



Dunnottar
School

Newsletter

September 2022



Summer is now but a distant memory and we are heading for the October holidays. We have had a great first term of the session. Next term is an action packed one with Halloween, Remembrance Day and Christmas to plan. Lots to look forward to!
Happy October Holidays!



WELCOME to Stonehaven Folk festival who joined us for a week to run workshops, tell stories and share Doric songs. It was a wonderful opportunity for children who have not performed in front of audiences to explore these skills again.



On Tuesday and Thursday, we were entertained by Holly, Francine and Cadha (P7) and Faith and Eliza (P6) who all played a song on the piano.

Jessica Lever (P6) was very determined to showcase her guitar skills despite only attending lessons for 6 months. She was incredibly brave and did not let any little mistakes she made get in the way of her overall performance.

We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the girls play.



Whistle Workshop

Laura Haddington came to teach the whistle to a group of P4/5 children. The children were given the opportunity to explore this skill and performed what they had learned at the end of the week in our school concert.



Here is P1 enjoying some Doric storytelling with Pauline Cordiner.

Pauline is a storyteller from the fishing and farming traditions of the North-East of Scotland and enjoys telling a variety of traditional Scottish tales, fairy tales, folk tales creation myths and the occasional home-grown tale of her own.



Scare Hunger



Many thanks to all families who donated to the Scare Hunger Food Drive. Members of the team from The Haven came to collect the food on Friday and it has gone to community members to support them. We are enormously proud to have been a part of this community initiative.



Worried about Money information sessions for parents

In light of the current cost of living crisis our Education Support Team have arranged some sessions for parents on the topic "Worried about Money". The sessions are intended to increase awareness of the impact of the current cost of living crisis, increase confidence to ask about money worries and increase knowledge of support services offering assistance.

The following dates and times below have been proposed. Anyone interested in attending a session should email christine.mclennan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk for any of the meeting links. Sessions that have viable numbers will run.

Proposed dates/times:

- Weds 23rd Nov 6-7pm
- Thurs 24th Nov 2-3pm
- Tues 29th Nov 2-3pm
- Tues 29th Nov 6-7pm



Positive Relationships Policy:

The process of designing a new Positive Relationships Policy, to replace the current Positive Behaviour System policy has begun. Staff and parents have been looking outwards, reviewing current practice across the country to see what positive relationship and approaches to behaviour might look like in other settings.

From this initial phase we are identifying opportunities for Family Learning later in the term and I am co-ordinating this with Michelle O'Grady our Educational Psychologist. More will follow as plans are confirmed for term 3.

We will meet again on Tuesday 1st November at 2pm and will welcome anyone who wishes to join us.



Silvia Fiddes, English as Additional Language Teacher, came into school this term to meet with our bilingual families. She shared very positive messages about How to Raise a Bilingual Child and it was quite an eye opener listening to how our parents feel about their child having this 'superpower' of second language! We look forward to working further with our Bilingual Families to ensure they feel WELCOME in our school community.

Thank you to all of the P1 grown ups for completing the P1 Transition self-evaluation exercise. We really do appreciate your time to complete the survey and we will share the outcomes with you next term.

Pupil Voice Group:

The children have completed their evaluation of "Our Teaching and Learning" and chose the following target to focus on for term 2:

The books, equipment and other resources we use for learning are easily available and in good condition. We have everything we need to learn and achieve our best.

The children completed their first learning walks and found classes were well organised, labelled and equipped for learners. All children had or had access to the necessary equipment for learning and most class libraries were well stocked (some books not in great condition).

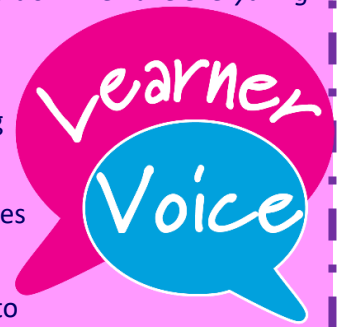
Our **Otterly Helpful Kits** in each class are well stocked and clearly labelled with additional resources children might use during lessons to support them to concentrate or regulate.

They were not impressed by our technology with all children returning from their Learning Walk to talk about how little devices there were in classes. More iPads or more Chromebooks was a common observation from the group.

Next Steps:

Class libraries – an audit of class libraries to ensure books are current and in good condition. We are actively looking for funding to support this development.

Funding for technologies is harder to find but we continue to look for funding opportunities.



HALLOWEEN

Teachers are planning Halloween themed activities in class.

Dress up/Halloween accessories can be worn on the day but no masks and no costumes with pouring blood please.



Explore

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Monday 31st October – Friday 4th November



The volunteers of Dyslexia Scotland Northeast Branch will be holding a series of free events to support children and parents of children with a Dyslexia identification.

- [Dyslexia Masterclass for parents](#) In person Parent Masterclass on Thursday 3rd November 1830-2030 in recognition of Dyslexia Awareness week in Scotland.
- [Dyslexia Masterclass for parents \(primary years\)](#) How you can understand more about your child's dyslexia, how it is supported at primary school and what you can do to help. 5 November, 10am on Zoom
- [Dyslexia and Mental Health documentary](#) Unmissable follow up to a teaser event earlier in the year 2 November, 7pm on Zoom
- [Author event for 7 – 12 year olds with dyslexia](#) See books in a new light at this fun event with Ross Montgomery 1 November, 6.30pm on Zoom

Please click on the links to register with Eventbrite.

Dates for your Diary

<p>Term 2</p> <p>Term starts - Monday 31 October 2022</p> <p>P2 Class Assembly – Friday 4th November</p> <p>P7 Remembrance Service – Friday 11th November</p> <p>In-service day – Thursday 17 Friday 18 November 2022</p> <p>P6 Assembly – Friday 25th November</p> <p>PTA Christmas Fair – Saturday 26th November</p> <p>Term ends - Friday 23 December 2021</p>	<p>Term 3</p> <p>9 January 2023 to 31 March 2023</p> <p>Term starts - Monday 9 January 2023</p> <p>Occasional Days* - Thursday 9 and Friday 10th February 2023</p> <p>Mid-term holiday – Monday 13th February</p> <p>In-service day - Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15th February</p> <p>Term ends - Friday 31 March 2022</p>
<p>Term 4</p> <p>17 April 2023 to 7 July 2023</p> <p>Term starts - Monday 17 April 2023</p> <p>May Day holiday - Monday 1 May 2023</p> <p>P7 Residential Trip – Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th May</p> <p>Occasional Day* - Monday 5 June 2023</p> <p>HEALTH Week – w/c 12th June</p> <p>SPORTS DAY – 16th June: 1pm</p> <p>P7 Mackie Transition – Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st June</p> <p>End of Term Service: THURSDAY 6th July @ 9:30am</p> <p>Term ends - Friday 7 July 2023</p>	

*Occasional Day – School is closed