

# ARNAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Newsletter 3 - January 2022

### Welcome

A warm welcome back after the Christmas holidays – and, thanks to our new windows and heating system, it really is warm in the whole school. We're looking forward to 2022 and (dare we say?) a 'normal' year of learning. Hopefully, we'll be able to invite parents into the school again soon as well.



### Outdoor Clothing

Please continue to ensure your child has clothing suitable to the inclement weather at this time of year. Please remember to use the Hi-Viz vests.

### Communication

As always – we are happy to hear from you, please get in touch any time if you want to discuss anything. I try to be at the main entrance at the start and end of the day if there are any small matters you want to address.

School phone number: 01358 281075

Email: [arnage.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:arnage.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Emergency Closure information is at the bottom of page 2.

We also still have SeeSaw and the Home School diaries for day-to-day contact with class teachers.

### Staff Update

This term we will be sad to say goodbye to our wonderful PSA, Mrs Sloan. She has been a huge asset on a Wednesday and Thursday morning, and we'll really miss her welcoming, patient and skilled interactions with everyone in the school. We should still see her though, as she is keen to continue running her Scripture Union group at lunchtimes. We welcome back Mrs McKeitch, she is going to be in for one day a week for most of this term before resuming her usual hours again in June.

### Fundraising Update

Thanks to everyone who brought in donations for Ellon Food Bank and the Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal. We did really well for a small school, at a difficult time for many.



Some of the shoeboxes we filled

### Carols By Candlelight

We were lucky with the mild weather for our Carols by Candlelight evening and it was a great success. The singing and the planning of the evening was brilliant. Thanks to all the children and the staff for putting on such a great show. And thanks to all the parents who wrote in or commented on how much they enjoyed it.



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## What's Happening This Term?

### **Robert Burns**

The first big event of the year is Burns Night. For the children, our Burns Lunch will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January (please note, there will be a change to the menu for school meals). We will also have the finals of our schoolwide poetry recital competition. All the children will have chosen or been given a poem to try to learn by heart. Class teachers will hear their recitals and the best three from each class will go through to the finals where Mr Craig, Mrs McCalman and Mrs McKeitch will judge a winner from each class. Our class teachers have also been delivering Scottish country dance lessons in PE so we'll be able to have class ceilidhs in the afternoon too.

To celebrate Burns Night the children are also invited to wear a touch of tartan on Burns Night itself: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Sharing the Learning**

Hopefully we'll start to see an easing in the Covid restrictions over the coming weeks and months and we'll soon be able to open up the school to parents once more. Until then we'll continue to use SeeSaw and any other channels available to us to share your child's learning and keep you up to date with how they are getting on.

### **Vision Values and Aims - Consultation**

Hopefully you will all be aware that the children have voted for a new set of values for the school which are important and meaningful to them.



In the next few weeks, we'll be sending out more information on this to parents. It will also include some draft ideas for a new vision and aims that are relevant to our school now. Your thoughts and ideas on this are really important and will strongly inform our final version. Please take the time to read the document and feedback any thoughts and ideas you have.

### **Pupil Committee News**

The fundraising/charity group had a very busy first two terms and worked on no less than six different events including the Ice Cream Stall fundraiser and the Elf Shelf. The Eco Committee are close to submitting their Action Plan for the first part of the Green Flag Award. If you want to know what our group is up to please check out our blog at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/as/arnageecogroup/> The RRS group have also submitted the first part of their entry to go for the Rights Respecting School award and this term they are collecting crisp packets which will be sent away for recycling to make bivvy bags for the homeless.

### **School Garden Update**

Our polytunnel narrowly survived storm Arwen as a fir tree came down next to it with millimetres to spare. As always at this time of year, we are about to start preparing the garden for the new growing season. If you have any old cardboard (with the tape removed please) and newspapers please send them into the school by the end of January. Our Eco Committee will be planning our activities and working on the garden this year with one of our goals to increase biodiversity. We will also be leading the Big Schools Birdwatch in a few weeks' time.

### **And Finally ....**

A big thank you for all your support in 2021 and for setting such a great example of resilience and community spirit throughout Covid and then following the aftermath of storm Arwen which affected so many of our families.

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2021/2022**

The dates below will be updated regularly in 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.

<b>TERM 3</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Friday 21st	Pupil Council Elections
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	First round of Scots/Doric poetry competition in class
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Burns Lunch and finals of poetry competition
<b>February</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed – Occasional Day Holiday
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed – Occasional Day Holiday
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Closed – Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Training (School closed to pupils)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	In-Service Training (School closed to pupils)
Monday 21st – Friday 25th	P7 Residential trip
Thursday 24th	SSPCA Outdoor Workshops
<b>March</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	World Book Day
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	End of Term Celebration Assembly
<b>April</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term – Beginning of Easter Holidays (2 Weeks)

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## TERM 4

<b>April</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 4
<b>May</b>	<b>What's On</b>
	PLEASE NOTE – May Bank Holiday has been moved to June
<b>June</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closed – May Day Holiday
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Closed – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday
Wb 6 <sup>th</sup> (Provisional)	Health Week
TBC	Summer Show
TBC	P7 Transition (3 days at the academy)
<b>July</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of term

## TERM 1 – 2022/23

<b>August 2022</b>	<b>What's On</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	In-Service Training (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School re-opens to pupils for new school year