



Welcome to our newsletter:

Summer Term



Well, we are certainly getting a mix of weather again...last week was glorious sunshine and now we're back to a mix of wind, rain, hail and even snow...welcome to the Summer Term, Scotland style! This is always an exciting term as the P7s prepare to transition to the Academy, the P4s have visits into the P5-P7 class and we get to meet our new P1s as they come for tours around the school. The Parent Council also have a couple of events planned, so please keep an eye on both your emails and also the new noticeboard on the school gates.

Dates for your diaries:

Monday 17th April - Back to School

Monday 17-Friday 21st April - P6/7 Residential Trip to Nethybridge

Tuesday 25th April - P1-4 Visit to Maryculter Church

Tuesday 25th April - Parent Council Meeting

Friday 28th April - Whole School Techfest Workshops

Monday 1st May - May Day Holiday

Monday 8th May - King Charles Coronation Holiday

Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th May - Big Green Week

Saturday 13th May - Parent Council Family Ceilidh

Thursday 18th May - Visit from Portlethen Library to Promote the Summer Reading Challenge

Tuesday 30th May - P7 Transition Event (Social Enterprise Academy)

Tuesday 30th May - Big Issue Event at Glasgow

Thursday 1st June - P1 Transition (Family Tours of School)

Thursday 8th June - Social Enterprise Academy Awards Ceremony (Inverness)

Friday 9th June - P7 Transition Event (Clan Morning)

Wednesday 13th- Friday 16th June - P7 Transition Event (Link Days)

Thursday 22nd June - Sports Day

Wednesday 28th June - Forest Schools Family Morning (tbc)

Friday 7th July - P7 Leavers' Assembly / Break Up



*We will advise dates for folios and Parent Meetings after our staff meeting on Wednesday.

P6/7 Residential Trip to Nethybridge

We were absolutely DELIGHTED to be able to put out an email to the parents of the children in P6/7 yesterday. Not only did the children (and staff) have a fabulous time on their residential trip, but they were showered with compliments from the instructors about what a nice group of children they were. Thanks to Sarah Stephen and Pam Main for not only giving up their time to take the children away, but also ensuring that they all came back...I think the general consensus was they wanted to stay! I will send out a short video of the children's experiences to the relevant families later today...hope you enjoy!



Drop in Visit

At the end of last week, we had a short drop in visit from Vincent Docherty, Head of Education for Aberdeenshire Council. A group of children from P4/5 showed him around, and the feedback he gave about the school was extremely positive. Again, he was another person who was full of praise for how polite, confident and well-spoken the children are...a credit to themselves, yourselves and the school. I did have to confess to feeling very blessed!

Active Schools/Forest Schools

I am delighted to let you know that Graeme McCall has managed to secure us another block of Active Schools coaching with a focus on Highland Games. This will take place on Tuesday mornings and will be outdoors where possible. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing for all winds and weathers, and likewise for Forest Schools which will be continuing on Wednesday mornings.

Clubs

Drawing, Lego and Book Club are back this term by popular demand, and we envisage running these clubs until June when hopefully the weather will have improved. Parents in P1-P4 will shortly receive information about a Highland Games Lunchtime Club, and we hope to be able to start Adventure Club (my leg permitting) and Jog Club for the older children later in the term.

Big Green Week



As King Charles is a keen environmentalist, we are planning on marking his coronation with a Big Green Week. During the week we will be looking at the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) in more detail and focusing on Goal 11 (Sustainable Communities) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). The Eco and Rights Respecting Schools Groups will be involved in suggesting and organising pertinent activities, and we hope that this work will be

the last pieces of the jigsaws that we need in order to submit applications for our Gold Rights Respecting Schools and Eco Green Flag awards.

Social Enterprise Academy

I am delighted to announce that the work of Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts appears to be going from strength to strength. Many thanks to all who supported our 'Twin a Tap' enterprise...your generosity is very much appreciated, and we were blown away when our Pocket Hugs raised enough money to twin, not just one, but three taps in Afghanistan. An article about our work will feature in a special edition of the Big Issue magazine and all families in the school will receive a free copy of the magazine later in May.



Techfest

We are very excited for Friday as we will be welcoming Techfest Outreach into school to run workshops related to this term's STEM themes. Both classes will participate in two workshops as follows:

- Terrific Teeth and Isaac's Big Idea (P1-4)
- Maths Around the World and Eureka Moment (P5-7)

Keep an eye out on Twitter for photos.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments

This term, all P1, P4 and P7 children across Scottish schools complete SNSA assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. These assessments are online and children will be supported appropriately to complete them. Individual teachers and schools use the data collected to both support teacher's judgements of pupil achievement and also inform future planning. You can get more information about SNSA by clicking on the following link: [National Standardised Assessments for Scotland](#)

Mystery Reader

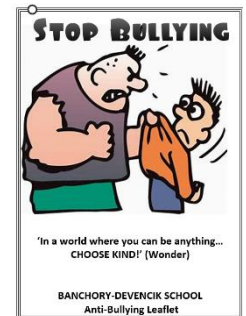


Thanks to everyone who has put their name forward to be a Mystery Reader. We are hoping to get going with this initiative this term. Once every two weeks, we will pull one of your names out of a hat and then invite you into school to read a story to the children. You can choose to read to the older class, the younger class or the whole school. To make the session even more exciting, we are asking you to give us three fun facts about yourself in advance so that the children can guess who their Mystery

Reader is going to be. We hope to be ready to apply for our Silver Reading Schools award in the next couple of weeks.

Anti-Bullying / Cyber Safety

Many thanks to all of you who attended our Anti-Bullying/Internet Safety assembly last term. We hope we gave you food for thought. As a final piece of work on the theme of Anti-Bullying, the children in P5-P7 produced a leaflet for the school. This will be discussed with the children in a special assembly later in the week and then a copy will be emailed home for you to share as families.



Jim McLean (ICT guru for Aberdeenshire Council) was so impressed by the presentation the children gave about Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety, that he put the school in touch with Education Scotland. As a result of the children participating in a Teams 'Show and Tell' event, we have been asked to share our work further afield.

Thanks also to everyone who took the time to complete the Anti-Bullying questionnaire. Your feedback and comments were very useful, and we now have a draft policy ready to share with you at the end of the week. Whilst we can't share how we approach talking to other people's children, we hope that the policy will give a clearer picture of the procedures we follow should incidents be brought to our attention.

School Improvement Plan

I can't believe that it's time to start looking ahead to next year's school development priorities. Since taking over as Head Teacher at Banchory-Devenick three years ago, I feel that we have had a busy few years. With this in mind, I anticipate next year's school improvements to focus on consolidating and embedding initiatives that have already been introduced, with an overriding push on Learning, Teaching and Assessment. We do welcome your input, so if you have anything you would like us to consider including, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Equally, if you have any comments as to how you feel we have done this year, please send them in.

Primary 1-4



It's crazy to think we are already in the final term of this school year! This term, we are using '**Science Through Stories**' as our main context for learning. This will allow us to get hands on with a range of experiments to cover topics including energy, the water cycle, sound and forces among a range of

others. We will link each aspect of science to a story before exploring the concept.

In writing, we will be covering functional writing using our scientific experiments as a starting point. This will allow us to write predictions and evaluations. We will also be writing poetry and creating posters to record our learning across the curriculum. Guided reading will continue, with children receiving one or two books a week depending on their stage. Please try to send in the reading record with your child's book on the day noted in the comments. Please initial or date when the book has been practiced and you can choose to write a comment about their reading if you'd like. Some children have changed their reading day this term, so please check their records for this information.

Maths this term will focus on multiplication, division, fractions, money and measurement with ongoing work on mental maths to improve times tables and number bond recall. Please continue to support your child in practicing their times tables and number bonds regularly at home.

Homework will continue to be issued on Wednesdays so please ensure your child has their blue homework diaries with them.

In RME, we will be looking at stories from the Bible and one other world religion. The aim is to develop our understanding of the beliefs and values of the people who follow these religions and see how their beliefs impact their actions. The other religion chosen will be based on discussions had with the children during lessons.

PE this term will include Highland Games with Active Sports, and also athletics. Here there will be a focus on the events that will be included in the Sports Day potted sports and races. All these activities will help develop balance, coordination and power.



We will be looking at stories and songs in Spanish so I apologise in advance for the repetition of songs that you will undoubtedly hear!

Thank you for your continued support.

Primary 5-7



As always, we have a busy term ahead planned and have already hit the ground running. Our context for learning, **'We Are Engineers,'** is Science and Technology based and I know the children are looking forward to getting started. The classroom is going to be a hive of activity with lots of fun, hands-on experiments and investigations. Electrical circuits, energy conversions,

pneumatics, chemical cells and forces are just some of the scientific concepts we will be getting to grips with as we aim to apply our new-found science knowledge to powering our very own inventions. Creative ideas, problem-solving strategies and critical thinking skills are high on the agenda as the children will be asked to prepare their very own 'Dragon's Den' presentations. Perhaps your child will come up with the next award-winning invention...when they do, and they start raking in the millions, please persuade them to remember us...their humble P5-7 teachers! As we learn more about the Global Goals during Big Green Week, we will look for opportunities to develop STEM initiatives in the great outdoors and will consider how technologies can be used to help promote a more environmentally friendly and sustainable world.

This term's written work will focus on functional writing, and children will be involved in scripting reports, leaflets, information posters, biographies etc. As we didn't finish 'Wonder' last term, we will be continuing to read this, and independent readers will be presented with some STEM based novel titles that they can dip into if they so wish. We will continue Book Buddying with the younger children and will also be introducing Paired Reading across P5-P7 and P4-P6.

In ICT, we will continue to use the computers as both a research and presentation tool to enhance work done across the different curricular areas (Word, PowerPoint etc). In addition, we will be looking at computer coding and its relation to AI.



Maths this term will be quite practical in nature, as children will be applying their knowledge of number to concepts such as length, weight, capacity, time, and patterns and relationships. Throughout each unit, children will be given opportunities to work alongside a learning partner to discuss and solve increasingly complex problems. As they do so, they will be encouraged to articulate their thought processes using mathematical language.



As the children increase their vocabulary in both Spanish and French, they will be encouraged to extend their sentence work by adding simple adjectives to describe the properties of inventions (e.g. colour, size, strength etc).

We are looking forward to catching up with you at various school and social events throughout the term, and in the meantime, wish you and your child a Happy Summer Term. As always, if you have any concerns or issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

