Dear Parents

And just like that! The first term is finished and we are looking into a busy second term. Here’s some news of what we’ve all been up to.

**Maths Week Scotland**

We took part in Maths Week Scotland again after enjoying it so much last session.  P1-4 learned about doubling at a virtual storytelling activity, ‘Cuthbert Sees Double’, created ‘STEMazing structures’, created lighthouses after watching JoJo Gnome and the maths challenge and enjoyed outdoor maths games.  In P5-7 we joined a virtual meet with ‘Maths on Toast’ to learn about and create infinity tiles, took part in the ‘Maths Inside’ photo competition where we looked for maths around us, and enjoyed completing the ‘Numberella’ escape room activity.

**Hamewith Concert**

Pupils from both classes had a great time at the Hamewith Concert this year at Alford Heritage Centre Mart. They did a fantastic job with P1-4 performing Heids, Shouders, Knees and Taes and P5-7 singing You Cannae Shove yer Grunnie aff a Bus. Big well done to all and thanks to parents for supporting.

**Forest Schools**

Each class will have had two Forest Schools sessions this term. This gives them the chance to practice their skills in the Tough School Values of Kindness, Resilience and Creativity in a real-life setting. Their activities have included cooking popcorn, bread and pancakes on the fire, den building, going on bug hunts, whittling, clay sculpture…the list goes on…

**Assemblies**

We are happy to say that we have restarted whole school, in person assemblies this year. Our first since March 2020. This means we have been getting back into fine voice for singing altogether, giving news to our pupils at once and they’ve been learning about some of the protected characteristics of equality. These include learning conditions, gender, age, disability and religions of the World.

**Harvest Service**

On Tuesday this week, the school all went to Tough Church for our Harvest Service with Simon Crouch. The classes shared some of their learning with each other and enjoyed singing and being grateful for the harvest all around us in Aberdeenshire. Thanks to Simon for his time.

**Parking**

As a reminder, please do not turn cars in the yard next to the school. This is a home and not an area for general use by the community or school.

**School Improvement Priorities**

Our School Improvement Priorities for Session 2022/23 are:

* Improving our creative thinking skills, particularly in relation to Developing the Young Workforce and maths resilience.
* Consider diversity and equality in relation to our hidden curriculum and teaching and learning.
* Develop our teaching and learning in Digital Technologies, especially in terms of cyber resilience/internet safety.

If you’d like to know more, please be in touch with the school or you can come along to the next virtual Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 8th November at 7.15pm.

**Upcoming Events**

On Tuesdays next term, Mrs Malone will be back with us every Tuesday, teaching the children all about music through singing. Her sessions explore tune, pitch, rhythm and dynamics using only the voice.

We have two local theatre trips next term across the school. The P1-4 and P5-7 classes will each attend plays based around Health and Wellbeing at Echt Hall and Midmar Hall respectively. More information to follow.

The Rotary Club are providing us with a day of in-school sessions on the 8th November from ALEC. These focus on Health and Wellbeing, particularly: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship being the general themes.

All year, our P7 year group, currently Thomas, will be taking part in several small year group transition sessions with other schools whose P7s are in a similar situation, namely Keig, Tullynessle, Craigievar, Lumsden and Echt. These will build on the virtual sessions we have had over the past couple of years, but will mostly be in person. Next term we have a Minecraft one planned virtually and a session here at Tough with coding as a focus.

The Rotakids will be raising money for Children in Need on Wednesday 16th November. More info to follow.

On the 21st November, we have a virtual NSPCC session planned for staying safe online in P5-7.

Of course, next term involves all of our Christmas activities. That will involve our traditional Christmas Party on the 15th December and Christmas Service at Tough Church on 22nd December. For the party, children can take their party clothes in their school bag and they’ll be given time to change after being outside at lunch. Our Christmas Show this year will be in person rather than video. After a positive response from parents, we have a Christmas Jumper Swap planned for next term, culminating in Swap Day on 1st December. More information to follow. We also have a theatre trip planned into Aberdeen Arts Centre to watch their Christmas Panto of Cinderella. This will be on 21st December. More information to follow.

We’ve really enjoyed our first term of the Session and look forward to a colourful Winter term after the October Holidays.

Kind Regards

**Kerry Porter & Laura McAllister**

Head Teachers (Joint)

**Dates for the Diary 2022/2023**

Friday 14th October, 2022 Last Day of Term

Monday 31st October, 2022 Term 2 Begins

Friday 4th November, 2022 P1-4 Theatre Trip

Friday 11th November, 2022 P4-7 Theatre Trip

Thursday 17th November, 2022 In Service Day – Staff only

Friday 18th November, 2022 In Service Day – Staff only

Thursday 1st December, 2022 Christmas Jumper Swap Day

Thursday 15th December 2022 Whole School Christmas Party

Wednesday 21st December, 2022 Panto Trip

Thursday 22nd December, 2022 Last Day of Term

Monday 9th January, 2023 Term 3 Begins

Friday 10th February 2023 Holiday

Monday 13th February, 2023 Holiday

Tuesday 14th February, 2023 In Service Day – Staff only

Wednesday 15th February, 2023 In Service Day – Staff only

Friday 31st March, 2023 Last Day of Term

Monday 17th April, 2023 Term 4 Begins

Monday 1st May, 2023 Holiday

Monday 5th June, 2023 Holiday

Friday 9th June, 2023 Sports Day

Friday 23rd June, 2023 Sports Day (Backup date)

Friday 7th July, 2023 End of Term

**Information for School Closures/Adverse Weather**

Telephone Information Line:  0370 054 4999

Tough School Pin Number:  02 2720

[ABERDEENSHIRE WEBSITE - SCHOOL CLOSURES](https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/)

[ABERDEENSHIRE TWITTER](https://twitter.com/Aberdeenshire?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

(The web page is re-set at 4pm every day to be clear for next day’s information)

Northsound 1 FM 96.9 Tel. 01224 337000

Northsound 2 MW 1035kHz

BBC Radio Scotland FM 92.4-94.7 MW 810kHz

Moray Firth Radio FM 97.4 MW 1107kHz

Waves Radio FM 101.2 Tel. 01779 491012

Original FM 106 Tel. 01224 293800