

**Ballater School**

**Weekly Update**

**Friday 4th November, 2022**

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful break. It has been good to get back into our school routines again this week and great to see everyone at the parent/ teacher meetings last night.

**Breakfast Club**

It is wonderful to be able to hold events like the Parent Council Breakfast Club again. Please ensure you let us know if your child(ren) would like to attend to allow supplies to be bought etc. The breakfast club week is taking place from Monday 21st to Friday 25th November.

**Cooking Club**

Again, another very welcome return to the school is cooking club. This will take place weekly on a Tuesday afternoon with one class each week taking part. Thank you to the cooking ladies for making this happen again.

**Toys etc**

A reminder, that pupils should not be bringing toys or other personal items to school. We seem to be seeing a lot of items in classrooms which are causing a distraction and at times we are having to spend time sorting out disputes about the ownership of these items. Please keep all personal toys, etc safe at home.

**Christmas Fair**

We are starting to plan for our forthcoming Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December. The fair will be held in the school hall from 10.30 am – 1pm and will have a variety of stalls and refreshments. Tables are available to book at £10 per stall, please email on ballater.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you would like to book a stall.

**Jam Jars**

We are hoping to use jam jars for some of our Christmas Fair ideas. We would be grateful for any donations of jars. These can be dropped off at the school office at any time.

**I-Pad Music**

We are delighted that our P3- P7 pupils are to be learning how to make music using I-pads. These sessions will be every Wednesday afternoon and led by an Aberdeenshire Council music tutor. We look forward to sharing the learning with you later in the term.

**Assembly**

We focused on Growth Mind Set at assembly this week. We are aiming to develop an ethos of building on progress to further improve, not giving up if things are difficult and giving new ideas, opportunities a go. We will be building on our initial discussion as we go through this term.

Our focus skill was “I can be a leader within a small group”, a skill for life. We look forward to hearing from pupils about when they have had a go at being a leader in the last week or so.

We finished our assembly by listening to Danse Macabre by Saint Sans as it was Hallowe’en.

**Nursery Staffing**

We are pleased to welcome Claire Middleton to our nursery team in the role of Early Years Practitioner. Claire has worked in a wide variety of settings and brings with her a wealth of experience. However, we are sorry to be losing Julie Booth from our team. Julie has been with us for a relatively short time but has been an asset to our nursery. We wish Julie well in her post nearer to her home.

We are also extremely sorry to have Kirsteen Higgins leaving us in a few weeks. Kirsteen is moving onto an exciting new challenge, also nearer to home. We will miss her very much but wish her well and thank her for all she has brought to our nursery and school. We will update you when we have information regarding the recruitment of these two vacant posts.

Wishing you an enjoyable and safe bonfire weekend.

The Ballater School and Nursery Team.