Dear Parents

We are delighted to see the sun finally shining and hope to see a lot more of it this term!

**Reminders**

As the weather warms up, we would really appreciate if pupils could bring in their own reusable water bottles to school. The water fountain is still available to use but it is easier if pupils have a drink that they can have in the classroom and bring outside if needed. This also means that lessons aren’t disrupted on hot days and pupils are still all well hydrated!

**Staffing**

Mrs McCue has decided to go back to the flexibility of supply teaching and will therefore be leaving her permanent post at Tough on Wednesdays. These hours will be covered by Mrs Finlayson, who is currently with P5-7 on Thursdays, up until summer. Mrs McCue has been part of Tough School since Mrs McAllister went on her first maternity leave in 2018 and we will miss her when she goes. We are hopeful that she will be back with us for the odd supply day in the future! Her last day will be next Wednesday, 24th May.

**Rotary Quiz**

We were really proud of the two teams from Tough that took part in the Rotaquiz at Alford Academy. They had a great time and were well supported by the team substitutes, and parents!

**Students**

Over the last two terms we have enjoyed having PGDE student, Antoinette Hansen-Harcus, in our P1-4 class as part of her teacher training. She has been a very hard-working and kind teacher with our younger pupils over her time at Tough. Her last day will be on Friday 26th May.

**P4 and P7 Transition**

Our primary 7 pupils have enjoyed taking part in small school transition activities with other P7 groups in our cluster over this session. They are looking forward to link day this week when they will have a tour of the academy and take part in fun activities in PE and Science. Link week is coming up in June when they will get to experience the classes they will have after summer for a full week while attending the academy. During that week, our P4 will come into the P5-7 class to get ready for next session.

**P1 Induction**

We are delighted to be welcoming eight new primary one pupils to Tough School next session! We have invited these pupils and their families to Tough School for sessions this term, and staff are visiting early years settings to meet pupils before they come along. We are running three induction afternoons in June and our new pupils have been invited along to our sports day and fun day.

**Techfest**

We were visited this week by scientists from Techfest for some fun activities. P1-4 were learning all about the digestive system and the journey our food takes through our body with the ‘gruesome guts’ workshop, linking to their learning about the body last term. Our p5-7 class built on their learning about energy through ‘The Installation’ workshop. This included designing rooms for oil rigs and building helipads using K’nex. Look out for our video on Facebook coming soon!

**Maths Open Afternoon**

We were delighted to welcome family members along to our Maths open afternoon to join in with activities linked to Maths Creativity and Play, Maths at Work and Maths in Technology. It was great to share some of the things we get up to in school and see how enthusiastic our learners were to show their learning.

**Clan Big Hop Trail**

We are proud to be part of this event this year. ‘The big hop trail will take the public on a cultural tour of the north-east and the islands with hare sculptures designed and created by some of the country’s most talented artists’. Friend of Tough School, Jodie Bews from Everlongart, will have her special hare displayed in Orkney! All pupils in Tough School have contributed to the design and painting of our very own wee leveret which will be displayed somewhere in Aberdeenshire – as soon as we know where we will share this with you!

**Samba Project**

P5-7 are loving taking part in a Samba project run by Louder Than Life Ltd in conjunction with Aberdeenshire Instrumental Music Service, Youth Music Initiative and Live Life Aberdeenshire. We have already received delivery of a full Samba set and have had great fun joining in with some of the online lessons.

**Kindness Lessons**

This term we are focussing on our school value of Kindness through a series of whole school lessons. We will be learning about Empathy, Respect, Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play and we will continue to reinforce these through everyday interactions in school.

**Living and Growing**

This term, the P4-7s will be learning about relationships, sexual health and parenthood through lessons which happen every two years. The children will be split into two groups – P4/5 and P6/7 to allow for honest discussion and appropriate lesson content. More information to follow for relevant families.

**Tough School Fun Day**

Tough School fun day takes place on Saturday 10th June. For those new to fun days, these are held in small schools in Alford cluster throughout May and June on Saturdays. They usually have tea and coffee, football and netball tournaments, and stalls and games to visit. All families are welcome, even if they are not participating in sports events as there are other things to keep folk busy, including delicious treats from the barbecue! Our School Interest Committee shares out responsibilities between parents so all can be involved so please contact them for more information if you wish. We hope to see you there!

Kind Regards

**Kerry Porter & Laura McAllister**

Head Teachers (Joint)

**Dates for the Diary 2022/2023**

Monday 5th June, 2023 Holiday

Friday 9th June, 2023 Sports Day

Saturday 10th June, 2023 Fun Day

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

Tuesday 4th July 2023 Whole School Trip

Wednesday 5th July 2023 End of Term Assembly

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)

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