

















Dear Families

Term 1 is nearly finished – who would believe it? A few updates for you below.

	<p><b>Lost Property</b> Please can we ask that all parents put names on jumpers / coats so we can return items to children quickly. It's amazing how these are piling up already.</p>
	<p><b>Water bottles</b> – children are reminded to bring their own bottle to school each day. Increasingly children are asking us to provide one, or to have water in cups. We encourage water only in bottles, and these to be kept on the floor or on a special table in the classroom because spillages over work (and there are many!) can cause a mess. We are seeing more and more children bringing diluting juice in their bottles. The brain works better with plain water for hydration and the teeth are grateful too. Please encourage your child to bring water.</p>
	<p><b>Bikeability</b> - well done to P6 who recently spent 4 afternoons learning how to cycle safely on roads. This kind of learning for life is so important and all the children were able to say something new they'd learned or got better at. Many thanks to Bill and the Bikeability volunteers who helped us. This was a free event and we are grateful. Well done to all the children and school staff, too, who got out there to ride despite some pretty wet and windy weather!</p>
	<p><b>House Bingo</b> – don't forget if your P1-7 child is in FARG House, this Thursday afternoon is our 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 Farg pieces, a swap-shop of games/toys that Farg 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. BALLO and NETHY houses will have their Bingo events later in the school year.</p>
	<p><b>Sports Ambassadors</b> – this year we have 4 P7 children who are enjoying their roles of responsibility in the area of sports. With some help from Mrs Hepburn, the boys (Callan, Struan, Dylan and Samuel) have already planned and hosted successful and fun Highland Games events for older and younger pupils to enjoy and tell us they are already planning their next event. The children are responsible for keeping the PE cupboards tidy and have suggested the idea of raising funds to buy new sports equipment which our Parent Council hope to help with.</p>
	<p><b>School Improvement</b> – Just the other week, we had a Term 1 visit from PKC Service Manager (Mrs Gill Doogan) our Quality Improvement Officer (Mrs Anne Lemon) and from the PKC Nursery Team (Mrs Linda Reid). The purpose of this visit was to ensure the School and Nursery are working confidently towards our goals. We are pleased that the team are giving us positive feedback. Full steam ahead for the rest of the school year.</p>
	<p><b>Vision, Values, Aims</b> We've been doing a lot of talking with the children about the School's vision, values, aims. Whilst the school has a clear remit to follow the Curriculum for Excellence, what makes us 'unique' is what we in Abernethy hold important for us as a village school. Older learners in particular have been able to share their views. It's now time to ask you, our families. Please can you take a look at the link below and give a few minutes of your time to share some thoughts with us. As parents of children at our school it is important that we have a shared direction of travel for learning. Please take time to answer this simple survey. Thank you! <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/X6bCntWKLH">https://forms.office.com/e/X6bCntWKLH</a></p>
	<p><b>Policy updates</b> – We have created a new <b>Communications Policy</b> for us at Abernethy Primary. It outlines what we need to do to ensure good communications with you, our families. Likewise, it can help you know what to expect of us. Please take a look. You will find it on our School Website. Any questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in touch. The <b>School Website</b> itself is in for a bit of a shake-up very soon. We appreciate most of our comms with you goes via Newsletters, emails and the occasional flyer home. We recognise that the Website can be a sensible 'go to' place for confirmation of comms so we do intend to get smarter in how we use this over the next term. Watch that space.</p>

	<p><b>House Captains</b> – a big ‘well done’ to our House Captains (Freddy &amp; Emily - Ballo, Euan, Bella &amp; Amy – Nethy and James &amp; Kara – Farg) who have done a grand job this term in their roles of responsibility. They have been great with new ideas to liven up their House boards, given out House Points when they catch people being great, and making announcements at assembly each week. The winning house will receive their reward on Friday of this week!</p>
	<p><b>Electives</b> – are starting up again soon. Every P1-7 child will get the chance to select a club they’d like to attend over a 3 week block. Each Tuesday afternoon these clubs will meet, in school time, so children can develop skills and abilities maybe not tried before. This year, Electives include a variety of clubs including Chess, German, Hockey, Biking and more. The Electives start up on the first Tuesday back to school in Term 2. Children will make their choices this week.</p>
	<p><b>Morning routines in school</b> – This term we continued with our Discovery Time start to each morning. That is, children start off the day engaging in 15 minutes of play that develops skills and helps them get ‘warmed up’ each morning. In Term 2 we are planning a change. We recognise from our recent whole-school assessment findings and general review of jotters that spelling requires some attention. So, in Term 2 P2 – 7 children will start each morning with active spelling practice. Through this daily routine of 15 minutes targeted time, we hope learners will become more proficient at remembering spellings. We will keep you informed of our findings! Please help by ensuring your child arrives promptly each day so they don’t miss out on this.</p>
	<p><b>Last day of Term 1...</b> we invite the P1-7 children to enjoy a ‘dress down day’ on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. This is a free treat, no collection/charity involved. Some children have asked if they can wear football tops. We will say ‘yes’ on this occasion, and remind everyone to remain respectful about what others wear. Usually schools say ‘no’ to football tops as it can heighten emotions – but we will trust Abernethy children to make good choices about their behaviour as this is a treat!</p>
	<p><b>Snacks in school</b> – we are noticing an increase in the number of sweeties being brought to school, as morning snack and in packed lunch boxes. Our playground litter-picking is providing evidence of many more sweeties too. We would ask, where possible, that children bring healthier snacks that will be kinder to teeth and boost brain activity for longer than sweeties do. Please do remember a free lunch is available to all children in Nursery and from P1-P5 currently. These dinners are tasty, provide a balanced diet and are free! For those children who forget their morning snack we try to provide food for them – but can’t always guarantee this. Please double-check the snack is packed each morning, thanks.</p>
	<p><b>Scots Language</b> – every year our P6 and P7 children learn about local Perth poet William Soutar and recite some of his works. A few children are then chosen to represent our school at a local competition held in his house, in Craigie, Perth. A big congratulations to James in P7 who this year brought home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place certificate from the finals – Abernethy’s first ever. All children will be learning more about the Scots language in January as we celebrate the works of Robert Burns. Scots language is part of the Literacy Curriculum in Scotland and we are proud to ensure children learn more about it.</p>
	<p><b>Attendance at school</b> – Perth and Kinross Council are keen to encourage all learners to have very good attendance. Where children’s attendance falls below 90% this creates potential gaps in learning. Each term we look at children’s attendance and, following PKC policy, we are encouraged to let parents/carers know where attendance falls below desirable levels. If you receive a letter from us about your child’s attendance you are welcome to get in touch with us to discuss how we might be able to help. Parents are gently reminded to please book holidays out-with school term time to avoid unauthorised absences being marked in the register.</p>
	<p><b>Some key diary dates to remind you of again....</b>  Friday 6 Oct – school finishes for Term 1 at 3pm - nursery/3.15pm - school (dress down day)  Monday 23 Oct – back to school for Term 2  Thursday 26 October – Flu immunisation day in school for P1-7 children  Wednesday 1 November – Parent Council meeting, in the GP room at 6.30pm  Thursday 2 November – interim report cards out to P1-7 learners  Mon 6 &amp; Wed 8 November - P1-7 Parent Contact sessions  w/c 6 November in class time – Nursery parent contact sessions  Friday 10 November - Inservice day – school closed to children  Thursday 16 November – Nethy House Bingo family event 1.30pm  Friday 17 November – Parent Council Winter Disco 6.30/8.00pm  Friday 15 December – Christmas jumper day &amp; Tayside Contracts School Christmas Lunch</p>

	Monday 18 December – P1-7 Christmas Event 10.00am/2.00pm Friday 22 December – school finishes at 12 noon for Term 2 - Christmas holidays
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Kind regards

Mrs Whittet and the School Team