

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

Term 2 is passing in a flash and with the onset of December the countdown to Christmas has really begun. In our morning activities this term we are learning traditional Scottish dances and the children are fantastic! The older pupils are great role models leading their buddies and younger pupils through the steps. All the pupils are now able to dance the Gay Gordons, Boston Two Step and Canadian Barn Dance.

As well as all the Christmas activities, there have been many highlights this term. P5-7 have enjoyed weekly live Mandarin and Chinese Culture lessons online. Many pupils in P4-7 have started learning a brass instrument and are now receiving weekly lessons. All the P7 pupils learned and recited poems after our minute silence to mark Armistice Day. Our Pupil Council organised activities for Children in Need and judged the Pudsey Drawing/Colouring Competition: there was a great deal of deliberation and I was impressed with the feedback they were able to give to the winners. We held a very successful Community Café with open morning and Fairtrade stall. I hope those parents who were able to come along enjoyed visiting their child's class to see them working. Mrs Robertson and Mr Redpath have been leading an after school netball club and the children have their first tournament on Monday at Mintlaw Academy - Good Luck to everyone.



Christmas Arrangements

Developing the Young Workforce Group

Our DYW Group will be selling handmade Christmas cards to pupils and parents on Wednesday 13 December from 3pm. They will provide further information separately.

Community Service

Janet Dick will again lead a Community Christmas Service in Auchnagatt Village Hall on **Sunday 17 December at 6.30pm** and our pupils have again been invited to sing. These services are always

very family friendly and interactive and have gained in popularity over the past few years.

Santa's Grotto

Santa will again return to his Grotto in our wee house for 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. 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 will receive a separate 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 into 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 Sleeping Beauty on **Wednesday 20 December**. Pupils can bring a snack and drink to have at the interval, please put these in a small bag eg a food bag, **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.

Christmas Lunch

This is on **Thursday 21 December**; you have already received a Microsoft Form regarding this. 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.

Parties

P3-5 - **Monday 18 December**
P1-3 - **Tuesday 19 December**
P5-7 - **Friday 22 December**

All 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 **Friday 22** December we will once again join New Deer School at St Kane's Church for a joint Christmas service at **10am**. 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

Just a reminder that we are asking children **NOT** to bring in Christmas Cards, instead parents can make a donation to our chosen charity.

Live Life Aberdeenshire

Live Life Aberdeenshire have a number of family Christmas events throughout the month of December. See the link for further information and booking: [Winter with Us - Live, Life Aberdeenshire \(livelifearberdeenshire.org.uk\)](https://www.livelifearberdeenshire.org.uk) (click on the Festive fun tile)

Ugie Curling Club

Ugie Curling Club invite you to come and enjoy the fun of Curling. They are offering free come and try and basic coaching sessions which are open to all from age 8 to 80, including wheelchair users. Sessions will take place at:

Curl Aberdeen, Lang Stracht, Aberdeen

- Sunday 3 December 2023, 2.30pm
- Sunday 7 January 2024, 2.30pm
- Sunday 3 February 2024, 2.30pm
- Sunday 3 March 2024, 2.30pm

If you are interested email [Heather](mailto:Heather@ugiecurlingclub.co.uk), [Jim](mailto:Jim@ugiecurlingclub.co.uk) or [Chris](mailto:Chris@ugiecurlingclub.co.uk) or call Chris on 07789 377200

Supported by Aberdeenshire Clubsport and Live Life Aberdeenshire.



Headlice

Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't be prevented, but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. Parents and carers should check their children's head once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, conditioner, and a detection comb - ask your local pharmacist to recommend a suitable one. Remember that you are looking for living moving lice, the only evidence that your child is infected. If you find a living louse, ask your local pharmacist, school nurse, health visitor or GP for advice regarding treatment.

Central Buchan Christmas Present Appeal

The Central Buchan Christmas Present appeal 2023 is now live! We have distributed all of our tags to various local stores & cafes for them to display on their trees. We also have an Amazon wishlist that can be accessed following the below link & the gifts are delivered straight to us. Huge thanks for your continued support over the years & if you can help support us again this year it would be greatly appreciated.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2D8PCWPWRS8W0?ref_wl_share

See also attached poster for further information, including the location of the giving trees.

P1 Enrolment for August 2024

Next session's P1 enrolment week takes place from **Monday 15 to Friday 19 January**.

Enrolment will be online again this year: [Register for primary one - Aberdeenshire Council](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/primary-one)

Please can you circulate this information to any parents of pupils who will be eligible to start school in August 2024.

P1 enrolments for both in zone and out of zone should be made through the admissions process, please note that parents should apply to their zoned school **even if they intend to complete an out of zone placing request**. You can find your zoned school using the link below: [School catchments - Aberdeenshire Council](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/school-catchments)

Microsoft Office

As Christmas is fast approaching many of you may be considering purchasing technology as individual or family Christmas presents. I just wanted to remind you that children in



primary or secondary school have free access to Microsoft Office 365 and Google Gsuite as part of the Glow platform. Pupils can use their Glow username and password to access them from any device to support learning at home. Glow users can also download, free of charge, the latest version of the Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and OneNote - onto a total of 15 home machines and personal devices. Your child just needs to log in to GLOW, search for the Microsoft Office tile - see above, and follow the instructions.

Worried About Money

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

Kooth and Togetherall Services

These are online, commissioned services, paid for by Aberdeenshire Council as part of joint working between Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian and third sector partners including Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action in a GIRFEC Mental Health Group. They are therefore **free for families within Aberdeenshire to use:**

Kooth is a service for children and young people aged 10-18 years (up to 19th birthday) that offers a free online counselling and emotional well-being support service. It provides a safe and secure means of accessing support from a professional team of qualified professionals, as well as providing access to many self-help tools and content. To access please register using this link www.kooth.com

Togetherall provides support for young people and adults aged 16 years and upwards. Trained accredited professionals are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, meaning that any adult who may be struggling can choose from a range of safe therapeutic services at a time that best suits them. This service can be accessed by inputting your postcode at www.togetherall.com and creating a completely anonymous user account.

SilverCloud



[SilverCloud](http://www.silvercloud.co.uk) is a

free online parenting programme recommended by CAMHS, for parents/carers who support

children/young people who are dealing with worries and anxiety. It is a computerised CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) programme with easy access and can be completed in the parents'/carers' own time and at their pace. Parents can choose from two programs (5-11 or 12-18). Schools can recommend this to relevant parents/carers, with the access code: Grampian.

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](http://myAberdeenshire.gov.uk) 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

Mon 11 Dec	Netball Festival @ Mintlaw Academy 5pm
Mon 18 Dec	Santa Visit
Mon 18 Dec	P3-5 Christmas Party
Tues 19 Dec	P1-3 Christmas Party
Wed 20 Dec	Panto – Sleeping Beauty
Thurs 21 Dec	School Christmas Lunch
Fri 22 Dec	Church Service at New Deer
Fri 22 Dec	P5-7 Christmas Party
Fri 22 Dec	End of Winter Term
Mon 25 th Dec – Fri 5 th Jan	Holiday
Monday 8th January 2024	Start of Spring term
Thurs 25 Jan	School Burns Lunch
Fri 26 Jan	Community Café & Poetry Winners
Fri 9 Feb	Occasional Day 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 th Mar	End of Spring Term
Fri 29 Mar	Holiday
Mon 1 st April - Fri 12 th April	Holiday
Monday 15th April	Start of Summer Term
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	Occasional Day Holiday
Fri 28 June	Community Café & Open Garden 10-11.30am
Fri 5 July	End of Summer Term
Mon 8 th July – Fri 16 th Aug	Holiday
Mon 19 th August 2024	New School Year Starts

Holidays – school closed

In-service days – school closed to pupils

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 2024.

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher



Merry Christmas