

# JANUARY 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

## Happy New Year

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and managed to find time to recharge your batteries at what can be a very busy time of year.

### Literacy Week

Although last week was a short week, it was also a busy one! We started with a whole school literacy week, this year with a fiction theme and particularly focusing on Fairy Tales. In their classes, and at a level appropriate to their stage, each class looked at a variety of Fairy Tales, their structure and the language particular to this genre of writing. Children then, either in groups, pairs or individually, wrote their own Fairy Story. Pupils in P3-7 also learned about using the app Book Creator and worked on presenting their Fairy Tale using this format.



Following on from our Literacy Week work, the pupils will all be issued with their poems for our annual Scottish Poetry Competition. Once again this year we will hold class heats with 2 finalists from each year group going forward to the final. Heats will be held in classes on Tuesday 25 January. We will also hold our annual Burn's Lunch on 25 January when the P7s will Address the Haggis.

### Supporting your Child with Reading

After all the enthusiasm of our literacy week I have included some links and ideas below to help you support your child on their reading/literacy journey:

#### BBC Bitesize - Word Waves

Word Waves is a BBC project which encourages children and their families to enjoy reading together. It aims to encourage reluctant readers to move from screen time to book time.

The online films use live action and animation to bring stories to life. The stories and poems featured are well loved titles widely available through libraries. Hopefully seeing the books in the Word Waves films and then in real life can help you support reluctant readers take the step to picking up a book and opening up a whole world of reading. Word Waves can be found on the link below:

[Word waves - 1st level English and Literacy - BBC Bitesize](#)

#### Aberdeenshire Library Service



Have you visited your local library recently or visited the library website? They have a wealth of reading materials and activities for both children and adults. As well as borrowing books, library membership allows you to borrow audio and e-books, free access to online newspapers and magazines, download and stream music and access online databases. Follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>

#### Class Topics

P1/2 - Famous Scottish People and Castles  
P3/4 - Scottish History  
P5-7 - Our Planet

#### Rugby Taster

All classes will receive 3 Rugby Taster sessions from Ellon Rugby Club starting on Thursday of this week. In previous years when we have been able to access these sessions they have been lots of fun and the children have really enjoyed them. If at all possible these sessions will be outdoors so please can you ensure your child comes to school wearing suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor PE eg leggings or joggers, a t-shirt and fleece or sweatshirt and outdoor shoes suitable for taking part in PE. If the weather is not suitable then pupils will take part indoors. Thank you to Mr Redpath for organising this.

Turn it off  
READ A F



### Beyond the Panda

This term P5-7 will receive 7 virtual visits sponsored by the RZSS.

They will explore the life of the Giant Panda, China and Chinese culture and some Mandarin. P3/4 received 2 similar visits last term and thoroughly enjoyed the interactive sessions.



### Aberdeen Law Project

P5-7 will also have 2 visits from Aberdeen Law Project; one next week entitled 'Mock Trial' where they will gain an insight to the workings of the legal system and, later in the term, they will pay a return visit to deliver a workshop on Drugs Awareness.

### P1 Enrolment Week

Next session's P1 enrolment week takes place from **Monday 10 to Friday 14 January**.

Enrolment will be online again this year:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/primary-school-registration/>

**Please can you circulate this information to any parents of pupils who will be eligible to start school in August 2022.**

### Reporting to Parents

As part of our Reporting to Parents your child will bring home their Maths/Numeracy jotters and their Modern Languages jotters/folders over the course of this term. As with the Literacy jotters last term there will be a support sheet included to help you discuss your child's work and learning. Dates as follows:

- Maths jotters issued Friday 4 February to be **returned** Monday 7 February
- Modern Languages issued Friday 11 March to be **returned** Monday 14 March

### Headlice

Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't be prevented, but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. Parents and carers should check their children's head once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, conditioner, and a detection comb - ask your local pharmacist to recommend a suitable one. Remember that you are looking for living moving lice, the only evidence that your child is infected.

If you find a living louse, ask your local pharmacist, school nurse, health visitor or GP for advice regarding treatment

### Equal Protection from Assault (Scotland) Act 2019.

This was introduced on 7 November 2020 and all who work with children have a crucial role in implementing the Act. Instances of reasonable chastisement are now classified as an offence of assault and will be shared with the police.

Further information can be found on the links below:

[Smacking and children - mygov.scot](#)  
[Multi-Agency-Equal-Protection-Guidance-Feb-21.pdf \(girfec-aberdeenshire.org\)](#)

### Place 2Be's Parenting Smart

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that provides mental health support and training. Their Parenting Smart page offers practical advice for parents and carers of children aged 4-11. All of their content is created by Place2Be's parenting experts. It's based on evidence and their experiences working with children, young people and their families. There is a wealth of easily accessible topics from tackling tricky mealtimes to promoting resilience and supporting transitions from Primary to Secondary school. All are simply explained using short videos or short reads - 12 minute maximum!

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

### Winter Weather

As we move into the colder months children will continue to be outside at break time and lunchtime unless the weather is severe, there are also times when children are outside as part of their learning. Please ensure pupils come to school with appropriate clothing and footwear. It is also a good idea to have a spare pair of socks/tights, skirt/trousers in their bag in case they get wet or muddy.



### 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](http://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](http://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.

### **Online Safety**

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](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03f521e658-TUK%20ONLINE%20SAFETY%20AT%20HOME%2021%2004%2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03f521e658-54385293)

### **Diary Dates**

Wed 5 Jan	Start of Spring term
Mon 10 - Fri 14 Jan	P1 Enrolment Week
Thur 13 Jan	Rugby Taster
Tues 18	Mintlaw Academy Virtual Parents Evening
Thurs 20	Rugby Taster
Tues 25	Burn's Lunch
Thurs 27	Rugby Taster
Fri 4 Feb	Numeracy Jotters come home
Mon 7 Feb	Numeracy Jotters come back to School
Wed 9 Feb	Parent Council virtual meeting 7pm
Fri 11 Feb	Holiday
Mon 14 Feb	Holiday
Tues 15 Feb	In Service Day
Wed 16 Feb	In Service Day

Fri 11 Mar	Modern Language's Jotters home
Mon 14 Mar	Modern Language's Jotters back to school
Tues 29 Mar	Transition Day Mintlaw Academy
Thurs 31 Mar	End of Spring Term
Fri 1 - Fri 15 April	Holiday

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson  
Head Teacher