

# OCTOBER/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 Health and Wellbeing co-operative week on *Friendships* where pupils worked in their mixed stage groups to produce a poem and recipe on *What makes a Good Friend*. Throughout the week the children were given input including what makes a good friend, how to be a good friend, cyber friendships & bullying and where to go for help. The children were shown videos and dramatisations and took part in role play, a quiz and discussions to give them information and ideas for their own work. It was lovely to see the children working in their mixed stage groups, they have all produced super poems and recipes which we will display in school.

## Carpark Safety

**For safety reasons**, parents should **NOT** be using the school carpark at drop off and pick up times. **We again had a near miss last week with a car reversing out of our carpark.** A member of staff was left shaken by the incident but it is very likely the driver was not even aware it had happened. **The safety of all the children is our main priority, I do not want it to take an injury for this message to be heeded.**

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.

## Class Topics

P1-3 - Buildings and Constructions  
P3-5 - Animals and Plants Around the World  
P5-7 - Our Planet

## Remembrance

We will mark Armistice Day with a minute silence on Friday 10 November after which the P7 pupils will recite For the



Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon and In Flanders Fields by John McCrae.

## Reporting to Parents

As part of our planned approach of reporting to parents pupils will bring home their Literacy jotters this **Friday, 10 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 13 November**.

**We're supporting Children in Need**  
  
You will already have received a letter from the Pupil Council who have been busy organising fundraising activities for this year's Children in Need Appeal. We will mark this on **Wednesday 15 November** as Friday 17 November is an InService Day and school is closed to pupils. Pupils are invited to dress up in something yellow, spotty or Pudsey related. There will be a colouring/drawing competition which members of the Pupil Council will judge. Mrs Crawford has kindly donated the prizes for the competition.

## 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 **13 - 19 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](https://www.bookweekscotland.org.uk/)

Live Life Aberdeenshire also have a range of events at a number of local libraries from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 November. To find out about all of the events, and to book your place go to [Book Week Scotland 2023 - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk\)](https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/)

### Community Café

Our next Community Café is on **Friday 24 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 P5-7 pupils. Bonnyton Fairtrade also have an online shop: <https://bonnyton-fairtrade.mybigcommerce.com>

### Winter Weather

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.



This is also the time of year when we review our Adverse Weather Procedures. In the event of extreme weather e.g. heavy snow or storms, the school may have to close or open slightly later to allow everyone to travel in safely. Busses may take a modified route or be cancelled. Local Headteachers work together early in the morning and each HT establishes information about the very local situation if there is a poor outlook for the day. This information will be posted as early

as possible on Aberdeenshire Council's closure website:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-Closures/>

If you live outwith the village and have not supplied a storm address or if your storm address has changed, please contact the school office to update this.

### Christmas Arrangements

#### Cards

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 weeks.

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. The Pupil Council will survey pupils to choose an appropriate charity.

#### Santa

Once again Santa will be paying us an in person visit on **Monday 18 December**. All the children will get the chance to visit Santa in his Grotto and receive a gift. Parents will be invited to join their child(ren) and the Parent Council will be providing refreshments in the hall for parents while they wait for their slot. More details will be issued separately nearer the time but in the meantime, save the date.

#### Panto

We will be attending HMT for the matinee performance of Sleeping Beauty on **Wednesday 20 December**. Thank you to the Parent Council for paying for the tickets for this. Thanks also to the Gala Committee for their donation which will partly fund the transport to and from the theatre. These generous donations mean we are in the fortunate position of being able to attend the theatre with no cost to individual parents.

### Christmas Lunch

We will have Christmas lunch on **Thursday 21 December**. You will be asked to select from the Festive choices or a packed lunch in advance. This will be issued in a separate email. To add to the festive feel pupils are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers. Thank you to the Parent Council who are again supplying crackers and napkins.

### Parties

Each class will have their own party, dates TBC. Children are invited to wear their party clothes to their class party. Thank you to the Parent Council who are again supplying the party food and prizes.

### Central Buchan Christmas Present Appeal 2023



The Central Buchan Xmas Present Appeal's aim is to provide Christmas 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 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 2023") these can be handed in to school and we will arrange for collection. There will again be a link to an Amazon gift list, we will issue this when we receive it from the organisers.

### Worried About Money

The cost of living crisis continues to stretch family finances. Further details and support which may be available to families can be

accessed and printed in a range of languages by following this link: [Aberdeenshire - Worried about Money? \(worryingaboutmoney.co.uk\)](https://www.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](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 10 Nov	Literacy Jotters come home
Saturday 11 Nov	Parent Council - Annie Moon
Mon 13 Nov	Literacy Jotters come back to school
Wed 15 Nov	Children In Need Activities
Thurs 16 Nov	In Service Day
Fri 17 Nov	In Service Day

Fri 24 Nov	Community Café, Open Morning & Fair Trade Stall 10-11.30am
Fri 24 Nov	Flu Vac
Mon 18 Dec	Santa Visit
Wed 20 Dec	Panto – Sleeping Beauty
Thurs 21 Dec	School Christmas Lunch
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>

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson  
Head Teacher