Dear Parents

We hope that you weren’t affected badly by storm Otto and are so glad that our power wasn’t off for long. Our Rights Respecting Schools banner took the brunt of it here at school! Hopefully that’s the end of the storms and heavy snow for a while!

**Students**

This term we were pleased to have Christina Gerrie, a first-year teaching student from Aberdeen University, in our P5-7 class, getting to know how things work in a school and supporting pupils with their learning. We were also visited by a secondary PGDE student, Josh Duff from Alford academy for a day so he could have some experience in primary as part of his training. We will be welcoming primary PGDE student, Antoinette Hansen-Harcus into our P1-4 class next week.

**School Improvement Calendar**

Our areas for development for Tough School this year, and some of the work we have done are as follows:

**Diversity and Equality**

* Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award
* Whole school assemblies on different learning conditions
* Pupil Questionnaire – Equality and Diversity in Tough School
* Staff LGBT training with Four Pillars and Time for Inclusive Education
* Staff training using the ‘Equaliteach’ resource on Inservice Days including an audit of current practice and our school environment
* Christmas Jumper Swap
* Staff engaging in ‘Building Racial Literacy’ training

**Digital Technologies, including Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety**

* Staff engaging in Digital Learning Training
* Whole school assembly for Safer Internet Day
* Healthy Respect Group teaching younger pupils about being safe online
* Cyber Resilience & Internet Safety added to Health & Wellbeing planners
* ‘Find out Friday’ posts on Facebook
* School audit using Digital Schools Award format
* Refresher training for staff on Dash and Dot and Microbits

**Creativity linking to developing our young workforce and resilience**

* Assembly linked to what we have learned about Creativity Skills
* Creativity Skills highlighted in play planners
* Seesaw posts linked to possible careers
* Engagement in Maths Week Scotland
* Moderation of play with cluster schools
* Maths open afternoon planned for March 16th

**Garioch Judo Club**

Morgan from Garioch Judo Club came along to run some Judo sessions with each class. Everyone really enjoyed these fun, active sessions and some of our pupils have already been along to some classes out with school to build on what they have learned which we are delighted to hear!

**Alltnacriche Residential Trip**

Our P6/7 year groups take part in residential trips each year, we currently go skiing one year and then to an outdoor activity centre the next. We go on these trips with other small schools in our cluster, providing a fantastic opportunity for pupils to get to know each other before they transition to the academy. This year 7 of our P6/7s went to Alltnacriche, near Aviemore with Lumsden, Craigievar and Tullynessle pupils. Activities included on the trip were archery, climbing, the high ropes course and ziplining, along with lots of exploring. They also enjoyed a visit to the Highland Wildlife Park on the way home. Have a look at our Facebook page to see what they got up to!

**Red Nose Day**

Our Rotakids have taken responsibility for planning a ‘silly day’ to raise money for Comic Relief this year. They would like everyone to dress ‘red and silly’ and bring along a pound to donate. Red noses will be for sale from 13th March and cost £2.50 each.

**Maths open afternoon**

We are planning a Maths open afternoon for Thursday 16th March. We plan to provide a range of activities for you to join in with your child, linked to Maths Creativity and Play, Maths at Work and Maths in Technology, and hope to share some of the resources we use to support teaching Maths at school. We will send out a form soon to find out if you are able to attend.

**PE Reminders**

P1-4 currently have P.E. on Wednesdays and P5-7 have P.E. on Thursdays. Children should wear their uniform to school and bring their P.E. kits to school to change into on these days. We have space for them to leave their PE kits in school if they wish. If pupils are wearing tights, please make sure they have a pair of socks to change into for wearing with their shorts. All pupils should also have indoor shoes to wear for PE indoors, not the same ones they are wearing outside at break as our pitch can sometimes be quite muddy.

Kind Regards

**Kerry Porter & Laura McAllister**

Head Teachers (Joint)

**Dates for the Diary 2022/2023**

Tuesday 28th February 2023 School closed for strike

Wednesday 1st March 2023 School closed for strike

Friday 17th March Children dress ‘red and silly’ for comic relief

Friday 31st March, 2023 Last Day of Term

Thursday March 16th Maths open afternoon

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

Original FM 106 Tel. 01224 293800