

ARNAGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Newsletter 4 - May 2020

Welcome to Term 4



Even though it has to be virtual welcome, it is really nice to be back in touch with you all again. We've heard from all the children and parents in these first few weeks and it's really good to know you are all well. We really appreciate reading your messages, listening to your audio messages or watching your videos. We've been putting some of our own learning and teaching videos online too – I know Miss Botha and Mrs McFarlane will be a welcome sight – I just hope my bearded face isn't causing too much trauma to the P4-7s?

Communication

At this time more than ever, communication is really important. Please continue to stay in touch; even if you can't manage to get to any of the online learning some weeks, still try and send us a short message to let us know you are ok. Remember you can contact us through email, SeeSaw, Google Classroom and my Skype number is 01467 530710.



Online Learning



Hopefully all the children are getting confident in using our online learning tools now. SeeSaw is the main one for the P1-3s and Google Classroom for the P4-7s. If you or your child aren't sure about how to use either of these, please get in touch with me; it's no trouble at all for me to help you through it. We've noticed that some of the children are becoming more independent in their use of these technologies so hopefully that's easing the pressure on their parents a bit. We are also using Education City and Sumdog. Whilst Education City works for most things,

unfortunately, it does still use Flash for some activities so these won't work well on tablet devices. We'll try to suggest alternatives to these activities so that nobody misses out.

Home Learning – Expectations



Teachers are setting work every day and doing their best to provide timely feedback to the children. We are trying to stick to a general routine of:

- Posting activities by 9am (using Google Classroom Assignments for P4-7 and Seesaw Activities for P1-3)
- Being online between 10am-11am and 2:30pm – 4pm to answer questions and provide feedback

We recognise circumstances at home are different for everybody and changing all the time. So please don't feel any pressure from us to get tasks done, do whatever you can, help out when you can and that's all we ask. Please feel free to continue using the learning packs sent home if you are unable to get online. We know you are all doing your best.



For some good ideas check out the home learning page on our website (and don't forget to admire the nice new pictures on the home page):

<https://arnage.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

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Help with home learning



We certainly don't want to overwhelm children with tasks. If you are struggling to keep up with the learning, from this week we are going to be posting a very short summary at the end of the week highlighting 2-3 of the main learning activities that you could focus on if you are able.

In addition to the support which teachers are happily providing, we also have the opportunity for additional support from Mrs Martin, our Additional Support for Learning teacher. She is able to work with individual children or families by providing regular or one-off online or phone support, depending on what suits your needs. She is there to support any aspect of home learning, from looking at individual subjects to managing time and providing support if you feel overwhelmed. If you feel you or your child could benefit from this, please get in touch with me or email Christine directly at:



christine.martin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Ellon Cluster Key Worker Childcare Hub

The childcare hub is now operating in Ellon Primary School, 7 days a week, from 7:30am until 6:45pm. If you are a keyworker struggling to provide childcare more information can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/schools-covid-19/>

Transitions P1 and P7

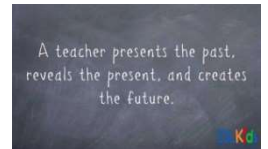


We face a challenge this year for new pupils coming into the school in August and for pupils leaving us in July. For the P1's coming in, Mrs McFarlane has set up a new Facebook group and we will get out transition packs and do as much as we can online to make them feel welcome and part of our school. For the P7's we are working closely with the Academy to provide as much support as we can. A Facebook page has also been set up for this, led by Fraser

McClachlan, DHT at the academy. We will do what we can online to celebrate you guys and to keep you in touch with the rest of the school as you have been brilliant this year. I am hoping that we will be back before the end of term but if not we will be looking to hold a special P7 event in the school when we do finally return.

Looking Ahead

We are advertising again for a part-time teacher post and things are looking more hopeful as we have some applications in already. The outcome of this will determine how the classes are structured next year. The start of a new year is always about getting children up to speed and into the routines of learning. This will be more of a challenge this year and it may take us a bit longer but we are preparing for it and we are confident we will get there.



Finally ...

I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who have responded so quickly and professionally and with such dedication to the needs of our school community. I would also like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your continuing support, encouragement and recognition of the staff, and your part in the wellbeing of our whole community. Above all, a big thank you to the children who have really embraced their learning at home and are doing such an amazing job of keeping us all positive. Keep in touch. Keep looking after yourselves and one another and let's hope we are back sooner rather than later. Stay safe.



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Class Timetables

- These are suggested activities
- Just do what you can, when you can
- Look out for the weekly summaries

P1-3	
Mondays (Ms Botha)	Spelling Numeracy Music
Tuesdays (Ms Botha)	Spelling Numeracy Reading/Comprehension
Wednesdays (Mrs Johnston)	Spelling Numeracy Topic
Thursdays (Ms Botha)	Spelling Numeracy Other Curricular Areas
Fridays (Ms Botha)	Creative Writing Topic: Art or Drama

P4-7	
Mondays (Mr Craig)	New spelling words Numeracy French Music Coding/IT
Tuesdays (Mrs McFarlane)	Reading Spelling Numeracy Topic
Wednesdays (Mrs McFarlane)	Writing Numeracy Topic
Thursdays (Mrs McFarlane)	Spelling Numeracy Topic
Fridays (Mr Craig)	Spelling Numeracy (linked to Monday) Topic

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2019/2020

We don't really know how long this will be on for, when and how schools will be going back. So this is a bit shorter than the normal term 4 calendar but some dates remain the same. If we can still do some events – even virtually, we'll still try to mark those days.

TERM 4	
April	What's On
Monday 20 th	Start of Term 4 (P7 Pupils are welcome to wear 'Leavers' Hoodies from this date)
May	What's On
Friday 8 th	School Closed – May Day Holiday
June	What's On
Monday 1 st	School Closed – Occasional Day Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd – Friday 5 th	Health Week – virtual!
TBC	Sports Day (weather permitting) – virtual!
July	What's On – if we are back, for sure we will have:
Wednesday 1 st	Prize Giving /P7 Leavers Assembly
Thursday 2 nd	P7 Leavers Party
Friday 3 rd	Last day of term

TERM 1 – 2020/21	
August 2019	What's On
Monday 17 th	In-Service Training (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 18 th	School re-opens to pupils for new school year (Surely???)

Please Note

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there is no Parent Council meeting this term

[Emergency Closure Information](#)

Information Line – 0370 054 4999, PIN - 021220