



NEWS LETTER

January 2018

Welcome to the new term and a new year! We hope you all have had a relaxing Christmas break and a super New Year. This term has been incredibly busy so far for everyone at Anna Ritchie. The senior school enjoyed a wonderful Burns Lunch (more on that below) and everybody has been working very hard to start 2018 as we mean to go on.

Unfortunately we have had to say a 'goodbye' to Helen Hendry this term. She has left Anna Ritchie to take up a post at Banff Academy as Depute Head Teacher. The role is a 23 month secondment so we hope to see her back in the not too distant future. We would all like to thank Helen for her work in supporting the staff and pupils here at the school and wish her all the best in her new role.

Fiona Burns has been appointed as Depute Head for the duration of Mrs Hendry's secondment period. Mrs Burns joined us as a class teacher in October and brings with her a wealth of experience working in the field of Additional Support Needs and will be an excellent addition to the Senior Leadership Team. Mrs Burns will remain as class teacher until a replacement can be appointed.

Dates for Your Diary

9 th February	Holiday
12 th February	Holiday
13 th February	In-Service day – school closed
14 th February	In-Service day – school closed
20 th February	HPV and MMR immunisations

26th February Parent Council Meeting (1 o'clock)

27th February Autism Accreditation Visit

28th February Autism Accreditation Visit

2nd March DTP & Meningitis immunisations

School Reviews

The annual school review meetings are being held this term and will take place every week until the Easter holidays. We look forward to updating you on the progress of your children and sharing some of the great work they have been doing over the course of the year.

Autism Accreditation

Thank you to everybody who completed a questionnaire from the Autism Accreditation team. It is vitally important that your views are gathered in regards to how you feel we meet the needs of our autistic pupils.

On 27th and 28th February the school will be visited by a team of specialists in the field of autism. This team will be visiting classes and speaking to staff in the school to review our progress in regards to the Autism Accreditation standards.

Staff in school have been working very hard to prepare for this and we look forward to updating you on our progress.

Fundraising

A huge thank you to Kai's parents for their fantastic effort in raising money for the school. They managed to raise a whopping £1018.50 by running a Facebook 'bonus ball' competition and

a bake-sale at Macduff Seafood in Mintlaw.

We would also like to thank Seafood Ecosse for their generous donation of £1500. We look forward to spending these funds on our new multi-sensory room!

Burns Lunch



The senior school had a fantastic time celebrating the life of Robert Burns with their annual Burns' Lunch. Thank you to Mrs Ritchie, Mrs Benvie and all the staff who helped the pupils to prepare, organise and run the event.



Once again, the pupils did themselves proud by taking centre stage and performing readings, musical interludes and welcoming all our guests. A special congratulation to Joe Bruce who was Master of Ceremonies and who won the coveted Burns' Shield for his contribution to the day.



Football Festival

Mrs Benvie took her class to the Football Festival at Aberdeen Sports Village on January 22nd. The event was run by Aberdeen FC Community Trust and a great time was had by all!



LEAD Scotland Sessions

LEAD (Linking Education and Disability) Scotland are a charity who work with the parents of children with disabilities. They have begun a project with parents who will be working together to develop their Digital Skills. The first session ran on 26th January and was a great success!



PAMIS SDS Event

PAMIS will be holding an SDS event on the 21st March at North East Scotland College Campus, Fraserburgh. This event will involve two sessions regarding SDS and PAMIS and the work they undertake to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). Further information can be found on the parent noticeboard in school or on the school website.