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**Ballater School**

**Weekly Update**

**Friday 13th January 2023**

Happy New year to everyone! We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing festive break, and we are all back raring to go for another busy term ahead.

**Home learning**

Due to the current removal of Seesaw, we will be issuing home learning tasks via Groupcall starting this week. Tasks will be sent out on Friday and class teachers will let you know when they are expected back. All tasks should be completed in the jotter provided which should be returned on the class due day. All pupils will have some “Must Do” tasks and also some extension tasks. All pupils are expected to complete their home learning tasks to support their learning.

**Wider Achievements**

Pupils will be bringing their wider achievement documents home with them today. We would be grateful of you could take the time to look over these with your child, add in any achievements form out with school and return them to school on Monday 16th January.

**P1 Enrolment Week**

The enrolment week for children starting P1 in August 2023 takes place next week.

If your child’s fifth birthday is between 1st March 2023 and 29th February 2024, you can register them in January 2023 to start attending school in August 2023.

To enrol your child, please click on the link below:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/primary-school-registration/>

**Skiing**

We are delighted that we have managed to find a way to allow our older pupils to ski later this term. Information was shared with those families who had previously signed up for ski week. If your child is in P5-7 and has now decided they would also like to take part, please contact Jenny at the office for information. Our ski week will now take place on Monday 27th February until Friday 3rd March at Glenshee and the same cost as originally planned- £250. Thank you Aboyne Primary for allowing us to join them to make this trip happen for us.

**Listening Skills**

We have identified that across the school the majority of our learners need to focus on improving their listening skills. We have been speaking about the importance of “Active Listening” in all areas of life. We are finding that learning time is being eroded due to learners not focussing on listening to instructions and questions.

This is an area that we cannot solely focus on in school as listening is a skill that needs to be developed as a lifelong habit.

In school we are using questioning to support active listening, but we are also reinforcing the following points to help develop positive habits for all.

* Looking at the person who is speaking – eye contact
* Avoiding distractions- no gadgets on, nothing in the hands
* Focus on the person talking- think about what is being said.
* Repeating/reflecting back what has been said
* Being a good role model for listening- one for the adults!

It would be of great benefit to all our learners if these points could be reinforced at home as well as school. Perhaps making it a focus when everyone sits down at the meal table together.

**Term 3 dates**- Please see the attached sheet for the dates we have so far for this term.

**Assembly**

This term we are looking at the World of Work in assembly. We started by focusing on the wide variety of roles with the health sector. I think we all learned about some new jobs we weren’t aware of before! We will focus on a key employment area each week to help expand out learners awareness of possible careers for the future.

Achievements, well done to Harris, Henry and Lily C who were awarded swimming achievement certificates this week at assembly. We have a few more awards for swimming to give out next week for pupils who were absent this week. Keep up the good work with the swimming skills!

**Gazebo Benches**

We are delighted that we have returned to some brand-new benches within our outdoor classroom gazebo. Thank you very much to Stephen Clark for supplying the materials and his time to produce some super seating for us to use in the gazebo. We look forward to getting outside each week to make use of this lovely space.

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