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**Ballater School**

**Weekly Update**

**Friday 25th February 2022**

After quite a positive start to our learning week after the snowy weather last week, we have ended with a large number of absences due to many Covid cases in both staff and pupils. This has stretched our staffing and we hope that no further staff members test positive or we may have to look at how we manage our learning and teaching.

**Mrs Garratt**

As of last Friday, Mrs Garratt has retired from teaching. She has worked with us for a few years but has worked in many schools across the country and has been a key member of our team, providing ideas, support and consistency for all our classes in her role as our cover teacher.

We had planned a farewell celebration for her last day on Friday last week which sadly didn’t happen due to the adverse weather. However, the staff are meeting up with her soon to wish her well and we will make sure that all the lovely cards and gifts that our pupils made for her are passed on to her.

**Toast**

It has been great to see our P7 toast team getting into the swing of all the duties they need to do to ensure they have toast to serve on Friday mornings.

A reminder that toast will be on sale every Friday morning break for 50p a slice.

**Twitter**

We had been hoping to be able to reintroduce Seesaw as a means of sharing what is going on in our school community. Unfortunately, we have been advised that there are on going data concerns about this online platform and as an Aberdeenshire school we should not be using it at present.

However, at our recent in-service days, staff undertook training on how to set up and manage their own class Twitter accounts.

We will be sending information out to all families about our expectations for use, purpose and how to access the accounts next week.

Please note all staff accounts will be private and can only be accessed by recognised parents/carers.

We hope you will find these accounts interesting and useful.

**World Book Day**

The annual day is to take place on Thursday when individual classes will be working on some aspect of books and reading. Pupils will be issued with their World Book Day vouchers today. Those pupils absent today can collect them from their class teacher when they return.

We wish you all a healthy and pleasant weekend.

The Ballater School and Nursery team.