

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 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



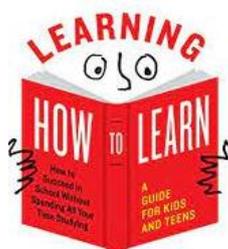
A warm welcome back to the new session, I hope you are all well and managed to enjoy some family time over the holiday period. It is lovely to have all the children back in school and I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome all our new pupils, both in P1 and those who have moved to our school over the holidays.

It is super to see how well our new P1s are all settling in and are already becoming familiar with the class and school routines. The P6 & 7 Buddies have also been great at helping the P1s settle in and find their feet and it is lovely to see a bond developing already. This week P1s took the next big step to full days which also means staying for school lunch. Everyone has taken this in their stride and are managing this independently already. I am sure there will be some really tired children by the end of the week though!

Learning to Learn

We started our session with our Learning to Learn week. Each class did this separately, rather than our whole school working together.

We explored different learning styles and things we need to keep our brain and body healthy and help us to learn. Each class then developed their own class charter of expectations linked to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which is now enshrined in Scots Law.



You can find out more about learning styles here:

[The VAK Learning System \(southwesterncc.edu\)](http://southwesterncc.edu)



Houses

As part of our House system P6/7 pupils have prepared and recorded a short presentation as their pitch to become House Captains or Vice Captains. Each class will view these over the next week before casting their votes in a secret ballot. Once all votes are counted we will announce the House Captains and Vice Captains.

Staffing

P1/2 - Mrs G Robertson & Mrs B Johnston

P3/4 - Mrs S McKerrow & Mrs J Thomson

P5-7 - Mr N Redpath

ASL - Mrs C Brooke

PSAs - Miss J Thompson & Mrs C Senior

Administrator - Miss Susan Greenlaw

Administrative Assistant - Mrs Sarah Edwards

Kitchen Staff:

Cook - Mrs Tracy Matthews

Catering Assistant - Mrs Eileen Thomson

Mrs Johnston will be providing some cover in each of the classes on Mondays and Wednesdays with Mrs McKerrow and Mrs Robertson providing some cover in their own classes on Thursdays.

Mrs A Fraser is a Cluster PSA who will be with us on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Office Cover

Please note that as both Miss Greenlaw and Mrs Edwards are both part time there is NO OFFICE COVER on a Tuesday afternoon from 12.30pm or a Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm. Emails and phone messages are not monitored at these times. Other staff will try to answer phone calls during these times.

Topics

P1/2 - Me and My Body

P3/4 - Marvellous Me

P5-7 - Art and Artists

Library

Pupils are given the opportunity to visit our School Library on a Thursday morning when they can choose a book which they can read at home and in any free time in class. If your child still has a library book from last session at home please can they bring it in on Thursday.



School Bags

All pupils will be issued with a red homework bag, this is to keep any homework, reading records/diaries, reading books, library books and any notes that are

required to go home or be returned to school together, easily accessible and protected. All other items should be carried in your child's school bag. In particular tuck and water bottles should never be put in the red homework bag.

Achievements

As part of our work in school to raise pupils' awareness of their own learning, reinforce that learning is a lifelong process which happens in many places, not solely in school, and that the skills learned in one area can be transferred to activities or problems in another, we have an Achievement Wall to display, share and celebrate achievements out with school. Achievements can be anything that a pupil has been working towards and is proud of eg. successfully growing plants in the garden or independently riding their bike, not just when they achieve a certificate or medal from a club or competition.

If your child has an out of school achievement they would like to share, please email a photo of them taking part in the activity or showing off the final product to the school office with a short account of what they have done and why they are proud so we can display this on our Achievement Wall.



COVID Information

As you will know, the way contacts are being traced and the rules around isolation have changed. Below are links to information from both the Scottish Government and the NHS on what this means:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

The explainer video has been updated on NHS inform www.nhsinform.scot/contact-tracing

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Contact tracing in Scotland.

What we mean by contact tracing and what to expect if you're identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive

www.nhsinform.scot

Remember if your child or someone in your household has symptoms please do not send your child to school, book a PCR test, isolate until you get your results and then follow the advice from Test and Protect. Please also let the school know if your child's absence is COVID related.

Carpark Safety

Just a reminder that, for safety reasons, parents should NOT be using the school carpark at drop off and pick up times. Please use the carpark at the Village Hall, the layby beside the park and, if needed, in the street but avoiding the yellow lines. Please also regularly remind your child/ren of good road safety practices and reinforce these when dropping off and picking them up.

Reporting to Parents

Unfortunately we are still unable to welcome parents in to school at present but we have been looking at ways to keep you informed of your child/ren's progress and development. A new Parents Evening Booking System (PEBS) which is compliant with GDPR and has video capability will shortly be available across all Aberdeenshire schools. We are planning on using this to offer virtual appointments on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 October in place of our normal parent's evenings. More information on this as it becomes available but in the meantime below is a short video of how this will work from a parent's perspective: [Parents Booking - Video Meetings Module Demo - YouTube](#)

We are also planning a welcome meeting on TEAMS for P1 parents on Tuesday 21 September, 1.15 - 2pm. P1 parents will be contacted separately with details of this.

We also plan to resume sending home pupil jotters at 4 points in the session, so you can see what your child has been learning in class and discuss their progress with them. Literacy jotters will be sent home first on Friday 12 November and should be returned on Monday 15

November. There will be an information sheet in the jotter to support you in your discussion with your child.

School Council AGM

This takes place in the school on Wednesday 8 September from 7.30 - 8.30 via Zoom. Information and minutes of the last meeting have already been sent out and the Zoom link will be emailed out shortly. All parents are warmly invited to attend.

Maths Week Scotland

Maths is all around us, we all use maths every day, often without thinking of it as maths eg in baking or food preparation or making travel plans. Maths Week Scotland is a government initiative set up following recommendations from the [Making Maths Count report](#). Maths Week Scotland will return 27 September - 3 October 2021 with the theme *Our World*. Discover the maths behind understanding and tackling the climate emergency as well as explore the natural world around us.

You can find out more on the websites below:
[Events and Activities - Maths Week Scotland](#)
[Maths Week Scotland \(nms.ac.uk\)](https://nms.ac.uk)

The Parent Council have once again funded our whole school subscription to SumDog we have signed up for the Maths Week Scotland Competition, look out for it coming on line!

For those who are new to SumDog, including all our new P1s, your child needs to have completed a number of games before they can enter SumDog competitions. It is really important you let them have a go at these games by themselves as this is an adaptive platform and these games are used to assess your child's current understanding of different concepts before providing games at a level to support and challenge them. If you help them with these games, subsequent questions will be too hard for them.

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

Wed 8 Sept	Parent Council AGM 7:30 via Zoom
Mon 13 Sept	Hands Up Survey week
Wed 13 Oct	Pupil Flu vaccine
Fri 15 Oct	End of Term
Mon 1 Nov	Start of Winter term

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher