

APRIL/MAY 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

Welcome back to the final term of the session. I hope you all enjoyed the Easter Break and were able to spend some quality time with your family despite the poor weather.

Measure Collaborative Week



We started the term with our mixed stage Maths Week which was all about measures and based around the theme of Sports Day. We had 4 stations which the children worked on throughout the week. Weight: finding the individual and combined weight of the different equipment we use on Sports Day to decide how best to store it. Length: measuring the playing field to decide on the best distance for each race for the different age groups. Area and perimeter: measuring square and rectangular objects in our playground to practise working out their perimeter and area before working out if we have enough space on our netball court for everyone to take part in our Sports Day warm up. Volume: finding the volume of different containers and using this knowledge to make individual ice lollies to eat on Sports Day. Everyone now has their own, personally created, ice lolly to enjoy during the break on Sports Day. All we need now is good weather!



Class Topics

This term all 3 classes are studying topics based around the themes of a local study.

P1-3 - People who Help us in the Local Community
P3-5 - My Local Area and Community
P5-7 - When East meets West

If you have information or expertise on any of these topics which you would be willing to share, please get in touch with the appropriate class teacher.

Judo

We received a visit from Morgan from Garioch Judo Club on Tuesday. Morgan has been working closely with Active Schools to deliver taster sessions in schools across our cluster. All 3 classes received a Judo taster session with Morgan focusing on skills for fitness as well as an introduction to Judo. The children all had a great time.

Garioch Judo have classes available for all age groups across the North East of Aberdeenshire, including in Mintlaw and Fraserburgh, further information can be found here: [Garioch Judo Club - Judo in Inverurie](#)

Mintlaw Rugby Festival

Following in school training sessions last term with Alice, the Rugby Development Officer, pupils in the P5-7 class will take part in the Mintlaw Rugby Festival on Thursday of this week.

Community Café

Our next Community Café is on Friday of this week, **26 April**. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Our 2 remaining Community Café's this session are:

- **Friday 31 May** - also an open morning.
- **Friday 28 June** - also an Open Garden.

Sports Day

We plan to run Sports Day on **Wednesday 8 May** from 9.30am onwards.

Pupils will need outdoor PE kit and a water bottle - hopefully the sun will shine for us! Please ensure that if it is a warm day pupils have sun cream applied before they come to school and bring a hat to wear. If it is cool, please ensure your child has something warm and waterproof to wear between races/activities.



In order for us to be able to run Sports Day we do need parent helpers. If you are available to help out on the day please contact the school office.

Mintlaw Athletics Festival

Once again Active Schools will be hosting the Mintlaw Athletics Festival at Mintlaw Academy on **Tuesday 14 May**. There is a change to the format this session due to the festival overrunning in previous years with later events being abandoned. Unfortunately, this means the festival is now aimed at P6 & 7 pupils this year with P5 pupils only able to enter where there are spaces in the P6 team. Pupils will compete in a range of track and field events alongside pupils from other schools in the Mintlaw Network. More details to follow.

Techfest

All 3 classes have applied to attend Techfest: festival of science, technology, engineering and maths, again this year. This is usually a super trip which greatly benefits the children. We waiting to hear if we have been successful.

Techfest also host a fantastic Activity Weekend for families with a wide range of workshops and shows. This year it will be held on **1 & 2 June**, more information can be found here: [Activity Weekend \(techfest.org.uk\)](http://techfest.org.uk)

School Show

I am very excited to let you know that we will be putting on a school show at the end of this term. The Pupil Council helped to select suitable shows and draw up a short list which they presented to pupils and staff, giving a short synopsis of the story and listening to a selection of the songs. Everyone in our school then had the opportunity to vote for their favourite. I am delighted to announce we will be performing 'Pirates Versus Mermaids'. We will hold auditions towards the middle of the term and practises will begin in the second half of this term with an afternoon and evening performance on **Wednesday 3 July**. More details nearer the time.

Transitions

Over the course of this term there are a number of transition activities taking place to support both P7 pupils as they prepare to move on to either Ellon or Mintlaw Academies and our new P1 pupils as they prepare to take the step from pre-school to Primary. Pupils/parents will be kept

informed of the activities which are relevant to them.

Reporting to Parents

As part of our reporting to Parents Calendar, pupils will bring home their topic folder/jotter on **Friday 10 May** to be returned on **Monday 13 May**. These will again have a feedback sheet for your comments. I would encourage you to look at these with your child and discuss what they have been doing and learning in their topic work. Remember, what you see in their jotter/folder is only a fraction of the work they have done in school, much of their learning is through practical work and group activities.

Collaborative Arts Week

Following the success of our collaborative arts week last session using materials developed by Sky Arts, we are again holding our arts week in June. This year the theme is 'Connection' and will include virtual input from a variety of artists under the headings of Mark Making, Words, Images, Moves and Sounds. These collaborative weeks where the pupils work in mixed age groups are so valuable in developing many transferrable life skills as well as the curricular skills and knowledge which they are based around.

End of Term 3 Round Up

The end of Term 3 was a very busy time with class visits to Skelmonae Wind Farm as part of their topic, P7 Residential Trip to Loch Insh, Red Nose Day, pupil reports and parent's evenings. I wanted to give a special mention to pupils who took part in the 2 events below:

Netball Team

A huge well done to our netball teams who took part in the Mintlaw Schools Friendly Netball Tournament. All the children played extremely well and had a great time. All their hard work in training is paying off as was demonstrated in all their games. They have another friendly on Monday at Pitmedden as part of their preparation for the gala season. Many thanks to Mrs Robertson and Mr Redpath for giving up their time to train the team and prepare them for matches. The Parent Council have very kindly provided funding for new team t-shirts and hoodies. The pupils were all very excited to receive their new kit on Monday.

Rotary Quiz

Congratulations to all our P7s who took part in the Central Buchan Rotary Primary School Quiz

at the Indoor Bowling Club in Mintlaw. A total of 16 teams took part in the 10 round competition which tested their knowledge on a range of subjects from Art and Music to Maths and Geography. Some of the questions were very tricky! The final scores were very close with one of our teams; Jacob, Lauren, Luna and Ruairidh, taking 3rd place with 73 points. Maud took second place with 74 points and the winning team were New Pitsligo with 76 points. All our pupils were a credit to themselves and the school, well done.



Place 2Be's Parenting Smart

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity that provides mental health support and training. Their Parenting Smart page offers practical advice for

parents and carers of children aged 4-11. All of their content is created by Place2Be's parenting experts. It's based on evidence and their experiences working with children, young people and their families. There is a wealth of easily accessible topics from tackling tricky mealtimes to promoting resilience and dealing with a variety of different behaviours. One which may be of particular interest to parents of P7 pupils at the moment is supporting transitions from Primary to Secondary school. All are simply explained using short videos or short reads - 12 minute maximum!

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

Just Ask

The Just Ask Team based at the Old Mart Community Resource Centre in Maud have asked for their poster to be circulated again to remind you that they are still operating and available to support any families in the Buchan area. I have also included the link to the referral form below: [Contact 2 – Maud Village Trust](#) families/individuals can self refer to this service.

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

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

Thurs 25 th April	Rugby Festival @ Mintlaw Academy P5-7
Fri 26 April	Community Café 10-11.30am
Mon 29 April – Fri 3 May	P5, P6 & P7 Bikeability
Mon 29 April	Netball Friendly at Pitmedden
Mon 6 May	Holiday
Tues 7 May	Mintlaw Academy Additional Transitional Day
Wed 8 May	Mintlaw Academy Additional Transitional Day
Wed 8 May	Sports Day
Fri 10 May	Topic Jotters go home
Mon 13 May	Topic Jotter returned to school
Tues 14 May	Athletics Festival @ Mintlaw Academy (Start 4.45pm)
Thurs 23 May	Ellon Academy Additional Transition Day
Fri 31 May	Community Café & Open Morning 10-11.30am
Mon 3 June	Occasional Day Holiday
Tues 25, Wed 26 & Thurs 27 June	Ellon Academy Transition Days
Wed 26, Thurs 27 & Fri 28 June	Mintlaw Academy Transition Days
Wed 26 June	Mintlaw Academy Parents Meeting

Fri 28 June	Community Café & Open Garden 10-11.30am
Wed 3 July	School Show Pirates vs Mermaids
Fri 5 July	End of Session Assembly
Mon 8 th July – Fri 16 th Aug	Holiday
Mon 19 th August 2024	In Service day
Tues 20 th August 2024	New School Year Starts

Holidays – school closed

In-service days – school closed to pupils

Yours sincerely

Jill Thomson
Head Teacher