

Outdoor Learning - Fun in the sand!

Throughout the last week of term every class enjoyed some outdoor learning at the beach or Dunnottar Woods. Collaboration outdoors can improve emotional, intellectual and social skill development. Those learning outdoors develop their creativity, problem-solving, independence, confidence and more. We are incredibly lucky to be in walking distance from the beach and the woods.

Just look at those happy faces!



‘Children learn critical skills and develop as they play.

When children choose to play, they are not thinking “Now I am going to learn something from this activity.” Yet their play creates powerful learning opportunities across all areas of development. Development and learning are complex and holistic, and yet skills across all developmental domains can be encouraged through play, including motor, cognitive and social and emotional skills. Indeed, in playful experiences, children develop a breadth of skills at any one time. ‘

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This last year has been really challenging for our learners, many feeling very 'wobbly' over the last few weeks. As a staff we are very much prioritising our pupils' mental wellbeing. Quality play experiences with our friends in the woods....perfect! More outdoor learning experiences are planned for term 4.



Mindfulness Sessions

Term 4 will also see a focus on the use of mindfulness to support wellbeing. Sarah MacKenzie (Class Teacher) has been in discussions with Sarah Gear (Mindful Stonehaven) planning this area of development.

P1-7 enjoyed virtual mindfulness sessions with Sarah during the last week of term.



House Challenge - Create An Easter Bonnet

Here are a few photographs from our Easter House Challenge. Excellent creative skills were observed when designing these bonnets, each class choosing their top three entries for house points, which were added to the totals below.



Total House Points

2020/21

Amber - 260

Sapphire - 310

Ruby - 245

Emerald - 325

(More points available in term 4, good luck!)



Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

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Diversity and Equality Focus

The classwork linked to 'Equality and Diversity' continued, as P4-7 returned to school, following this years focus week. We have put a display together celebrating some of the pupils' work. As parents/carers are unable to visit us in school at the moment we wanted to let you see some of the work on display.



Pupil Voice

P4-7 Pupils were asked the following questions as part of our end of term school assembly. We were very impressed with their responses.

What were the important 'take away' messages from our 'Equality and Diversity' week?



Who/what can help you when you feel 'wobbly'?

Pupil Voice (continued...)

How can you help to spread kindness at Dunnottar School?



New School Building

This term I was pleased to inform the school community of an exciting announcement which had been made as part of the Council's budget setting process that the local authority have made a commitment to building two new primary schools, one in Fraserburgh and another in Stonehaven as part of its Capital Plan.

Clearly plans are at a very early stage and it will take some time for these to be developed and for all the important consultation activity to be undertaken to engage widely with the local communities, but this is very positive news for us. As I'm sure you'll agree, the chance to help shape the development of brand new local facilities presents a fantastic opportunity for us.

The proposal so far is that Laurence Findlay as Director of Education and Children's Services for Aberdeenshire Council will lead the development of business cases for the new primary schools. These proposals will then be looked at in more detail before being developed further.



28th April, 6:30pm

Parent Voice Group

Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager) will be in attendance to answer any questions linked to the plans for the new school building.

All welcome.