

JUNE 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

Well what a year it has been! I cannot believe how fast we are approaching the end of session. I know this has been a tough year for everyone and I am very grateful for all your support as we have navigated our way through these uncertain times. Hopefully the new session will bring further easing of restrictions and we will be able to begin returning to something closer to normality both in school and in our wider life. However, we are not there yet and do need to remain vigilant as the number of cases does continue to rise across the country, including in our local area.

You will have seen in my letter last week the plans we have in place for the start of next session. If there are changes to this, I will let you know on the Inservice Day, Monday 16 August.

End of Session Celebration of Achievement

While we still cannot have whole school Assemblies and are not able to invite parents into school, there will still be 2 Celebrations of Achievement this week. Firstly, each class will have its own Achievement Celebration where they will reflect on the year and each child will be awarded a certificate for a personal achievement which has stood out to their teacher/s. Our second celebration will be a whole school one with each class in their own classroom and we will connect virtually. This will be in place of our traditional End of Session Assembly and a variety of certificates will be awarded. Look out for all of these coming home this week.

Gardening Help

During the 2 lockdowns our award-winning garden has suffered from neglect. Over this session, when we have been in school, the pupils have worked really hard to begin to bring it back to life and some order. We have flowers donated through the Community Council in the tubs at the front of the school and a variety of vegetables in the planters and tubs at the back of the school. However, we have REALLY missed our Gardening

Club volunteers, not only their time but also their expertise and enthusiasm has really been missed. Over the summer holidays everything in the garden flourishes, including the weeds! So, I am appealing to anyone who has any spare time over the holidays to come round and spend some time weeding or watering. Many of your children are great at knowing what needs to be done and it is a great way to spend some time outside with them. We have purposely not planted anything in the poly tunnel this season as this is more high maintenance but I would really appreciate your help with the outdoor vegetables and flowers.

Summer of Play

The Live Life Aberdeenshire Summer of Play / Holiday Recovery programme will offer a variety of activities throughout the summer, ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunity to participate. All activities will be free at the point of delivery and bookable online via the Live Life Aberdeenshire website.

The camps are open to primary age children (5 year olds must already have attended school) will run Monday to Friday with two camps each day - one in the morning (9am-12pm) and one in the afternoon (1-4pm).

Parents can book one session per day and all camps are completely free, thanks to funding from the Scottish Government.

[Summer of Play - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](http://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk)

I would urge you to enrol your child in some of these sessions if you can. One of the things we have noticed in school this session following 2 periods of lockdown is that many children have got out of the way of socialising in real life and have forgotten some of the skills essential for navigating and maintaining friendships and resolving various disagreements and problems that are a normal part of childhood. I know most children are tired and very much in need of a break but resilience is particularly low at the moment. Seven weeks, while a very welcome break from the normal school routine, is a long time not to practise these social skills and this programme of activities which Live Life

Aberdeenshire have organised is an ideal opportunity to get out and make new friends in a fun environment and it's all FREE. If your child has any support needs, whether in terms of medical, dietary or social skills, do let the organisers know when you enrol and when you drop them off, if they are aware of these they can support your child to gain the maximum benefit from the sessions.

Summer Reading Challenge

See the information below from the library service on this year's Summer Reading Challenge:

To celebrate 20 years of Summer Reading we are delighted to bring to you an even fuller and fantastic programme this year for all ages and interests.

Over the last 20 years 105,000 customers have participated in our reading challenges and read thousands of words and books.

This year our programme is full of reading fun. We are also working with our colleagues and partners to bring you a wide range of activities linked to being healthy, keeping active and getting outdoors.

Whatever your age you are sure to find something for you. You can take part in the challenge as an individual or with your family/friend group.

Participants receive a card either downloaded at home via our LLA Webpages or pick up via their local Library. To complete the challenge/initiative they must get 8 stamps/ticks on their card and once they have completed it, the card will be submitted into a prize draw - electronically or handed back into a Library.

Prizes we have currently include:

- Macduff Aquarium Family Ticket
- Aberdeen Football Club Shirt
- Family/Adults Swimming Vouchers
- Book Bundles

Look out for more information on this as we get it.

Stream My Story

This is a collaboration between authors, storytellers and librarians in Scotland, bringing stories, knowledge and fun to the classroom and beyond.

StreamMyStory is available on [YouTube](#) throughout the Summer.

Over the periods of lock-down where libraries were unable to provide their vibrant mix of

author visits, activities and sessions, Scottish public librarians have been collaborating to provide entertaining and intuitive content for children online and aims to address the barriers currently facing services in providing this content. Librarians have pooled their knowledge and expertise in curating author and storytelling events to produce an online hub where they hope teachers and parents will find quality videos from authors to help encourage reading for pleasure. Authors include Pamela Butchart, Patrice Lawrence, Anthony McGowan, Debi Gliori and Vivian French. The range of videos will appeal from Early Years up to S3.

Here is the direct link into some of the videos that have been uploaded so far:

[Matthew Fitt](#) - Matthew gives you some fun tips for learning Scots and will talk about Tam o' Shanter, the poem by Robert Burns that inspired him to write Tommy and the Angel.

[Joseph Coelho](#) - Join poet and children's Joseph Coelho as he shares a reading of the latest book from the Luna Loves Series illustrated by the wonderful Fiona Lumbers - Luna Loves Art.

[Elizabeth Wein](#) - Get creative with historical fiction - the sky's the limit! Let your imagination soar as author Elizabeth Wein gives you her top tips for developing plot and character, and a chance to write your own "Chapter 2" for her new World War II aviation thriller The Last Hawk (Barrington Stoke, 2021).

Supporting Maths and Numeracy

National Numeracy Day took place last month. This included the development of a challenge for parents/carers to take part in online at:

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/challenge/>

There you will find links to a host of tips and resources, from helping children and young people with their maths and numeracy skills to improving your budget skills and much more.

Aberdeenshire's Community Learning and Development team can also support adults with improving numeracy skills. There is lots of help available so please don't be afraid to contact them. You can find out more on their Adult Learning Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ALaberdeenshire/> or on their blog website: <https://aberdeenshireclservice.wordpress.com/>

Expansion of Free School Meals

As per the letter sent out last week, just a reminder that with effect from August 2021 universal free school meals will be expanded from Primary 1 to Primary 3 to include pupils in Primary 4. From January 2022 this provision will be also include Primary 5 pupils.

Whether children have free or paid for meals it is really important, particularly with younger pupils or fussy eaters, that you spend some time with your child looking at the menu so they know what they can choose each day. The menus are available here: [School Meals - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

Raring To Go

The Raring to Go Magazine has moved online, there are lots of ideas for activities both indoors and out that you and your family can take part in over the summer. See the link below: <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/aberdeencya/ndshire/summer/>

Parents Portal

Parentsportal.scot is a digital service to help replace the traditional school bag run by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing selection of online services.

As parentsportal.scot is securely linked to your [myAberdeenshire](#) account it also makes it a one-stop-shop for digital services already available in Aberdeenshire.

Click on link for further information

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

Also attached is a trouble shooting guide.

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.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

Monday August 16 2020	In Service Day
Tues 17 Aug	P2-7 pupils return
Wed 18 Aug	P1 Group 1 pupils 9 - 12.15
Thurs 19 Aug	P1 Group 2 pupils 9 - 12.15
Fri 20 Aug	All P1 pupils 9 - 12.15
Wed 8 Sep	Parent Council AGM 7.30
Fri 15 Oct	End of Autumn term
Mon 18 - Fri 29 Oct	Holiday
Mon 1 Nov	Start of Winter Term
Thurs 18 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Fri 19 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Tue 21 Dec	End of Winter Term
Wed 22 Dec - Tues 4 Jan 2022	Holiday
Wed 5 Jan	Start of Spring term
Fri 11 Feb	Holiday
Mon 14 Feb	Holiday
Tues 15 Feb	In Service Day
Wed 16 Feb	In Service Day
Thurs 31 Mar	End of Spring Term
Fri 1 - Fri 15 April	Holiday
Mon 18 April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 2 May	May day Holiday
Mon 6 June	Occasional Day Holiday
Fri 1 July	End of Summer Term
Mon 4 July - Fri 19 Aug	Holiday

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your support through these difficult times and wish you all a very well earned summer break. I hope you are able to spend time with families and loved ones and recharge your batteries. I wish our P7s all the very best as they take the next step on to the Academy. For some of our P7 parents this will be the last Auchnagatt newsletter you receive, I also wish you all the very best, hopefully we will see some of you back at our Community Cafés once we are able to restart these. For everyone else I look forward to working with you again in the new session.

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher