

ARNAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 2 - November 2021



holidays. They've all settled in to the first few days really well. Despite us having to keep the Covid mitigations going all through term 1, it did feel relatively 'normal' in school and the children got down to learning with enthusiasm. Two highlights were the start of our pupil committees and the children voting on our new school values, there's more on this further down.

Covid-19 Guidance/Changes



We are looking forward to the day when this newsletter won't need a Covid 19 section – alas, it's not this term as we might have hoped. You will have seen the letter earlier this week from the Director of Education which explains that, due to the still high number of Covid cases, the mitigations put in place last term will need to continue into term 2. Thank you to everyone for continuing to follow the guidelines by wearing facemasks, not coming into the playground and maintaining social distance from other adults.

We continue to recommend that children wear their PE kits into school and keep them on all day for PE days.

Please ensure you are aware of the guidance around self-isolation for close contacts of someone who has tested positive and please remain vigilant. If you or your child(ren) display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 please stay at home and get a test as soon as possible.

One word of caution; at one point this week Aberdeenshire had the highest rate of positive Covid cases across all of Scotland. The virus is still very much with us so please take care.



Outdoor Clothing

The weather has definitely taken a turn for the worse but that's not going to stop us getting the children outside as much as possible. Please continue to ensure your child has clothing suitable for wet and cold conditions. Our school wellies are always available and easy to access at break and lunch times as well. We also have overalls to keep out some of the dirt and rain! Please remember to use the hi-viz vests as the nights get darker. If your child has a hi-viz vest that no longer fits can we please ask you return this so it can be passed on

Term 2 Begins

We hope everyone had a great Tattie Holiday? The children have all come back raring to go and excited to tell us about their

to someone else. If your child requires a new hi-viz vest please let us know.

Communication



There is a change to when the school office will be staffed. Mrs Campbell is in on Monday until 12.00 pm and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until 2pm. Miss Smith is in on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. I will do my best to answer phones on a Tuesday morning but please leave a message if there is no answer as we will be able to pick it up later in the day. We will still be able to pick up messages left by email. The school phone number is: 01358 281075;

Email: arnage.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk If you need to contact the school urgently my Skype number is: 01467 530710

Emergency Closure information is at the bottom of page 2.

We have been using home school diaries and the Seesaw app to communicate with parents and this has worked really well in term 1.

Annual Consent Forms



If you haven't done so already, please, please return your completed annual consent forms online which were sent out last term – we are planning a trip to the panto this term and you're child may not be able to go if we don't have your consent form.



Parent Council

This will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday 10th November at 6.30pm.** The parent council do a fantastic job and it is a brilliant asset to the school community, new members are warmly invited, please consider joining. They can be contacted through the school or directly at: arnagepc@gmail.com. Despite Covid restrictions the October walking challenge was brilliantly organised and a great success. It was the first opportunity we have had since the pandemic began to get together and socialise, thanks to everyone who took part.

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School Building Upgrade

Any parents who have been dropping off/picking up children from school will have noticed that we have been having all our windows upgraded. That work started the last week of term 1 and was completed by the time we came back last Monday. A great job and with minimum disruption to the school. This means that we should now be able to keep the classrooms warmer and we can open the windows to provide proper ventilation. The fascia boards are also in the process of being replaced and I had a meeting last week to discuss a replacement heating system for the lower part of the school. On a smaller scale – thanks to Nathan and Barnaby's family for the donation of a fridge for the school staff room.

Pantomime and other Performances

We have provisionally booked the Christmas panto at Aberdeen Arts Centre this year. Fingers crossed this will still be able to go ahead in December. This year, following discussions with the staff and the pupil council we have decided not to do a full-on Christmas show. We are hoping that Covid restrictions will have eased by the summer term and we would love to be able to invite you all in to school to see an end of year show instead. We are still really keen to do something for Christmas though, so we are going to hold a Carols by Candlelight evening outside instead – that way we'll be able to invite you all along (and keep within current Covid guidance). More details to follow on this.

New School Values

If you were able to attend our virtual assembly at the end of last term you may remember that we had a 'dotmocracy' vote to determine pupil preferences for our new school values. This is part of a process to create new vision, values and aims for our school. We started it two years ago but, thanks to Covid, we were never able to finish, so we are set on completing it this year. The values chosen by the children were: Kindness, Trust and Honesty, and Determination. It was fantastic to see all the children thinking hard about this and taking their voting responsibility seriously. I think the values they have chosen are very well considered; I'd be really happy if every child who leaves Arnage school is kind, honest and determined to achieve the best they can. These values are really important to the school and they will inform everything we do day-to-day; we'll soon be sending out a feedback form to get your thoughts and opinions on this so please take a few minutes to complete this.



Dotmocracy: voting for our values.

School Committees

As part of our improvement plan for this year we want to give the children a greater say in their learning and in the life of the school. As part of this we have set up three new committees which involve all the children. We have an Eco Group, a Charity/Fundraising Group and a Rights Respecting School Group (you may have seen their presentations at our assembly). One of the actions already completed by the fundraising group was to organise the Blytheswood Shoe Box appeal for the school. Once again, we had a great response with 21 shoe boxes collected.



Jan from Maud and Savoch Church receiving some of the shoe boxes we collected

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2021/2022

The dates below will be updated regularly in monthly/termly newsletters – please keep the most recent newsletter for reference as dates may have to change due to unforeseen circumstances and additional dates/events will be added as they are confirmed.

2021 – Term 2	
Monday 1 st November	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Thursday 18 th November	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 19 th November	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 9 th December	Pantomime at Aberdeen Arts Centre
Tuesday 14 th December	Elf Shelf
Wednesday 15 th December	Christmas Meal
Wednesday 15 th December	Carols By Candlelight (6pm)
Thursday 16 th December	Christmas Party
Friday 17 th December	End of Term Assembly
Tuesday 21 st December	School closes for Christmas Holiday
2022 – Term 3	
Wednesday 5 th January	School Closed - Occasional Day Holiday
Thursday 6 th January	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Thursday 10 th February	School Closed - Occasional Day Holiday
Friday 11 th February	School Closed - Occasional Day Holiday
Monday 14 th February	School Closed - Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 15 th February	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 16 th February	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Friday 1 st April	School closes for Spring Holidays
2022 - Term 4	
Monday 18 th April	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Monday 2 nd May	School closed – May Day Holiday
Friday 1 st July	School closes for holiday
2022-2023 – Term 1	
Monday 22 nd August	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 23 rd August	School re-opens to pupils

Emergency Closure Information

Information Line – 0370 054 4999, PIN - 021220