

NOVEMBER 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

Health and Wellbeing Week

Welcome back to Term 2 of the session. Each term we start with a themed week, usually this is a whole school co-operative week where the children work in their mixed stage groups. This term our theme is *Healthy Eating*. Once again this year each class worked on the lessons independently. After learning about good food hygiene practises and the Eatwell Guide, and refreshing good hand washing, each class was given the challenge to design a healthy packed lunch. This was approached slightly differently within each class as appropriate to the age and understanding of the pupils but the basic outline of a healthy lunch with a sandwich, drink (smoothie), snack (muffin or cereal bar) and fruit was the same. The groups worked together to plan their item and write a shopping list before making and sampling their item. Alongside this we looked at advertising the products using persuasive language and graphics.

The children loved planning and making the foods but, for most pupils, the tasting was the highlight of the week!

Further information on the Eatwell Guide can be found here: [Module 2 | Food Standards Scotland](#)

Mini Marathon/Children in Need

As you know, we held our own Mini Marathon at the end of last term as a fundraiser with the proceeds being split equally between the school and Children in Need. Each class aimed to complete 2.6 miles by doing laps of our playing field. The children were fantastic at completing the challenge but also in supporting and encouraging each other with some children completing 'bonus' laps in order to support a classmate or younger pupil to complete all their laps. We raised £1488, an amazing total for our small school. A huge WELL DONE to all the children and THANK YOU to everyone who supported us.



Remember, we are marking Children In Need next Wednesday, 17 November. Children are invited to dress in something yellow, spotty or Pudsey related, there will be no further fundraising. The theme this year is 'Together, We Can' and we have certainly proved that with our fundraising event.

Children In Need Day falls on Friday 19 November when the school is closed to pupils for In Service days however you can still join in all the fun at home. Joe Wicks is the Children In Need School's Ambassador again this year, you can hear an introductory message from him here: [Primary School - BBC Children in Need](#) and, at 9.30 on Appeal Morning, take part in his live work out and quiz here [Joe Wicks Workout - BBC Children in Need](#). There is also lots more to explore on the website. Have fun!

SSPCA

This Thursday, 11 November, all 3 classes will receive a visit from the SSPCA. **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.**

Remembrance



This Thursday is also Armistice Day, as in previous years we will hold a minute of silence after which the House Captains and Vice

Captains will recite *For the Fallen* by Robert Laurence Binyon and *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae. This year we will hold our silence in the afternoon so that all classes can experience the SSPCA workshops in the morning.

Reporting to Parents

As part of our Reporting to Parents your child(ren)'s Literacy jotter or folder will be sent home on Friday, 12

November so you can see what your child has been learning in class. There will be a support and feedback sheet included to help you discuss what your child has been learning and what next steps are required to make continued progress. Remember the written work in jotters is only a fraction of the literacy work children take part in, much of their work in class is oral, practical or collaborative, hopefully they can tell you about this too.

It is really important that children bring their Red Bag to school on Friday so that the Literacy jotters can be sent home safely. Please ensure your child returns their jotter to school on Monday 15 November so they can continue working in them.

Book Week Scotland

Next week is Book Week Scotland, during the week we are hoping to distribute Book Bags to P1 pupils and Read Write Count bags to P2 & P3 pupils. The P1 bags have not arrived in school yet but we are hopeful they will be with us soon, we will give them out to children as soon as we can. 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 \(scottishbooktrust.com\)](#)

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is on Wednesday 24 November at 7.30. Further information will be sent out by the Parent Council.



Christmas Arrangements

Once again Christmas will look a little different this year but we still aim to make it as special as we can in school for the children. Our plans are still at an early stage but I wanted to give you a flavour of our

activities:

Santa will once again be making a virtual visit and will leave the children's presents in his sleigh outside the village hall. Thanks once again to Pat and John Anderson for building and erecting the sleigh which will land in Auchnagatt during the weekend of 4/5 December.

Panto, we are investigating virtual pantos to show to the children in their classes.

Parties, each class will have their own party, I will let you know the dates for each class once they are finalised.

Christmas Lunch, we will again have a Christmas Lunch which you will be asked to order in advance. There will be crackers and Christmas music and children will be invited to wear their Christmas jumper to add to the festive feel - date TBC.

Christmas Cards, as communicated in an email last term, children should not bring Christmas Cards in to school for sharing this year, instead families are invited to make a small donation to our chosen charity - the **Central Buchan Christmas Appeal**. This is a local charity where all the gifts and donations are distributed in the Buchan area. The group who manage the appeal are well on in their planning of this year's appeal. As well as locating Giving Trees in the local area they will be using an Amazon link and are also appealing for cash donations to purchase presents, gift bags and food parcels. Last year the appeal supported 127 children from 68 families in our area. More information to follow.

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

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

There are still a small number of parents who continue to use the school carpark regularly. **FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN DO NOT USE 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. Thank you to all the parents who are parking in these alternative places. Please also regularly remind your child/ren of good road safety practices and reinforce these when dropping off and picking them up.

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

Diary Dates

Wed 10 Nov	Parent Council - Wreath Making Demo 7pm Village Hall
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