Dear Parents

Another busy term is coming to a close and excitement levels are mounting across the school! It has been lovely to see how much the children have enjoyed playing in the snow together, and great to see them all wrapped up so cosy!

**Rights Respecting Schools Award**

As you now know, we are super proud to have been awarded our Unicef **Silver** Rights Respecting Schools award! The assessor that came out to visit us was very impressed with the ethos of our school and how confidently our pupils were able to talk about their rights. Special congratulations go to our Healthy Respect task group who helped to plan for this visit. We will soon receive our award certificate from Unicef along with a banner for our fence to share the good news! We will also forward the report to you so you can read the feedback in detail. We’ll start thinking about working towards our Gold Award in the new year!

**Theatre in Schools Scotland**

Both classes attended plays organised by **Theatre in Schools Scotland which** is a partnership project between **National Theatre of Scotland** and **Imaginate** (Edinburgh International Children’s Festival) to bring high quality theatre and dance performance direct into schools.  P1-4 enjoyed ***Four Go Wild in Wellies* and** P5-7 attended ***Chalk About* presented by Curious Seed.** All schools in the Alford Cluster attended these plays which had a health and wellbeing focus.  Thanks to Rachel Szczypka and Julie-Ann Morrison for being our parent helpers at these performances.

**Forest Schools**

Our Forest Schools sessions continue to be a highlight of the week for all involved. The pupils are becoming very confident in a range of skills while in the forest including lighting the fire, cooking food (we’ve had marshmallows, bread, smores and corn on the cob this term) and are great at following the safety rules throughout the sessions. They love to chill in the hammocks, carve sticks for cooking, create with clay and natural objects, and play in among the trees!

**Assemblies**

This term we continued our regular assemblies and this included using online materials provided by NSPCC with a focus on ‘Stay Safe and Speak Out’. This introduced the pupils to buddy the speech bubble with the idea that pupils knew it was important to speak out if something was wrong. We talked about who they could talk to at home or in school and they were also introduced to Childline as a resource.

Other assemblies have focussed around expanding the children’s understanding of diversity and equality, including gender equality and neuro diversity, learning a little about OCD, ADHD and ASD.

**Kodaly**

Kodaly sessions have been taking place weekly and we have been very impressed with how much our pupils remember from their last sessions and how engaged they have been. We have enjoyed singing folk songs and been learning to identify rhythm, pitch and tunes.

**ALEC**

Our pupils enjoyed being back in the tent for ALEC sessions and were all delighted to be reunited with Harold the giraffe!. P1-4's topic was ‘My Wonderful Body’. They learned about what the different organs in their body do and about healthy eating. P5-7 talked about ‘Friends’, including thinking about what makes a good friend and discussing what peer pressure was. All pupils were well engaged and enthusiastic throughout the sessions.

**Staff training**

Our In-Service days included staff training in First Aid and further work on developing play across the school as part of a professional enquiry. Staff have also taken part in a session with Four Pillars on LGBT awareness as part of our school development work on diversity and equality.

**Children in need**

Our Rotakids task group did a fantastic job of organising fun events for Children in Need! We played games with balloons, made playdough Pudseys, listened to stories about Children in Need, made badges and had fun doing Pudsey themed arts and crafts. Altogether we raised £26.50 for the charity so thank you all very much for your donations

**Christmas Jumper Swap**

We held our first Christmas Jumper Swap at the start of December.  Our pupils learned about how this was good for the environment, for the wallet and for society. Our goal at Tough School for this project is that nobody here need buy a Christmas jumper again and we’ll be having another swap next year.  Please bring any out-grown Christmas jumpers into school after Christmas and we will store them safely until then.

**Fundraising**

Thanks to Mrs Tymons for arranging Tough School teatowels and thanks to families who ordered. They’ll be distributed next week and have made the school £328.20.

We have a fun-filled week planned for next week and are looking forward to being fully in the Christmas spirit! Thank you as always for your ongoing support, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it comes.

Kind Regards

**Kerry Porter & Laura McAllister**

Head Teachers (Joint)

**Dates for the Diary 2022/2023**

Thursday 15th December 2022 Whole School Christmas Party

Wednesday 21st December, 2022 Panto Trip, Nativity Carol Concert

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**

[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