

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

I can't believe we are approaching the end of term already, this has been such a busy term and has passed in a flash!

Deer Abbey Dig

The P6/7 class enjoyed their visit to Deer Abbey to take part in the archaeological dig there. They heard stories about the history of the Abbey before getting started on the dig itself. The children made a number of finds, mainly small items such as pieces of pottery and bone, which are being sent off for analysis. They also found evidence of fires, but their most exciting find was a horse bone estimated to be approximately 200 years old.

SSPCA Visit

SSPCA Education Officer Emily, visited all classes on 14 September with new workshops. The P3-7 pupils took part in 'Animals and Us' where they learned about both pets and wild animals. They learned about how animals communicate so they will understand what their pet or a wild animal is trying to tell them by their actions. They also took part in interactive games and quizzes to further their knowledge. The P1/2's workshop was entitled Rabbit Rescuers where the children learned how to care for a pet rabbit, how to hold them, what to feed them and how often to clean them out.

You can find out more about the SSPCA and access further activity packs to use at home by following the link: [Animal WISE for Primary | SSPCA \(scottishspca.org\)](https://www.scottishspca.org/)

Beyond the Panda

Sandie from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland made a return visit to our school last week to deliver further workshops. She delivered a new workshop, Giants, to the P4/5 and P6/7 classes. This compared the giant anteater from South America and the giant Panda from China and built



on the work done last session in the virtual and in person workshops. The P1/2 and P3/4 classes looked at the giant panda. Both workshops looked at the characteristics of some of the other animals native to China and included some Mandarin language.

Further information on the work of the RZSS and a family learning pack (click on the 'Zoo Fun with Mandarin tab) can be found on the link below - [RZSS: Beyond the Panda](#)



Maths Week Scotland

I hope your children enjoyed the in school and homework activities linked to

Maths week Scotland last week culminating in a whole school Assembly led by Ms McLachlan on Friday. Further information and this year's activities can be found on the link below - [26 September - 2 October 2022 - Maths Week Scotland](#)

Community Café

It was lovely to see so many people at our first Community Café of the session on Friday. The P6/7 children were amazing at their jobs, it was lovely to see them take on their responsibilities with such maturity. All the P4-7 pupils were great at canvassing for their political parties. Thank you to everyone who came out on such a miserable morning to support us and for answering all the children's questions.

Next Community Café is on **Friday 25 November 10am - 11.30am**. This will also be an open morning where parents will have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and see them at work.

Reporting to Parents

Just a reminder that parent interviews are next week - Tuesday 11 October for in person interviews and Wednesday 12 October for virtual interviews. If you have not booked your slot yet please follow the link in your individual email to

do so. If you are having problems please contact the school office for support.

Please also see the Reporting to Parents Calendar included as a separate attachment which outlines all the reporting opportunities planned for this session.

Mini Marathon/Children in Need

Some of you may have watched the London Marathon at the weekend which this year included a children's 2.6 mile



Mini Marathon, next week we are holding our very own Mini Marathon along the railway line. Mr Redpath and the P6/7 class are taking a lead on organising this as a fundraiser with the proceeds being split equally between the school and Children in Need. You should have already had a letter and sponsorship form home which the children developed. This was sent home as a paper copy, if you have not received this, please contact the school office.



We will be celebrating Children in Need on **Wednesday 16 November** (as Friday 18 November is an In-service Day). Children are invited to dress up in something yellow, spotty or Pudsey themed. There will be no further fundraising on Wednesday 16 November.

Attendance/Absence

Regular attendance at school has many positive benefits and conversely poor attendance and lateness can have a detrimental impact on a child's learning and wider development. As a school we have a duty to monitor attendance in accordance with Aberdeenshire Policy. To assist us in this please ensure that you contact us giving a reason for your child's absence as soon as possible, we are required to follow up any unexplained absences by 9.30am. If no reason is given the absence is automatically recorded as an unauthorised absence until we have further information. If you know your child will be off for a planned absence, please contact the school as soon as is practical, depending on the reason for this absence, it will be recorded as authorised eg for medical appointments or unauthorised eg for family holidays. We also have a duty to monitor overall attendance and take action where a pattern emerges or, from term 2, where overall absence reaches a trigger

point, whether this is explained or unexplained absence. Please note that when a trigger point is reached, contact with parents is triggered, initially in the form of a letter/email.

Sound Festival 2022

Events and opportunities for families and young people at **soundfestival** this October!

Soundfestival 2022 takes place in venues across Aberdeen 26-30 October. There are other events out with the festival, that are also promoted in the link, that you may be interested in.

Explore the full programme at: www.sound-scotland.co.uk

For further information contact: info@sound-scotland.co.uk



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 14 - 20 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:

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

P2 & 3 - [Read, Write, Count - Scottish Book Trust](#)

Christmas Cards/Christmas Gift Appeal

I know it is early to be discussing Christmas but I also know some families are super organised and like to get started early and spread both the cost and workload over a number of months.

Once again this year we are asking pupils **NOT** to bring in cards for all their friends and classmates for a number of reasons, primarily the environmental impact but also the stress this can cause at home trying to write out all the cards and the upset this can cause in school if someone is missed out. We have also found many cards still in trays or bags well into the new year.

This was again discussed at Parent Council this year where there was unanimous agreement.

Instead families are invited to make a small donation to a local charity. We have chosen the **Central Buchan Christmas Appeal**, see below for details. This is a local charity where all the gifts and donations are distributed in the Buchan area. The group who manage the appeal are at the early stages of planning this year's appeal but are again planning on locating Giving Trees in the local area, using an Amazon link and are also appealing for cash donations to purchase presents, gift bags and food parcels. Last year the appeal supported over 100 families in our area.

Central Buchan Christmas Present Appeal 2022



The Central Buchan Xmas Present Appeal's aim is to provide Xmas gifts to children in our area whose families may struggle to manage this, eg:

Parents/carers on low income, families with significant support needs, parents recently made redundant, young people who are Care Leavers, young people who are homeless, Young Carers, families who have recently experienced trauma (e.g bereavement)

Gifts are provided for children from birth to 18 years of age and all gifts donated are distributed within the Mintlaw Cluster area.

Parents/carers who feel they would benefit from this appeal please contact Mrs Thomson in confidence.

Parents/carers who would like to donate to this appeal can either collect a tag from one of the giving trees which will contain information on the age and interests of the child the gift is for. In previous years Giving trees have been located in Maud Resource Centre, New Deer Chemist and Longleys Country Store in Maud. Alternatively if parents want to donate a gift (unwrapped) with a suggested value of £10 or would prefer to give a cash donation (in a sealed envelope clearly marked with "Central Buchan Christmas Present Appeal 2022") these can be handed in to school and we will arrange for collection.

I will issue further information as it becomes available but wanted to let you know of our plans at an early stage.

Winter Weather

Apart from last Friday, 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. We do regularly remind the children to stay out of the muddy parts of our playground and out of the puddles when it is raining as well as reminding them that we have our 2 shelter sheds to use when it is wet. I would be most grateful if you could reinforce this message at home.



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.

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

Tues 11 & Wed 12 Oct	Parent interviews
Thurs 13 Oct	Mini Marathon
Fri 14 Oct	End of Autumn term
Mon 17 - Fri 28 Oct	Holiday
Monday 31st October	Start of Winter Term
Fri 11 - Mon 14 Nov	Literacy jotters home
Thurs 17 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Fri 18 Nov	In Service Day - school closed to pupils
Wed 23 Nov	Parent Council - 7pm
Fri 25 Nov	Community Café & Open Morning 10am - 11.30am
Fri 25 Nov	Flu vaccination for pupils
Mon 19 Dec	Santa's Visit
Tues 20 Dec	Panto Visit
Thurs 22 Dec	End of Winter Term
Fri 23 Dec	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 26 Dec - Fri 6 Jan	Holiday
Monday 9 January 2023	Start of Spring term

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher