







Dear Families Welcome back to school and Nursery for Term 3 - we wish you all a very Happy New Year. Children seem happy and healthy back in classes and we're ready to do our best in learning and teaching in this the longest term of the school year.

	<p>Lost Property Rather interestingly we're starting the new year with an abundance of lost property! There's a whole box of red jumpers (all not named) in the foyer of school and children and parents are most welcome to come and try on any that fit! We'd rather folk take them away and use them rather than they sit in the unloved box. So please don't be shy! Please put names on all jumpers so that you get them back.</p>
	<p>Nursery News In our Nursery we are joined by Ms Susie Crawford who is a registered Health Care Assistant. On the days she's with us, Ms Crawford can support all children and will be taking a full part in our play and learning. We are also welcoming Ms Aneta Rzepnieska who will be working as a supply ECP in our Nursery until June '24. Ms Rzepnieska will be back-filling the post created when Miss Macdonald stepped up as Acting Senior ECP. We are about to get our much-anticipated new Nursery shed - this will mean emptying the old one (and it being skipped) and may result in us adapting our outdoor resources for a few days.</p>
	<p>Learning Plans for Term 3 Staff will be sending home the Term 3 learning plans for each class, very soon via Seesaw. The plan outlines for you the key learning undertaken by the class until Easter. This covers Literacy (reading, writing, listening & talking), Numeracy, Health & Wellbeing, Context work (this could be Science, or Social Subjects with a history or geography focus). While the plan may not detail all the subjects we teach, please be assured other areas of the curriculum are still on-going, such as Religious & Moral education, Expressive Arts (Drama, Art, Music)</p> <p>It is important for you to know that children have 'a say' in what they are learning and how they learn it. While the plan outlines key experiences and outcomes from the Curriculum for Excellence, learners' interests and experiences often lead the 'what and how' of learning. Digital Learning and Outdoor Learning are still high on our teaching agendas too.</p>
	<p>On yer' Bike? The following is a message from Ally, our I-Bike friend: The Sustrans Access to Bikes (A2B) project offers loan bikes in each IBike Local Authority. We loan out bikes to pupils completely free to support the ongoing IBike work and to offer bikes to young people who might otherwise miss out. The loans typically last a couple of months and include all the essential accessories.</p> <p>If you'd like to borrow a bike for a few months for your child, please just pick up the phone and let our office staff know. We can do the paperwork for you. What an offer from I-Bike!</p>
	<p>House Bingo - don't forget if your P1-7 child is in BALLO House, Thursday 8 February from 1.30 - 3.00pm is the House Bingo event. From 1.30 to 3pm you can join us in the gym hall for some social fun. There will be an art gallery of BALLO pieces, a swap-shop of games/toys that Ballo children have cleared from their bedrooms...also drinks and cakes for all who play. Donations of home-baking and anything for the raffle will be much appreciated.</p> <p>This is the final of our 3 Bingo events and we've been really, really pleased with their success! It is also worth knowing that our School was able to donate £100 worth of toys to a local charity over Christmas (Broke, Not Broken) from the sale of Bingo tickets so far. This is thanks to the generosity of Abernethy Families who joined in.</p>
	<p>School Improvement - This Term we will be working alongside our colleagues from other Perth High School as we meet to discuss the teaching and learning of writing. As you'll know, we are working on 2 writing programmes this year: Stephen Graham's programme features heavily on children learning 'scripts' to help them structure their writing in certain ways such as information texts, description texts, instructional texts etc. P4 and P5 children have been engaging in a Nationally Improving Writing programme that aims to perfect key features of writing through short-burst high focus writing activities. Our teachers plan to use the 'best of both' in preparing our own Writing Framework for future use.</p>
	<p>Parent/Carer Curriculum Night We are planning to share with you some insight to what goes on in the Primary Curriculum. At the Christmas show we used a short survey to ask P1-7 parents what they'd like to hear about. The general responses told us you'd like to hear more about how we teach maths, spelling, grammar, Health & wellbeing (which includes tips for relationships and</p>

	behaviour). The teachers will now plan an evening for you on Tuesday 6 February from 6.30 - 7.45pm where you will be invited to join us for that. More info will follow.
	School Photos A few parents have been asking about school photos. So we have booked Shawn Ward to come to school on 29 April to take class photos. As always, we will give you a reminder nearer the time.
	Spare If you've been having a clear-out over the holiday, we would be very grateful to any donations of socks! We like to keep some spares in case of accidents but supplies have run down. Any clean socks of any colour would be most appreciated.
	Morning routines in school - in Term 1 we focused on play and social skills. In Term 2 it was Spelling and our evaluations showed us that many children improved in their spelling ability. Now in Term 3 we're going to look at Arithmetic skills. We know that core skills can be improved with 'over-learning' and we know that basic skills within + - x ÷ are essential for all mathematical applications. So starting from next week, children will be starting the day with 20 minutes of arithmetic practise 5 times a week. This is in addition to normal maths lessons. We hope that it gives learners the opportunity to cement basic number skills through the old adage: practice makes perfect.
	Keeping us safe This week our local community police officer PC Ben Samson brought a visitor - a Police Constable, to lock up with chains! Sounds interesting....until you learn that this is a cardboard cut-out of PC Kirsty with a speeding detector camera who is on loan to us for a few weeks. You will have likely seen these visual cut-outs around, with the aim to slow down motorists as they drive through busy areas. PC Kirsty is ours to keep for a few weeks and P7 will have the responsibility to choose a location to lock her up whilst she's on duty (between 9am and 3pm) and then bring her back into school by the end of the day. Sadly, PC Ben tells us these Police aides are, at times, involuntarily taken home by some less law-abiding citizens and to avoid this we have to lock her up and bring her back in for her own safety! P7s are thrilled at their new responsibility to look after her. Plus I am sure we all appreciate that the message to 'slow down' near pedestrians is an essential reminder to all.
	Wintery Weather A gentle reminder to parents that children should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Coats/gloves/hats etc and importantly footwear that will be ok in wet/snowy conditions. We are seeing many older children opting to not wear coats in chilly conditions - maybe they don't feel the cold like we adults do but not advisable really. Last time there was snow, pupils were appearing in trainers which led to cold, wet feet. We want children outdoors as much as possible because it's good to get fresh air and a change of space. We have spare wellies/coats that children can use in bad weather and we will do our best to keep children dry and comfortable (despite their protestations! 😊)
	Vandalism in Playground Sadly, over the holidays, our 5 newly planted apple trees (planted by our children) were uprooted and thrown around the playground. You may have seen this on the Abernethy Facebook page. We continue to ask for help from Abernethy residents to report any uncivilised behaviour witnessed in our playground. A huge thank you to the kind folk who have tried to 'save the trees' by replanting 4 out of 5. Let's hope they make it.
Some key diary dates to remind you in Term 3 again...	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 23 January - Pedal Cinema visiting classes for active fun • Friday 26 January - Scottish Poetry finals with Abernethy Burns Society judging P4-7s (all P1-7 children are expected to learn a poem and recite in their class that week) • Wednesday 31 January - 6.30pm for Parent Council meeting, in the GP room at School • Tuesday 6 February - 6.30pm for Parent curriculum event for pre-school parents - P7 • Thursday 8 February - 1.30pm for Ballo House Bingo event, in dining hall • Wednesday 14 February - Inservice day for staff: no pupils at nursery/school that day • Thursday 15 & Friday 16 February - mid-term holidays, school closed • w/c 19 February - whole school culture week: focus on Chinese New Year • w/c 18 March - Nursery parent contact meetings (times to be arranged with families) • Monday 18 & Wednesday 20 March - P1-7 parent contact meetings (info to follow nearer time) • Thursday 28 March - school finishes/closes Term 3 for Easter break at 3pm/3.15pm 	

Kind regards, Mrs Whittet and the School Team