

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

We had a great start to the term with our whole school HWB week focusing on



mental health. Pupils worked in their mixed stage groups to produce a poster relating to a given emotion. Throughout the week we had a variety of activities from identifying different emotions and when we might feel them, where in the body we feel different emotions, behaviour as a way of communicating emotions, strategies to manage different emotions in ourselves and how to support others manage their emotions. We also took part in Yoga with Adriene to promote both physical and mental wellbeing you can access free yoga sessions on the link below. Following this, each group devised their own yoga flow to present to the whole school.

[Yoga with Adriene](#)

Look out for your child coming home on Friday with a 'My Self Care Plan' booklet which has lots of information and activities for promoting positive mental health and wellbeing which you can use at home. I have also attached an electronic copy for your information and to make following the links easier. Also attached is a copy of Kooth's Handy Guide for Parents and Carers. While the Kooth Counselling service is aimed at pupils aged 10 and over, the booklet has a wealth of information and advice which can be used with children of all ages. I hope you find these resources helpful.

You can see the posters the pupils produced in the school hall at the next Community Café.

Community Café

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.

I am also delighted that we will again have a Fairtrade stall with a selection of products available to help you get your Christmas shopping started. The stall is provided by Bonnyton Fairtrade and will be manned by the P6/7 pupils. Bonnyton Fairtrade also have an open house sale between 8-13 November, see attached flyer for details, and an online shop: <https://bonnyton-fairtrade.mybigcommerce.com>

Celebration

Many congratulations to Mrs Robertson who received a Silver Award from Aberdeenshire Council for 25 years' service. She was presented with her award at a Long Service Lunch with Chief Executive, Jim Savage, Head of Service, Laurence Findlay and Provost Judy Whyte in Woodhill house on Wednesday 2 November.

Reporting to parents

As part of our planned approach of reporting to parents pupils will bring home their Literacy jotters on **Friday 11 November**. Please take time to look through your child's jotter and discuss their work. There is a feedback sheet in your child's jotter for you to comment on the work they have been doing. Please remember that the written work in their jotter is only a part of the literacy work they do in school, much of their work will be oral, active and group work. Literacy jotters should be returned to school on **Monday 14 November**.

Book Week Scotland

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across the country and this year runs from **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 and the contents of the gift bags can be found on the link below: [Book Week Scotland - Scottish Book Trust](#)

Live Life Aberdeenshire also have a range of events at a number of local libraries from Monday 14th to Saturday 19th November. From local history to photography, how to declutter your home to a whodunnit, and a creative writing workshop too.

To find out about all of the events, and to book your place go to : [Book Week Scotland 2022 - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](#)

Remembrance

We will mark Armistice Day with a minute silence on Friday 11 November after which the P7 pupils will recite For the Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon and In Flanders Fields by John McCrae.



Mini Marathon/Children in Need

Just a reminder that, as our mini marathon at the end of last term was a joint fundraiser for school funds and Children in Need, we will not be doing any further fundraising for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsor money, so far we have raised an amazing £959.50! If you still have sponsor money please could you hand it in to school by Friday 4 November.

Children are invited to dress up in something spotty, yellow or Pudsey themed on **Wednesday 16 November** to mark Children in Need.

Christmas Arrangements

Christmas Cards/Christmas gift Appeal

Just a reminder that we are asking children **NOT** to bring in Christmas Cards, instead parents can make a donation to the Central Buchan Christmas present Appeal. The link to the Amazon Gift List is below, further information on where trees will be sited and gifting cash donations will follow once these are finalised.

[Check out my list on Amazon](#)

School Show

I am delighted to tell you that we are planning a school show this term; Lights, Camel, Action is a fun filled, upbeat, modern show with all the traditional nativity characters. The children were all very excited about it when we announced it on Wednesday. Everyone will have a role in our show but those who would like a speaking, singing or dancing part should have come home on Wednesday with a page from the script and/or a note with information about auditions which will take place on **Wednesday 9 November**. There will be 2 performances of the show, on Wednesday 14 December, more information to follow on ticket arrangements for this.

Christmas Lunch

We will have our whole school Christmas Lunch on **Thursday 15 December**. Further details and choices will be sent out separately.

Santa

Santa will be paying us an in person visit on **Monday 19 December**. All the children will get the chance to visit Santa in his Grotto and receive a gift.

Panto

We will be attending HMT for the matinee performance of Peter Pan on Tuesday 20 December. Thank you to the Parent Council for paying for the tickets for this.

Parties

P1/2 & P3/4 - Wednesday 21 December

P4/5 & P6/7 - Thursday 22 December

Both parties will be in the afternoons from 1.30 - 3pm. More details to follow.

Christmas Service

On Thursday 22 December we will once again join New Deer School at St Kane's Church for a joint Christmas service, timings TBC. Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to join us at the church.

Carpark safety

Once again I would like to remind you that for safety reasons, parents should **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. Please also

regularly remind your child/ren of good road safety practices and reinforce these when dropping off and picking them up.

In Your Hands

Due to the disruptions of the past couple of years many of you will be unaware that we have a link school in Nepal; Siddhartha Basic School, a small rural school similar in size to Auchnagatt. The link came about when one of our former pupils, Amber Cunningham, attended a presentation delivered by In Your Hands co-founder Pauline Sanderson. She was so enthused by the presentation that she persuaded first her family and then our school to become involved. IYH was founded following the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in 2015 with the aim of rebuilding 6 schools which had been damaged or destroyed. We raised money in school in a variety of ways, including the proceeds from our summer show. Amber's dad also raised money by taking part in 'The Highlander' mountain marathon, his work pledged to fund match our efforts. We were able to present IYH with a phenomenal total of £6000, far above the original £1500 originally pledged. This more than covered the rebuilding of Siddhartha School and helped fund their other developments.



Over the following years we had follow up visits from Pauline to give us updates on how Siddhartha School and the work of the charity were progressing. Unfortunately COVID impacted the work of the charity and the developments they were involved in. Now they are getting back on track and you can follow the progress on the links below: 2 teachers from Siddhartha School were involved in the latest teacher training -

<http://www.inyourhandscharity.org/index.php/bl/og/teacher-training-report-2022/>

All the latest developments can be found here - <http://www.inyourhandscharity.org/index.php/bl/og/we-are-back/>

Pauline reports that Siddhartha school is doing well.

Adverse Weather Arrangements

I have attached an updated copy of the Adverse Weather Information which you received earlier

this session. Please note the phone line is no longer available. Out with the school day all school closures due to adverse weather will be communicated through the Aberdeenshire Council Adverse Weather Website Information Service.

Worried About Money

The cost of living crisis continues to stretch family finances. The attached leaflet details further support which may be available to families. This leaflet can also be accessed and printed in a range of languages by following this link: [Aberdeenshire - Worried about Money? \(worryingaboutmoney.co.uk\)](http://worryingaboutmoney.co.uk)

Parents Portal

Parentsportal.scot is a digital service to help replace the traditional school bag run by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing selection of online services.

As parentsportal.scot is securely linked to your [myAberdeenshire](#) account it also makes it a one-stop-shop for digital services already available in Aberdeenshire.

Click on link for further information <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/parents-portal/>

If you have not already signed up to this service I would encourage you to do so, if you have any problems please contact Mrs Crawford in the school office for support.

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

Fri 11 Nov	Literacy Jotter go home
Mon 14 Nov	Literacy Jotter back
Wed 16 Nov	Children In Need
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 and Fair Trade Stall 10-11.30am
Fri 25 Nov	Flu Vac
Wed 14 Dec	School Show
Wed 15 Dec	School Christmas Lunch
Mon 19 Dec	Santa Visit
Tues 20 Dec	Panto Visit
Wed 21 Dec	P1/2 & P3/4 Christmas Party
Thurs 22 Dec	Church Service - New Deer
Thurs 22 Dec	P4/5 & P6/7 Christmas Party
Thurs 22 Dec	End of Winter Term
Fri 23 Dec	Occasional Day Holiday
Mon 26 th Dec - Fri 6 th Jan	Holiday
Monday 9th Jan 2023	Start of Spring term

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher