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**Ballater School Weekly Update**

**Friday 23rd April 2021**

We hope everyone was able to enjoy some rest and fun over the recent spring break. As we reach the end of the first week back in school, we have some dates and information to share with you.

We are hoping that as the Covid Levels are reduced across the region we may be able to plan some more normal activities for this final term of the year. However, for the time being we must continue to follow all the mitigations currently in place to ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible.

If we are able to organise further events eg sports day it may have to be planned at quite short notice and may have to be carried out differently from previous years.

We will let you know as soon as we are able to plan any events or activities.

**Parent Council Snacks**

The snacks for next will be:

Monday 26th April – Yoghurt Tubes and Raisins

Friday 29th April – Popcorn

As always, any spare fruit will be available outside the office for anyone that would like to take some, please ensure you make use of the hand sanitizer provided.

A wee reminder, morning snacks should be something small and quick to eat. Pupils should only need one item for their morning snack, preferably something healthy- no sweets please and they should not be sharing their snacks with other children

**Dress Down Friday**

As previously agreed we will continue to have every Friday this term as a Dress Down day for those who wish to take part.

**P7 Transition**

Aboyne Academy has set up a Cluster P7 Google Classroom which all our P7s have now joined. We are looking forward to being part of transition activities through this electronic classroom in the weeks to come.

Information about the P7 transition can be accessed on the Aboyne Academy website on the link below.

<https://aboyneacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/parents/p7-transition/>

Aboyne Academy has asked that all parents of P7 pupils moving to the academy in August are signed up to use the Parents Portal for information, payments etc.

Information on how to sign up to the portal, if you haven’t already, will be issued very shortly.

We are looking forward to the P7 Leaver Hoodies arriving in the next few days. P7s may wear term to school if they wish during this term.

**Nursery into P1 Transition**

We have planned our transition for those children moving from the nursery into P1 with us in August.

We will send out the programme details on Monday 26th April along with the first of the weekly information documents that you will receive as part of your child’s transition.

We look forward to working with you for this exciting step in your child’s education.

**P6/7 Feis Music Project**

We are lucky to have been chosen to take part in a musical project which is being delivered by Feisrois for the next seven weeks.

The virtual session has been planned as a transition project for P7 pupils from 20 schools across Scotland to take part in and will involve our P6/7 class writing a song for the Feisrois musicians to perform. After a few teething problems this week, I understand the technology is now in place for next week’s session. We will keep you updated on the progress of the song.

**Staffing Updates**

We are delighted to welcome Ms Susan Carr to Ballater School as a Pupil Support Assistant. Ms Carr will be working with us two days a week until the end of the term. We wish Ms Carr well in this new post and we look forward to getting to know her.

Following successful interviews this week, Ms Hannah George is to become a full time, permanent member of the nursery team. Her post is shared between Ballater and Braemar nurseries. We are delighted to have Hannah join us on a more permanent long-term basis.

We are still in the process of recruiting a new member of staff to replace Ms Lanigan who left at the end of last term. We will keep you updated when we have news of a replacement.

**Ballater School Vision Values and Aims**

We have recently refreshed our school vision, values and aims to make some of the wording slightly more user friendly, add in a new value- Ambition and to present the information in a more visually appealing way.

The new document is sent out along with this newsletter, we would love to hear what you think of our new document. Pupils have been giving their feedback in school this week.

**Term 4 Dates- so far!**

Monday 19th April – Start of term 4

Wednesday 21st April – P6/7 Feis Music project starts – weekly for 7 weeks

Monday 26th April- Class newsletters issued

Friday 30th April – P7 transition profiles to be completed and sent to academy

Monday 3rd May – May Day Holiday

Wednesday 5th May – New P1 parents welcome meeting - online

Tuesday May 4th

- Teacher/parent progress phone calls.

Friday May 29th

Friday 25th June – End of Session!

As always, we wish you all a pleasant weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday.

The Ballater School Team.