

# ARNAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## Newsletter 2 – November 2020



### Welcome Back

It's great to see all the children's smiling faces back in school after they did so well last term. They adapted really well to the new routines which look set to continue for some time. The new P1s have settled in well and all the children are really enjoying their new class and teachers. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the assembly last term, I think it went really well. Hopefully we'll be able to repeat the experience again this term.

### Good News

We'd like to pass on our congratulations to Mrs McKeitch as she is going to be having her second baby. Luckily though, she'll still be able to teach the class for the next two terms. Mrs McFarlane will be going on maternity leave at the end of this term so we'll have to wish her an extra special Christmas this year.



### The Nights Are Drawing In



### Outdoor Clothing

With the shorter days and colder, wetter weather, please ensure children are sent to school with suitable outdoor clothing. We'll continue to use our outdoor space for as long as it's safe. For access to the garden/field this term it would be beneficial if the children have a spare pair of wellies in school. If you have any wellies that children have outgrown we would love to have donations to complement our own supply.

### Hi-Viz Vests

All children should have a hi-viz vest. It would be great if all children could wear these to and from school to make sure they are visible to all road users. Please let the school know if you don't have one for your child.



### Community Café

The P7s have started work on organising a 'virtual' community café. Hopefully they will be able to give us a date for this in the next few weeks. They had the great idea of selling a recipe book to go with the event so we can all bake our own cakes and join in. Look out for further information.



### Communication



Our admin team are working from home on some days so the office may not always be occupied in the mornings. However, phone calls and emails are being diverted and we should be able to respond as normal. This will allow the office staff to continue to bring any urgent issues/information to my attention.

School phone number: 01358 281075

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

My Skype: 01467 530710

Emergency closure information is at the bottom of page 2.

### SeeSaw

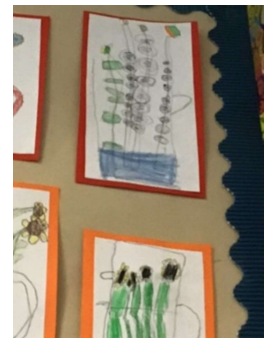
This term we'll be training the children to use their SeeSaw accounts independently. The idea is that when they have completed work they are proud of they will be able to grab an iPad and upload a photo to their own SeeSaw account. Please note that you will now have two SeeSaw accounts: there is your child's one where they can see/add to their own journal entries and activities/assignments. Then there is the parent one which allows you to see their journal and you can also use this to send private messages to the class teacher.

*Seesaw*



A scene from last term's P5-7 class talks

Some P1-4 artwork



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## Shoe Box Appeal



Once again we are taking part in the shoe box appeal, this year run by Ellon Rotary Club. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to fill a box.

## Advent Hamper

We are going to be collecting food items again this year to make up a hamper for Ellon food bank. A letter with details of how to donate will be sent out later this week.



## Covid-19 Guidance/Change to Pick Up Time



Thank you for continuing to follow the school Covid-19 rules and for supporting your children to keep us all safe. Please continue to remain vigilant and follow government rules, especially as we go in to winter and as we see cases on the increase again. We have been monitoring the staggered start and finish times and think it would be feasible to move the pick-up time back slightly to allow for more learning time. From **Wednesday** of this week we'll move the earliest pick-up time back from 3pm to **3:05pm**. We'll monitor how this goes to make sure we are still safe. If it goes well, we may try to aim for a later time further into the term.

**STOP PRESS** – New guidance regarding wearing of face masks and indoor PE will be sent out soon.

## Christmas: Shows and Services



### **Joy to the World!**

Unfortunately, the situation with the rate of increase of cases of Covid-19 isn't getting any better so we are still unable to invite visitors into the school and we are still keeping classes separate when we are inside. We aren't even allowed to sing together! This inevitably affects what we can do at Christmas but it doesn't mean we need to cancel it. Instead, teachers from each class are planning their own class performances based on the Nativity. We are going to film these and have a 'Premier' to share them together online.



This year we are also hoping to have an 'Elf Shelf' school fundraiser. The idea would be that children bring in one or two new or new-looking unwanted items/gifts that would be suitable for a sibling or parent/grandparent. Then on Elf Shelf day, children choose one or two presents for their family (for a pound or so each) which the elves wrap and the children label for a secret Santa present to take home.

Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Lunch will consist of turkey and all the trimmings followed by iced sponge or shortbread. A vegetarian option will be available if required. Please email the school office no later than **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** to let us know if your child would like the Christmas lunch, the vegetarian option or will be taking a packed lunch from home. The Christmas lunch menu and the party menu will replace the advertised menu for those days and no other options will be available.



We are also planning a way of inviting Santa into school and safely having Christmas parties for each class. The parties will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. A party menu will be available for lunch that day of sausage rolls, turkey burgers and hot dogs. Please let the school office know by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December** if you child will be having the standard party lunch, vegetarian party lunch or packed lunch.

Last year, it was wonderful to be able to attend the service at Maud Church, but it is unlikely we'll be able to do that this year. Instead we are hoping to have a virtual service led by a member of the church.



## Parent Council



A big thank you to the Parent Council for all the support they continue to give the school. Special thanks to Sarah Christie for her brilliant first year as chair. Additionally, to Eleanor Morrice, Secretary and Marion Morrison, Treasurer.

Our new Audio-Visual equipment was installed in the October holidays – hopefully we'll get a chance to use it for full assemblies in the near future.



**The next Parent Council Meeting is on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6:30pm**

## Flu Nasal Vaccines



The school nurse will be in school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November to carry out the annual flu vaccines.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2020/2021

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.

<b>2020 – Term 2</b>	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Council Meeting @ 6.30 pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Elf Shelf/Secret Santa
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Films – Premiere Show
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Church (Virtual) Service – To Be Confirmed
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Parties
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term Assembly
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas Holiday
<b>2020 – Term 3</b>	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed - Occasional Day Holiday
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closed - Mid Term Holiday
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School closes for Spring Holidays
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Good Friday
<b>2021 - Term 4</b>	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens to staff and pupils
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	School closed – May Day Holiday
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes for holiday
<b>2021-2022 – Term 1</b>	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	In-Service Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	School re-opens to pupils

## Emergency Closure Information

Information Line – 0370 054 4999, PIN - 021220