

JANUARY 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

Happy New Year

I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and managed to find time to recharge your batteries at what can be a very busy time of year.



Literacy Week

We started the term with our whole school Literacy week which this

year has a focus on Poetry, including Doric, with the theme of healthy eating. Throughout the week the pupils are working in their mixed stage collaborative groups to investigate the features of different genres of poetry, Doric words and phrases and what constitutes a healthy diet. On Monday the pupils were introduced to the challenge and the plan for the week. They then received some input on healthy eating before playing a range of healthy eating games produced by The Food Standards Agency covering healthy eating, a balanced diet, food groups and the Eat Well Guide. The pupils are now working on their poems; we hope to use the most popular one at lunchtimes in our dining hall.

As I have spoken about at a number of Parent Council meetings, we have noticed a dip in pupils' presentation skills following the disruption of the pandemic. Therefore, we were delighted to have Kat Hanlon visit on Monday to deliver a drama session to each of the classes focusing on presenting to an audience. She used a variety of fun games and activities to develop these skills. We will build on these this week to support the pupils when they present their finished poems to the rest of the school. Many thanks to Kat for giving up her time to come and share her expertise with us.

Poetry Competition

Pupils were given out their Doric or Scots poems on Tuesday 9 January to learn for our annual poetry recitation competition. These will be

judged on **Wednesday 17 January** by teaching and support staff who will choose the best 2 performers from each year group to go forward to the final. The finalists will be judged by myself and Mrs Matthews on **Monday 22 January**. The winners will recite their poems at **11am on Friday 26 January** at the Community Café.

Aberdeenshire Library Service

Following on from our literacy week, have you visited your local library recently or visited the library website? They have a wealth of reading materials and activities for both children and adults. As well as borrowing books, library membership allows you to borrow audio and e-books, free access to online newspapers and magazines, download and stream music and access online databases. Follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>



Community Cafés

Our next Community Café is on **Friday 26 January 10am - 11.30am**. Finalists of our poetry recitation will be awarded their certificates and the winners will recite their poems.

We also have Cafés on:

Friday 23 February

Friday 26 April

Friday 31 May - this will also be an open morning

Friday 28 June - this will also be an open garden

Burns Lunch

On **Thursday 25 January** we will hold our annual Burns Lunch when P7 pupils will address the haggis and pupils will have a traditional Burns



Supper of haggis, neeps and tatties. Pupils are invited to wear a touch of tartan to add to the occasion on that day. If you have not returned your child's lunch choice for the day please could you do so by **Monday 15 January**

<https://forms.office.com/e/9kJ55vPXQz> .

Please note if your child is not having haggis they will require a packed lunch.

Parent Council Burns Supper

The Parent Council have also organised a family Burns Supper for **Friday 2 February** in the village hall - information already sent home, please respond by **Monday 22 January**.

The Next Parent Council meeting is on **Wednesday 7 February 7.00pm** in the school.

Class topics

This term all our classes will be studying science based topics at their own level but all with a focus on forces, energy and electricity:

P1-3 - Electricity

P3-5 - Little Lighthouse

P5-7 - A Force of Nature

P1 Enrolment Week for August 2024

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

Enrolment will be online again this year: [Register for primary one - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

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](#)

When pupils attend an out of zone school, parents also need to be aware that they may not be able to access school transport.

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.

Microsoft Office

It is worth remembering that if your child or family has received a new device for Christmas, 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.



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 2024
utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-
03f521e658-54385293](https://www.tuk.ac.uk/online-safety-at-home-21-04-2024?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

Monday 8th January 2024	Start of Spring term
Mon 15 – Fri 19 Jan	New P1 Registration Week
Tues 16 Jan	P7 Mintlaw Academy Transition – Go Wild
Wed 17 Jan	Burns Poetry Judging
Mon 22 Jan	Burns Poetry Finals
Tues 23 Jan	P7 Mintlaw Academy Transition – Go Wild
Thurs 25 – Fri 26 Jan	P7 Mintlaw Academy Transition – Go Wild Camp
Thurs 25 Jan	Burns Lunch
Fri 26 Jan	Community Café & Poetry Winners
Fri 2 Feb	Parent Council Burns Supper 6pm for 6.30pm
Fri 2 Feb	Numeracy Jotter come home
Mon 5 Feb	Numeracy Jotter return to school
Wed 7 Feb	Parent Council meeting 7pm
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 26 Feb	Mintlaw Academy Parents Learning Visits
Thurs 29 Feb	Tempest – Class Photo
Fri 8 Mar	Modern Language go home
Mon 11 Mar	Modern Language returned to school
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

Holidays – school closed

In-service days – school closed to pupils

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher