

APRIL 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 very warm welcome to our fourth and final term of what has been a most unusual and challenging year for everyone. It is lovely to have all the pupils back in school this term and although we are not yet back to normal, we are hopefully getting a bit closer!

Shape, Position and Movement Co-operative Week

We started the term with a whole school outdoor maths week on the topic of shape, position and movement. Although the children could not mix in their cross stage groups, each class worked in small groups within their class on similar activities at a level that was appropriate to their stage. The children learned about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties, they took part in a shape hunt to look for different shapes in the environment and collected sticks to make their own pictures before identifying the properties of the shapes they had made. After learning about



symmetry they used clay and natural materials to create amazing symmetrical nature circles. The final activity of the week was a treasure hunt. After learning about co-ordinates the children



created their own treasure hunt which they then challenged another group to complete. As well as the maths activity there was a focus on team working and encouraging everyone to contribute and share their skills and strengths. The weather was kind to us and it was fantastic to spend so much time out of doors learning.

Class Topics

P1/2 - Local Study

P3/4 - Local Study

P5-7 - Food

As well as their topic the P5-7 class are taking part in an exciting, cluster wide, transition project facilitated by Scottish Opera. The

Mintlaw Cluster Schools submitted a joint funding bid for this project which was successful. The aim is to create a 'Song Cycle' of five songs with the pupils helping to create the ideas and lyrics. Scottish Opera have a composer, an accompanist and an opera singer/conductor to work on the project. The bid was based on using the Covid-19 situation as a backdrop to look at producing songs with hope and the future as part of it. The main part of the project will be online with the last part, the recording of the songs, left until we are able to facilitate this which may even be into next session. This is mainly aimed at the P7 pupils but the P5s and 6s will also benefit from participation in the project - one of the benefits of a small school with composite classes!

ALEC

You may remember from my last newsletter that each



class will receive a virtual visit from an ALEC (Aberdeenshire, Life Education, Centre) Educator this term. Normally in Term 4 we would have a live visit, in previous years you may remember the ALEC Caravan and more recently the ALEC Tent. This year class teachers will deliver introductory lessons before the visit and the ALEC Educator will build on this in a live, interactive virtual visit on **Wednesday 5 May**. These lessons will build on the Reconnect and Recover theme and are as follows:

P1/2 - Feelings

P3/4 - My Healthy brain and Body

P5-7 - Looking after our Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Mental Health Awareness Week

The week beginning 10 May is Mental Health Awareness Week when we will build on our ongoing Reconnect and Recover work with a variety of activities promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

Reporting to Parents

Under normal circumstances we would have issued reports to parents and had optional parent consultations at the end of last term. However,

as with many things this session, this has been delayed. We will now be issuing reports to parents on Monday 7 June, these will be in a similar format to those issued in September which will allow you to compare where your child was then and the progress they have made this session. This format will also link in with our focus on Reconnect and Recover allowing teaching staff to discuss individual achievements and targets with pupils. Following this if you have anything you would like to discuss with your child's teacher we will be offering telephone consultations in the week beginning 14 June.

Sports Day

Sports Day will look a bit different this year with each class practising for and completing both the potted sports activities and the races in their House but within their own class during PE time throughout the term. The individual and House scores will be recorded with stickers, certificates etc being awarded as normal.

Classes and Staffing

I am delighted that we have 12 new P1 pupils enrolled with us to start in August. As things stand at the moment, this will mean that our classes for next session will be as follows:
P1/2 - 21 pupils - Mrs Robertson & Mrs Johnston
P3/4 - 18 pupils - Mrs McKerrow & Mrs Thomson
P5-7 - 22 pupils - vacancy

Obviously August is a long way off and much can happen between now and then, I will keep you updated of any changes and with the staffing position for the P5-7 class.

Uniform Order

Look out for information on this coming out in the next week.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 19 March we celebrated Red Nose Day, it was lovely to see the children dressed in red. The P7s sold Red Noses and collected donations in the morning and had prepared 2 activities for the pupils to take part in in their classes; a Red Nose Design Competition and a Red Nose Jigsaw where groups within each class wrote or drew positive statements or messages on each of the pieces. The completed jigsaw and all the Red Nose



Congratulations to the class winners: Ciaran and Tait in P1/2, Jessie and Luna in P3/4 and James and Stewart from P5-7. In total we raised £173.20 on the day, a great amount particularly considering the difficult times we are in. Thank you to you all for your support in this.

School Lunches

A new online resource has been launched by Aberdeenshire Council's School Meals Service, which will help with making healthy meal choices displaying allergen and nutritional content of primary school meals

The portal is linked to a nutritional analysis programme which ensures meals meet statutory nutritional standards, meaning they are nutritious as well as delicious. It is particularly helpful for pupils with special dietary needs including allergies and Type-1 Diabetes.

To use the portal please visit:

<https://ourshiremenus.mysaffronportal.com/>

Online Safety

Be Internet Legends

Increasingly we are all spending more time online on a variety of devices, so it is important that we are all aware of how to both keep ourselves and our families safe and behave appropriately online. Parentzone and Google have developed a programme of online safety lessons for primary aged pupils. Pupils in P4-7 will be using aspects of this programme this term and alongside this there is a family learning aspect to the programme. It is intended that the whole family work through the resources together. The activities prompt and support discussion around a wide range of issues in a safe environment. There is an online adventure and game, offline activities and drop in information sessions. There is also a quiz which you can use before or after doing the other activities to find out what your family already know or what you have learned. Alongside the quiz there is a trophy kit which allows you to build your own 'Internet Legend Trophy', **each child will come home with their own kit**, please note the kit is intended for use **alongside the quiz and under adult supervision**. Follow the link below to the [Turn your family into Internet Legends! – Parent Zone - Parents' area](#)

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

COVID19

Just a reminder that 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/>

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 \(gcah.org.uk\)](#)

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/aberdeenshireeps/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. They can be contacted as follows:

employmentsupportteam@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
or **01467 533058**

Diary Dates

Mon 19 April	Start of term
Mon 3 May	May Day Holiday - school closed
Wed 5 May	ALEC virtual visit
15- 17 June	Ellon Transition Days TBC
16-18 June	Mintlaw transition Days TBC
Fri 26 June	Last Day of term
Tues 17 August	Start of new session

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher