many people have lost jobs through redundancy or are currently on furlough. Aberdeenshire Council Employment Support Team can offer practical and financial assistance to support with your return to employment or help you look at retraining for a different sector. Further information can be found in the **attached leaflet**.

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.



<https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2whXSy1&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEQNTFMinjnEIK8E-kIDHVjrinGYA>

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

Finally, please remember these are extraordinary times which no one has had to face before, you are all doing a fantastic job, take care and keep safe, we will all get through this together.

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher