



Dunnottar
School

Newsletter

September 2022



Mindfulness



We were delighted to **WELCOME** Sarah Gear back to Dunnottar School to support the Dunnottar School community this session.

Sarah will initially work with the children in classes P1, P2, P3, P3,4 to introduce mindfulness practice to the learning day. She is also working with representatives from the upper stages classes to remember and revisit class practices they have been taught before.

Week 1. Finger breathing

The Mindfulness Leaders demonstrated this practice to their classes.



WELCOME Mrs Bulman to Dunnottar School. Mrs Bulman was my admin support at Johnshaven, and I simply could not ask for a more dedicated member of the team. I am absolutely thrilled to welcome her to Dunnottar and look forward to working with her again.

Francine Young was successful in her campaign to be the Ruby House Captain last week. All three candidates gave excellent speeches at assembly and in front of the classes. They put a lot of effort into their speeches and really impressed the staff. It was Francine who captured the interest of the children as she promised to listen to their views, create great challenges and represent them as their captain. Congratulations Francine!



A huge thank you to Lisa Keith for supporting us with sourcing laptops for school. 30 laptops are currently being refurbished as we speak and will be delivered soon! Each laptop will be fully tested and delivered with a power supply and an educational/charitable licence for Microsoft Windows registered to Dunnottar School and already installed on the laptop. Staff were thrilled to hear we have a class set of laptops and what a difference they will make to supporting the children with learning to use technology and using technology to learn!



The Aberdeenshire Lieutenancy in partnership with the Press and Journal are launching a competition to design a **Flag for Aberdeenshire** this autumn.

[Phillip Tibbetts](#), Lyon Court Vexillologist for Scotland attended to present to the children information about flag design. It was a super occasion and we all really enjoyed what he had to say!

The competition is open to all and the **deadline for entries is 8 Oct**, with the winner decided by public vote. The children in P4-7 have all been given a pack if they felt they would like to create a design but we would welcome any family to enter.

Parental Engagement and Involvement



Parent Voice AGM

The date for the Parents Voice AGM is Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7pm, Dunnottar School Staff Room. We look forward to seeing you there to establish our committee for session 2022 – 2023.



Ragbag

The ragbag is due for collection on Friday 23rd September. If anyone has uniform in good condition that is out grown please hand in to the office as we are currently looking into ways to support regular swapping of uniform that is in good condition.

Behaviour Policy

We are in the process of establishing a short-term working group, of parents, staff and children, to refresh our Positive Behaviour System Policy. If you are interested in being part of this group, please click on the link in the email sent out earlier in the week and let us know your availability. We will be in touch to confirm a date for our first meeting by Friday 23rd September.

Library Development:



Explore

The children in P7 have been helping to restore the library into a functioning space after the holidays. We have introduced some new furniture for storing books and resources, and a new conference table for leadership group meetings!

The books are being organised in alphabetical order and, when ready, we are looking forward to using the space as a mindfulness space during break and lunchtimes.

Classes will also be visiting the library as soon as the set up is complete.

Finally, we are looking to cleanse and replenish our non-fiction texts as we are finding our selection to be dated. We will work with the children to apply for funding and would welcome the support of a small group of parents to help with writing the funding application, once we have identified the books we require. Please contact the school office if you could support us with this task.

Mindfulness Leadership Group:

We met with Sarah Gear for our first Mindfulness Leadership Group (P4-7). As well as promoting Finger Breathing and coming up with creative ways to do this activity together, we looked at current practice in classes with the children and identified our aims:

“Help everyone concentrate”.

“Calm everyone down.”

“Viral happiness!”

respect



Each week we will EXPLORE a new mindfulness strategy for use in class, and we hope to equip classes with boxes packed with mindfulness support tools in the very near future.

Allotment Open Day –
Come along to see our
allotment on Friday 23rd
September @ 4pm.



Pupil Voice:

The children are currently exploring the theme “Our Teaching and Learning” and talking about the key features of highly effective practice to see which target they would like to identify to work on first. Once we have identified the target the children will first gather views from all classes and then create a plan to develop and improve their learning experiences.

We look forward to presenting our targets to the Parent Voice next term, to see how both groups can work together. If there are parents willing to attend Pupil Voice sessions, we meet every Wednesday at 1.15pm in the library.



4TH

We are determined



Mia Brady Qualifies for the UDO Worlds next year.

Talented street dancer, Mia Brady, has qualified for two events at next year's United Dance Organisation Worlds Tournament.

Mia placed first as part of her Divas Team and fourth for her individual dance, securing her space at the Worlds next year! You go girl!!!

Admin Requests

If your child is going to be absent from school here is what you could do:

- Call and leave a message on the answer machine at any time
- Call the office from 8:30am – 01569 690505
- Email the office

Please tell us **why** your child is going to be absent as we must complete the register with the correct coding for absence. The office will try to call you up until 11am.

Parent failing to notify us of absence will receive a letter confirming this and will be monitored for future occurrences.

ParentsPortal

Please remember to link yourself to your child's account on ParentsPortal as data checks will be issued electronically this academic year. Please contact the office if you are having trouble and we will arrange a call to support you.

parentsportal | parentsportal.scot

Ask me about....

In assembly we are **EXPLORING** this big question: **What makes a good learner a good learner?**

The children are all aware of their right to an education so we will be thinking about the skills and attributes they require to ensure they make the most of their learning experiences in school, at home and in the community they live.

UNCRC - Article 28 and 29



Achievement

P7 Artwork

P7 have been learning about the artistic style of L.S Lowry and recreated his painting of an urban landscape to capture their knowledge of war-torn Aberdeen during WWII.



Dates for your Diary

Term 1 In-service day - Monday 22 August 2022 Term starts - Tuesday 23 August 2022 Holiday – HM Queen Elizabeth II Funeral 10-14 October - Music Week (more to follow) Term ends - Friday 14 October 2022	Term 2 Term starts - Monday 31 October 2022 In-service day – Thursday 17 Friday 18 November 2022 Term ends - Friday 23 December 2021
Term 3 9 January 2023 to 31 March 2023 Term starts - Monday 9 January 2023 Occasional Days* - Thursday 9 and Friday 10th February 2023 Mid-term holiday – Monday 13th February In-service day - Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15th February Term ends - Friday 31 March 2022	Term 4 17 April 2023 to 7 July 2023 Term starts - Monday 17 April 2023 May Day holiday - Monday 1 May 2023 P7 Residential Trip – Tuesday 2 nd to Friday 5 th May Occasional Day* - Monday 5 June 2023 HEALTH Week – w/c 12th June SPORTS DAY – 16 th June: 1pm P7 Mackie Transition – Monday 19 th – Wednesday 21 st June End of Term Service: THURSDAY 6 th July @ 9:30am Term ends - Friday 7 July 2023

*Occasional Day – School is closed



Coming soon! Special Event

On the last week of term, w/c 10th October, it is Music Week at Dunnottar. We are planning a week of showcasing those children who have musical talents and will be in touch early next week to chat over our plans with parents.

We would also love to hear from any parents or indeed any other family members, who might wish to perform for the children for a short while, during the school day. We welcome family performances too.

We are aware that there are many children who are learning to play instruments in their spare time and have not had the rich experience of performing over the past few years, due to Covid 19 restrictions. Performing is a skill learned alongside learning to play, and it is important that musicians become comfortable with performing at an early age to normalise managing their nerves.

Also, music is tremendously uplifting and supports wellbeing of all! What better way to end the term than enjoying the talents of our young and local musicians!

The Stonehaven Folk Festival is working with us to create an exciting week that will culminate in a performance in St Bridget's Hall from community members, such as the Mackie Band. We are busy planning a very exciting performance for the Friday afternoon. The Stonehaven Folk festival also hope to lead workshops where they will introduce a few instruments to children to give them a flavour for learning to play a new instrument.