

DECEMBER 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

The term has passed in a flash, as term 2 tends to do with all the Christmas activities. Much of our time in school has been taken up with preparations for our show; auditions, song practise, rehearsals and programme and ticket design. The children have been amazing! They have all really risen to the challenge...all we need now is to be able to perform it to an audience.

As well as all the Christmas fun, there have been many other highlights this term. P6/7 have had weekly live Mandarin and Chinese Culture lessons online. We held a very successful Community Café with open morning, Fairtrade and Gardening Club stalls. I hope those parents who were able to come along enjoyed being able to visit their child's class to see them working. P1/2 and P3/4 enjoyed a very informative visit from local meteorologist, Maria Pedrosa, as part of their Weather project. P4/5 took part in a live online Internet Legends Day Assembly as a follow up to their online safety lessons last session. The DYW group are making a range of Christmas cards and decorations. The RRS group have set up a book exchange in the school foyer with a range of books for children and adults - please do have a look at these when you are next in school and help yourself to any you would like to read yourself or for your children.

A number of pupils and their families attended the Christmas Service in Auchnagatt Hall led by Janet Dick. We all enjoyed a very entertaining re telling of the Christmas story with lots of interactive activities ... including lots of chocolate! There was the opportunity to relax and socialise afterwards with refreshments and mincemeat pies. Janet will lead the service in New Deer Church at the end of term.

Christmas Arrangements

Christmas Lunch

****Note the revised date for our Christmas Lunch: Friday 16 December**.** Children, and staff, are encouraged to wear their



Christmas jumper to add to the festivities. Many thanks to the Parent Council who have supplied the crackers for the Christmas lunch.

Santa's Grotto

After 2 years of virtual visits, Santa will again return to his Grotto in our wee house for 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. The Parent Council will be hosting a café with refreshments for parents who wish to come along and see their child/ren receive their gift. You should already have completed the Microsoft Form to let us know which time slot you will attend, parents who are not able to attend will receive a photo of their child/ren receiving their gift after the event. We will endeavor to fit everyone in to their preferred timeslots. Our P7 elves will be coordinating this.



Many thanks to the Parent Council for supporting Santa's visit.

Panto

We will be attending HMT for the matinee performance of Peter Pan on Tuesday 20 December. Please can pupils bring a snack and drink to have at the interval, please can these be put in a small bag eg a food bag, and labelled with their name. We anticipate arriving back at school around 5.30pm, a message will be sent via Groupcall when we are leaving Aberdeen giving a more accurate update. Parents are asked to collect their child/ren from their classes so we can ensure everyone's safety.

Parties

***P1/2 & P3/4 - Friday 16 December (new date)**

P4/5 & P6/7 - Thursday 22 December

Both parties will be in the afternoons from 1.30 - 3pm.

Children should come to school in their normal uniform and bring their party clothes in a bag labelled with their name. Children will be given

the opportunity to come in early after lunch to get changed for their party.

Many thanks to the Parent Council who are supplying the food and prizes for the parties.

Christmas Service

On **Thursday 22** December we will once again join New Deer School at St Kane's Church for a joint Christmas service at **9.30am**. Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to join us at the church. There will be a silver collection at the door for charity, the pupils of Auchnagatt and New Deer Schools will choose the charities we will support. Our Pupil Council is in the process of collecting ideas before everyone has the opportunity to vote for our chosen charity. If you have a link to a charity that is important to your family please discuss this with your child/ren so they can add it to our list in school.

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.

[Check out my list on Amazon](#)

Looking Ahead to Next Term

We will start the term with our whole school Literacy Week where the pupils will work in their mixed collaborative groups. The theme this year is non fiction texts and we have some exciting activities planned for them. We will also issue pupils with their poems to learn for our annual Scots and Doric Poetry Recitation Competition, more details on this next term.

We also welcome Miss Jessica Massie, a first year MA Primary Education student who will work mainly in the P6/7 class. Miss Massie will be with us from the start of term for 5 weeks.

P1 Enrolment Week

Next session's P1 enrolment week takes place from **Monday 16 to Friday 20 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.



Winter Weather

The winter weather has certainly arrived but 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.

Services and resources available to support families

Children's and Young Person's Physiotherapy Advice Line

Based within the paediatric physiotherapy team within NHS Grampian, we have recently set up a children's and young person's advice line which is accessible to **anyone** who has questions/concerns and would like some advice.

See the attached poster for further information and phone number.

Find a Warm Welcome Space Today

Follow the link below to find places which are offering free, warm, welcoming spaces for the public over this winter across the UK. Use the map to find out where there are places locally, the facilities on offer and opening times: [Find a Warm Welcome Space Today](#)

Aberdeenshire Council have a place on the website where a range of supports and advice have been pulled together to support everyone through the current challenging time: [Cost of living crisis - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

A Local Information System for Scotland (ALISS)

This is a digital system that helps communities work together to find and share information about local groups, organisations, activities and services that can support health and wellbeing. You can search by postcode to find services and activities available in the local area. Follow the link for further information: [Services | ALISS](#)

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 online - see below for further information:

[Online Safety | Parent Club](#)

Diary Dates

Fri 16 Dec	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Fri 16 Dec	P1/2 & P3/4 Christmas Party
Mon 19 Dec	Santa Visit
Tues 20 Dec	Panto Visit
Wed 21 Dec	School Show
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 January 2023	Start of Spring term

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I look forward to working with you again in 2020.



Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher