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**Ballater School**

**Weekly Update**

**Friday 2nd September 2022**

Firstly, a belated welcome back and welcome to all our new families. We were unable to issue an update last week due to staff absences.

We hope everyone has settled back into school life and our new learners are starting to become familiar with the routines of school and nursery life.

We will continue to provide you with a weekly update at the end of each week with news, updates and reminders of deadlines etc. Also, we will continue to have Dress Down Friday every week.

We are delighted that our new P7s have already got themselves organised to sell toast on a Friday morning. This will take place each week unless we have let you know otherwise.

**Annual Update**

September is the time of year that we are required to ensure all our families have updated the information we hold about their family. Thank you to all those of you have already checked your data on Parents Portal. If you have not already done so, please log onto Parents Portal and check if anything needs to change eg contact numbers, medical needs. We receive an update to say you have checked and the data is all correct.

If you have not yet created your account on Parents Portal, please do so as soon as possible as other systems such as paying for trips etc are soon to be done through this portal.

**Flu Vaccinations**

Thank you to large majority of you who have already returned your child’s vaccination consent forms. Please ensure the forms are returned to school next week as we are required to pass them onto the vaccination team soon.

The provisional date for the vaccinations to take place in our school is November 2nd. We will keep you updated with information nearer the time.

**PE Kit**

We have been pleased to see most pupils bringing their PE kit to school. If your child has pierced ears, please make sure they are either able to remove their earrings or you provide surgical tape to cover the earrings during PE.

**Pupil Photographs**

We are looking forward to having our pupil photographs taken during the week beginning Monday 12th September. Please ensure you have returned your choices to the school office by the beginning of next week.

**Seesaw**

We are pleased to have overcome a few technical issues to see the majority of our parents and learners logged onto Seesaw.

If you have not received a log in sheet it is because we have not received your consent to use the system. Please contact the school office if you need another copy of the consents.

Your child’s homework will be posted weekly on Seesaw along with posts of learning from the class.

Please let us know if you have any difficulties and we will do our best to assist.

**Assembly**

We held our first assembly of the session this week. We talked about our focus skill which is a life of work skill: to be able to follow rules and routines and to explain why they are important. We also looked talked about the Tour of Britain cycle race which we are excited to see coming through Ballater on Sunday. Finally, we are pleased to share some pupil achievements from the summer. Ally D for winning dancing competitions and the overall cup at some local Highland Games, Fionn for practising hard and now managing to do a flip on his trampoline, Ava G for doing a long cycle and to Harris for winning lots of dancing competitions including winning cups in both the national and world championships at the Cowal Games. Well done to you all. We would love to hear of any other achievements to share at our assembly.

**Nursery Staffing**

Ms Julie Polson has been appointed into the role of Early Years Senior Practitioner. We wish Ms Polson well in her new role. Claire Cameron will increase her hours to full time and an Early Years Practitioner post is to be advertised. We will keep you updated when we have further information.

Industrial Action

A reminder, at the time of writing, our nursery will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week due to the planned industrial action. If there are any changes over the weekend, we will let you know.

**Dates**

Please find attached a list of dates for this session.

We wish you all a pleasant weekend and look forward to hearing about the Tour of Britain.

The Ballater School and Nursery Team