

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

As we approach the end of another very busy term I wanted to give you an update on some of the things we have been doing in school, plans for the next 3 weeks and into the next session.

The P5-7s enjoyed the live visit from Nick Sheridan and the Scottish Book Trust team. We had a very successful sports day and Jubilee celebration with many parents able to come along and share these events. P5-7 have also enjoyed a visit from 2 of the Scottish Opera team to work with them and record the song they have been practising as part of a joint project with other schools in the Mintlaw Cluster. Our first Community Café in the school with the upper stages pupils hosting was a great success and well attended by parents and grandparents. I hope you managed to see our Facebook posts on all of these events.

All classes had a super trip to Techfest in Aberdeen on Monday 23 May.

P7 Activity Days

Our P7 pupils had the opportunity to enjoy 3 days of activities with Kininmonth and Pitfour P7 pupils in place of a residential trip this session. The pupils loved the activities, made some new friends and were very tired at the end of each day!

Junior Cop Initiative

The P5-7 class took part in the Junior Cop initiative with Police Scotland officers and were very excited to detect a number of cars speeding through Auchnagatt. These drivers then undertook a questionnaire with the pupils asking some hard hitting questions. Hopefully this will help lead to a reduction in speeding in the village and around our school.

Beyond the Panda

You may remember that over the session both the P3/4 and the P5-7 classes took part in virtual visits



sponsored by the RZSS exploring the life of the giant panda, China and Chinese culture and some Mandarin. Following on from these virtual visits we had an in person visit from Sandie Robb to consolidate and extend the virtual sessions with some hands on activities. Further information on the programme, including a free family session, can be found on the link below:

[RZSS: Beyond the Panda](#)

Lunchtime Clubs

We now have a number of lunchtime clubs running again:

Monday - Environmental Club - Mrs Senior

Tuesday - Team Games - Amy

Wednesday - Football Skills - Amy

Thursday - Running Club (P4-7s) - Mr Redpath

Thursday - Homework - Mrs Senior

Mintlaw Athletics Festival

Pupils from the P5-7 class took part in a very damp Mintlaw Athletics Festival yesterday evening. The poor weather did not dampen the children's enthusiasm with everyone doing their best and representing our school well. At the festival there are 2 trophies presented, one for the big schools and one for the small schools. I am delighted that Auchnagatt won the small schools trophy for the second time running. Very well done to all the pupils who took part!

End of Session Arrangements

The next few weeks are going to be very busy in the run up to the end of session.

Summer Reading Challenge

On Tuesday 21 June Robert Cook from Aberdeenshire Library Service will visit all classes to launch this

year's Summer Reading Challenge. This is a great way to keep your child engaged with reading over the summer holidays. Have a look at the information attached to this email as this year there are different competitions for all age



groups - from pre school to adults. Further information can also be found on the link below: [Summer Reading 2022 - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](http://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk)

Moving Up Mornings

On Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 June we will have our moving up mornings when we will welcome our new P1 pupils into school and pupils will spend the morning in their new class groups.

Community Café and Open Garden

On Friday 24 June we will hold our second Community Café in the school from 10am to 11.30am. All parents, grandparents and friends of our school are welcome to come along and enjoy a fly cup and fine piece. There will also be an Open Garden where some of our pupils will host tours of the garden and explain some of our recent developments.

Buchan Beginning to Bloom

On the afternoon Friday 24 June we have the judges from the Buchan Beginning to Bloom Gardening Competition visit our school garden.

Achievement Assembly

We will hold our annual Achievement Assembly for pupils on Friday 24 June where we will celebrate the children's progress and successes.

End of Session Assembly

This year's End of Session Assembly will be held on Friday 1 July at 2pm. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

New Classes for 2022-23

As discussed at the recent Parent Council, our pupil numbers are increasing next session. This is great news and means we will have a very healthy role next session. However it also presents us with some challenges as it means we will need to have 4 classes. As you know we only have 3 classroom spaces at the moment and have been busy working on converting our library into a fourth classroom. This does mean that we are going to be very tight on space in our school but we do plan to have a class library in every class and hopefully a small area of library in the entrance hall. Pupils will still have access to the books we have in school and will be able to borrow them to read at home. Our classes and staffing for next session will therefore be as follows:

P1/2 - Mrs Robertson & Mrs Johnston

P3/4 - Ms McLachlan

P4/5 - Mrs McKerrow & Mrs Thomson

P6/7 - Mr Redpath

This configuration means that only 1 year group, the P4 pupils, will be split. An email will be sent separately to parents of P4 pupils informing you of which class your child will be in next session.

I am delighted to welcome Ms McLachlan to our staff for her probationary year.

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

Summer of Play

Live Life Aberdeenshire are once again offering a range of activities for children and families. Please note your child needs to be registered on the Live Life Aberdeenshire booking system before you can make a booking. Previous sessions have been booked up quickly so I would suggest looking at the activities on offer and planning what you would like to attend well in advance of the booking opening. See the attached leaflet for information or follow the link below: [Summer of Play - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](http://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk)

Free Microsoft Office

Just a reminder that children in primary or secondary school have free access to Microsoft Office 365 and Google



Gsuite as part of the Glow platform. Pupils can use their Glow username and password to access them from any device to support learning at home. Glow users can also download, free of charge, the latest version of the Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and OneNote - onto a total of 15 home machines and personal devices. Find out more [here](#).

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

As well as this Parent Club have a resource to help keep children safe on line - see below for further information:

[Online Safety | Parent Club](#)

Diary Dates

14, 15 & 16 June	Ellon Academy Transition Days
Wed 15 th June	Parent Virtual Evening - Ellon Academy
Wed 22 June	Mintlaw Academy Virtual Open Evening
22, 23 & 24 June	Mintlaw Academy Transition Days
Fri 24 June	Community Café & Open Garden
Fri 1 July	End of Year Assembly
Fri 1 July	End of Summer Term
Mon 4 July - Fri 19 Aug	Holiday

Mon August 22 2022	In Service Day for staff
Tues 23 Aug	P2-7 pupils return
Wed 24 Aug	P1 Group 1 pupils - 9am - 12.15pm
Thurs 25 Aug	P1 Group 2 pupils - 9am - 12.15pm
Fri 26 Aug	All P1 pupils - 9am - 12.15pm
Wed 31 Aug	P1 Parent Lunch
Wed 7 Sep	Parent Council AGM at 7.30pm
Fri 14 Oct	End of Autumn term
Mon 17 th - Fri 28 th Oct	Holiday
Monday 31st October	Start of Winter Term
Thurs 17 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils

Fri 18 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Thurs 22 Dec	End of Winter Term
Fri 23 Dec	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 26 th Dec - Fri 6 th Jan	Holiday
Monday 9 th January 2023	Start of Spring term
Fri 10 Feb	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 13 Feb	Holiday
Tues 14 Feb	In Service Day
Wed 15 Feb	In Service Day
Fri 31 Mar	End of Spring Term
Mon 3 rd - Fri 14 th April	Holiday
Monday 17 th April	Start of Summer Term
Mon 1 May	Holiday
Mon 5 June	Occasional Day Holiday
Fri 7 July	End of Summer Term
Mon 10 th July - Fri 18 Aug	Holiday
Mon 21 st August 2023	New School Year Starts

Finally....

I would like to thank you all for your support through what has again been a challenging year. I wish you all a very well earned summer break, I hope you are able to spend time with family 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. I look forward to working with you all again next session.

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher