

# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 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



A very warm welcome back to school. I hope you all had a lovely summer and were able to spend some quality time with friends and family. It is lovely to have all the children back in school and see how much they have grown over the holidays. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils, both in P1 and who have moved to our school over the holidays.

It is great to see the new P1s settling into school and already becoming familiar with the class and school routines. The P7 Buddies have been a fantastic help in this, not only are they supporting their own Buddy but also working as a team to ensure all the P1s are supported and included even if their own Buddy is not around.

We look forward to welcoming the P1s and a parent for their school lunch on Wednesday 30 August in preparation for starting full days next week. As already communicated to P1 parents, due to the numbers of pupils we have in school, P1s and their parents will have their lunch from 11.45 - 12.30, the P5-7 pupils will go out to play before coming in for lunch at 12.30 and all other pupils will have their lunch as usual at 12.15.

## Learning to Learn

We started the session last week with our annual

Learning to Learn week where each class looked at how we learn, different learning styles and things we need to keep our brain and body



Learning  
How to Learn

healthy and help us to learn to the best of our ability. Each class looked at the United Nation's Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and used this to develop their own Class Charter of expectations. The Rights Respecting School Group will now look at our School Charter to ensure it still aligns with the new class charters and will issue this along with each of the Class Charters to parents in their first newsletter of the session.

## Houses

As part of our House System P6/7s are invited to prepare a presentation which they will deliver to their House during Assembly time on Friday of this week. The pupils in each House will then vote for their House Captain and Vice Captain in a secret ballot. Once all votes are counted we will announce the House Captains and Vice Captains



## Staffing

P1-3 - Mrs G Robertson & Mrs B Johnston

P3-5 - Mrs S McKerrow & Mrs J Thomson

P5-7 - Mr N Redpath

ASL - Mrs C Brooke

PSAs - Miss J Thompson, Mrs C Senior & Mrs L Urquhart

Administrator - Mrs S Crawford

Kitchen Staff:

Cook - Mrs T Matthews

Catering Assistant - Ms C Jolly

Cleaners:

Mrs W Alexander

Ms J Milne

Mrs Johnston will be providing some cover in each of the classes on Mondays and Wednesdays with Mrs Robertson providing some cover in P1-3 and P3-5 on Thursdays.

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Leanne Urquhart, PSA, to our staff team. Mrs Urquhart will work with us for a few hours each week as she also works in some of the other schools in our network. She has training in LIAM (Lets Introduce Anxiety Management) and, once she gets to know our school and pupils she may work

with small groups or individuals using her skills in this CBT approach for children.

### Office Cover

Please note that as Mrs Crawford is part time there is **NO OFFICE COVER** on a Tuesday afternoon from 12.30pm or a Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm. Emails and phone messages are not monitored at these times. Other staff will try to answer phone calls during these times but this may not always be possible.

### Topics

P1-3 - Me and My Body

P3-5 - Animals and Plants Around the World

P5-7 - Our Planet

Further information on what each class aims to cover this term will be included in individual class newsletters which will be issued at the end of this week.



### School Bags

All pupils are issued with a red homework bag which they will keep for the duration of their time in school, this is to keep any homework, reading

records/diaries, reading books, library books and any notes that are required to go home or be returned to school together, easily accessible and protected. All other items should be carried in your child's school bag. In particular tuck and water bottles should never be put in the red homework bag. Red Bags should be brought to school every day. Thank you to the Parent Council who have very kindly funded the Red Bags for the new P1 pupils which feature our school logo on the front. If anyone would like to purchase a new red bag at the cost of £5.50, please contact the school office.

### Pencil Cases

The Parent Council have also provided a wipeable pencil case with the essential items of stationery and coloured pencils for each child. We found this very helpful over the past few years so again, thank you.

### PE

Please could all pupils bring a PE kit to school in a bag with their name on which they can leave on their peg in school. PE kit consists of a T-shirt which can be tucked in, standard length shorts/leggings or joggers, socks, gym

shoes/trainers. Jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure he/she can remove and replace their own earrings. Any child wearing earrings that cannot do this will be asked to put surgical tape over them for PE lessons and parents should provide a named roll of surgical tape for this purpose. Shoe string strap tops are also discouraged for safety reasons as they can catch on gym apparatus.

As far as possible this term, weather permitting, PE for all classes will be outdoors.

### Music

Mrs Johnston will continue to deliver music lessons to all classes using the online Charanga Music resource. As well as this I am delighted to inform you that Mr Douglas Watt will deliver the i-Pad Music Course to P5-7 and P3-5 this term. This is part of Aberdeenshire's Instrumental Music Service and is funded by the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative. Both classes will showcase the work they have undertaken with Mr Watt on the morning of Tuesday 10 October. More information from individual classes will be issued in due course but save the date to your diary if you have pupils in these classes.

### Achievements

As part of our work in school to raise pupils' awareness of their own learning, reinforce that learning is a lifelong process which happens in many places, not solely in school, and that the skills learned in one area can be transferred to activities or problems in another, we have an Achievement Wall to display, share and celebrate achievements out with school. Achievements can be anything that a pupil has been working towards and is proud of eg. successfully growing plants in the garden or independently riding their bike, not just when they achieve a certificate or medal from a club or competition.

If your child has an out of school achievement they would like to share, please email a photo of them taking part in the activity or showing off the final product to the school office with a short account of what they have done and why they are proud so we can display this on our Achievement Wall.



**Community Café's**

Community Cafés are held in the school hall from 10 - 11.30am on the last Friday of the month if we are in school. These are an opportunity for parents, wider family, friends of our school and members of the local community to come along and enjoy a cuppa and one of Mrs Matthew's fine pieces. This is also a valuable opportunity for pupils from P6 & 7 to develop and practice life skills - meeting and greeting, serving, calculating costs and giving change, clearing tables etc. At some of our Community Cafés there are also additional activities, see below for dates and further details:

29 September  
24 November - Open Morning and Fairtrade Stall (TBC)  
26 January - Poetry winners  
23 February  
26 April  
31 May - Open Morning  
28 June - Open Garden

### Annual Data Check

Everyone will receive their Annual Data Check, through Parent's Portal, at some point this week. It is very important that you check these, make sure all information is up to date and make any necessary changes; this may include adding new medical or dietary information or removing historical information. **Please note, if you do make changes, these will be checked and approved by the school, you will then be asked to resubmit to let us know you are happy with the changes.** It is really important that these records are accurate as this is what we use in school to contact parents, check dietary or medical information. Please complete by **Friday 8 September**. If you have any problems please contact Mrs Crawford in the school office. Please also see further information and the link to Parent's Portal at the end of this newsletter.

### Carpark safety

Just a reminder that, **for safety reasons**, parents should **NOT** be using the school carpark at drop off and pick up times. As I have noted on a number of occasions, we have had near misses when parents have come into the school carpark at this busy time. Please use the carpark at the Village Hall, the layby beside the park and, if needed, in the street but avoiding the yellow lines. We have also had complaints from the local community regarding inconsiderate parking which has caused an obstruction to Annochie Place and individual driveways around the school. Please do

be considerate if you do need to park in the street. I would also ask that you regularly remind your child/ren of good road safety practices and reinforce these when dropping off and picking them up. **The safety of all the children is our main priority.**

### Aberdeenshire Children and Young People's Service Plan 2023-26

This is now available on the GIRFEC website: [Aberdeenshire Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023 - 2026 \(girfec-aberdeenshire.org\)](https://www.aberdeenshire.org/aberdeenshire-children-and-young-peoples-services-plan-2023-2026)

### 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](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

Wed 30 Aug	P1 Parent Lunch
Mon 4 Sep	P1 pupils in school full time
Wed 6 Sep	Tempest Individual & siblings Photos
Fri 29 Sep	Community Café 10.00-11.30am
Tues 10 Oct	iPad Music Course Showcase
Fri 13 Oct	End of Autumn term
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Holiday
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Start of Winter Term</b>
Thurs 16 Nov	In Service Day
Fri 17 Nov	In Service Day
Fri 24 Nov	Community Café & Fair Trade Stall 10-11.30am
Fri 24 Nov	Flu Vac
Mon 18 Dec	Santa Visit
Wed 20 Dec	Panto - Sleeping Beauty
Fri 22 Dec	End of Winter Term
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec - Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holiday
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>Start of Spring term</b>
Fri 26 Jan	Community Café & Poetry Winners
Fri 9 Feb	Local Holiday
Mon 12 Feb	Holiday
Tues 13 Feb	In Service Day
Wed 14 Feb	In Service Day
Fri 23 Feb	Community Café 10-11.30am
Mon 18 to Wed 20 Mar	P7 - Loch Insh Residential Trip
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar	End of Spring Term
Fri 29 Mar	Holiday
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> April - Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Holiday
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Start of Summer Term</b>
Fri 26 April	Community Café 10-11.30am
Mon 6 May	Holiday
Fri 31 May	Community Café & Open Morning 10-11.30am
Mon 3 June	Local Holiday
Fri 28 June	Community Café & Open Garden 10-11.30am
Fri 5 July	End of Summer Term
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> July - Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Holiday
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	New School Year Starts

Holidays – school closed for holiday.

In-service days – school closed to pupils.

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson  
Head Teacher