

OCTOBER 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

We are almost at the end of Term 1 and it has passed in a flash! It is lovely having all the children back in school and seeing how well they have settled in, particularly our new P1 pupils and pupils who joined us over the summer holidays. School and class routines are becoming more established and it is great seeing the pupils become familiar with these.

House Reward System

Following the election of House Captains and Vice Captains for each of our Houses, their first challenge was to work as a team to prepare a presentation to relaunch our House Reward Scheme to all classes. They did a fabulous job! They worked together to make both a PowerPoint Presentation and a poster, everyone had a job and everyone participated in delivering the presentation. The skills they demonstrated, including leadership, team work, creativity, perseverance, problem solving, negotiation and compromise are all important skills for life and work. They were all awarded House Tokens for their part in the challenge. Well Done P6/7s!



Mini Marathon

This week we are holding our very own Mini Marathon as a fundraiser with the proceeds being split equally between the school and Children in Need. Each class will aim to complete 2.6 miles by doing laps of our playing field. The P5-7 class successfully completed their run yesterday and the P3/4 class are doing theirs today. The P1/2s are

spreading their laps out across the week and are having great fun. The P5-7 class designed the record cards which each child will come home with after their event. If possible could sponsor forms and money be handed in to school by Friday.

Just a reminder that we will celebrate Children in Need on Wednesday 17 November with no further fundraising. Children will be invited to dress up in something yellow, spotty or Pudsey related.

Author Visits

All 3 classes enjoyed a virtual Authors Live visit by the multi-talented Jess French, author of 'Let's Save Our Planet'. The P5-7 pupils also received a follow up visit entitled 'Let's Talk About Our Environment' where they were able to submit questions to Jess. The children really enjoyed these visits and I know they have had quite an impact on some pupils. You can find out more about Jess on the link below. A recording of the event will also be available soon on the Scottish Book Trust website - see the link below where you can also view a huge range of past events.
<https://www.dfmanagement.tv/dr-jess-french/>
<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors-live-on-demand>



Active Schools

All the classes also enjoyed a visit from our Active Schools Coordinator, Iain, with 3 of his work experience pupils. They delivered a programme of games and activities outdoors for each class which the children loved.

Reporting to Parents

Once again this year we held a virtual P1 Parent meeting to give the new P1 parents a flavour of what their children have been doing since starting school. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend, I do hope you found this useful and gave you an insight into how your children are learning in school. We have also held virtual parents' meetings for all classes using the new Parents Booking System.

On the whole this has gone very well, there were one or 2 parents who had a problem getting in, thank you for your perseverance! In most cases we were successful. I am aware that a feature of the system is that both parent and teacher are moved on to their next appointment automatically and although there is a countdown timer it can appear a very abrupt ending to the meeting. I would like to remind you that if there is anything that you did not get to discuss or if you have any concerns or queries going forward, please do get in touch with the school and we can arrange a call.

Can I also remind parents that teacher's GLOW email should only be used for non urgent queries as these are not checked as regularly as the school email. I would also ask parents to use their own email address, not your child's GLOWmail, when contacting teachers. It is also important to remember that the email notifications children receive through Google Classroom are 'no reply' emails therefore staff do not receive anything sent to these.

Flu Vaccinations

The majority of pupils received their flu vaccination today in school and the nurses were very complimentary of all our pupils. For those who were absent or who were unable to have their vaccinations today, you can arrange to get it from your local pharmacy from 1 November.

Staffing

As discussed at the Parent Council, Mrs Edwards, our Admin Support Assistant, leaves at the end of this week. Mrs Edwards has been an important member of our staff team for over 12 years. She has seen many changes at the school during this time and has supported many parents over the years, particularly recently as we have increasingly moved to more digital platforms. She is often the first point of contact for parents with queries, whether in person or by phone. In school she is very much part of our staff team taking a lead on many aspects of our digital technology. She is also central in organising staff social occasions! Mrs Edwards takes an active part in the local community as a member of the Gala Committee and supporting out of school events.

We are all very sorry to see her go and will all miss her bubbly personality as well as her many skills. However, we would like to wish her well as she moves on to a new and exciting chapter in her life in Helensburgh. I am sure it will not be

long before she makes new friends and becomes part of her new community.

I am delighted that, following successful interview, Ms Greenlaw will take on the Admin Support Assistant role as well as her existing Administrator role.

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.

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.

Looking ahead to next term.....

Student

We will be welcoming MA3 student Ella Gray to our P1/2 class for a 4 week block starting 8 November. She will return for a further 5 week block in Term 3.

Bookbug & Read, Write Count Gift Bags

Book Week Scotland is an annual event which takes place across the country. This year Book Week Scotland is 15 - 21 November. During this week Book Bags will be issued to P1 pupils and Read Write Count Bags will be issued to P2 & 3 pupils. These bags are produced by Scottish Book Trust in conjunction with Education Scotland and the Scottish Government. You will find lots of resources and activity ideas to help your child develop and practise their literacy and numeracy skills. More information on Book Week Scotland including the contents of the bags and information on activities and resources for both parents and children to enjoy and celebrate books and writing can be found on the links below:

[Book Week Scotland - Scottish Book Trust](#)

P1 - [Bookbug Bags - Scottish Book Trust](#)

P2 - [SG-38872-Book-Trust-P2-A5-24pp-Broc-JM-V2.indd \(scottishbooktrust.com\)](#)

P3 - [SG-38872-Book-Trust-P3-A5-24pp-Broc-AW-JM.indd \(scottishbooktrust.com\)](#)

Beyond the Panda

P3/4 will receive 2 virtual visits sponsored by the RZSS. They will explore the life of the Giant Panda, China and Chinese culture and some Mandarin.

P5-7 will receive a more in-depth exploration of the above topics with a 7 week programme in Term 3.

SSPCA

All 3 classes will receive a visit from the SSPCA on 11 November. This will be an outdoor workshop entitled Animal Adventures where the pupils will take on the role of an Animal Rescue Officer. They will seek out the animals in need hidden around the playground. Using touchpads, they will discover interesting facts about the animals and, in groups, investigate ways in which to help our wildlife. They will also explore the needs and emotions of animals and how they can experience pain, fear and happiness just like us by coding animal robot reactions to real life scenarios. Please can you ensure pupils have suitable clothing and footwear for an extended period outdoors.

Panto

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our trip to the panto again this year. Instead, we are

exploring options for an online panto. More details to follow nearer the time.

Reporting to Parents

As part of our ongoing Reporting to Parents we will be sending home Literacy Jotters on Friday 12 November so you can see what your child has been learning in class. There will be a support sheet included to help you discuss your child's learning.

Winter Weather

We have been very fortunate with the weather since returning to school. As we move into the colder months children will continue to be outside at break time and lunchtimes unless the weather is severe, there are also times when children are outside as part of their learning. Please ensure pupils come to school in appropriate clothing and footwear.

**Online Safety**

As children 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

Fri 15 Oct	End of Term
Mon 1 Nov	Start of Winter term
Thurs 11 Nov	SSPCA visit
Fri 12 Nov	Literacy Jotters home
Mon 15 Nov	Literacy Jotters returned
Wed 17 Nov	Children in Need
Thurs 18 & Fri 19 Nov	Inservice days - school closed to pupils
Wed 24 Nov	Parent Council Meeting - 7.30pm
Tues 21 Dec	End of term
Wed 5 Jan	Term 3

Yours sincerely
Jill Thomson
Head Teacher