



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year, we hope that everyone enjoyed a lovely holiday. We are all very much looking forward to a hardworking and successful term ahead. A big thanks to the PTA for working with us to run such a well-attended Christmas Fayre and P7 Enterprise event. We hope that our P1 families enjoyed the P1 musical concert, and well done to the P2 classes for running the festive sing-a-long to the P2 families.

We are reinstating the weekly update as one of our actions from “You said, we did” to help to cover the gap left by the loss of the Seesaw app. We are also still developing the individual P4-7 learning profiles and have begun to train the Tech Wizards to help the staff develop year group blogs for P1,2 and 3.

We look forward to sharing the children’s learning over this term and next through the “Special Assemblies”. Thank you for your replies to the survey before Christmas, it will be downloaded and we will look at this and share what we can do to action any points over the next few weeks.

This week, we were affected by the closure of schools due to the strikes and we appreciate the impact this may have. We continue to have the same three main school improvement priorities: consistency of quality of learning, teaching and assessment; restarting pupil participation; and the journey of improvement as an Autism Friendly School.

All class teachers will have issued a class newsletter to give an overview of the learning this term.

Our BIG news this week was the arrival of our notification of an Inspection. The survey links have been sent out for you to share your views and will be resent next week for anyone who missed them. We will share with the inspectors what we know works well and what we know we need to do better at Banchory Primary School.

Please see below a brief summary of what’s been happening across school this week.

Kind Regards,

Jackie Fernandez

Head Teacher



P1 have continued with their play journey. Thank you for boosting their collection of loose parts kits. We have started looking at our context for learning 'Scotland'. The children are keen to learn more about Doric and Scott Skinner.

P2 have been busy considering the context for learning and are looking forward to learning more about 'Oor Wullie'. P2 welcomed one of the Dads in to talk about his job, the children enjoyed seeing the lorry and hearing about this job.

P3 have been busy setting targets for the New Year and thinking about learning targets for term 3. The classes have started looking at different styles of poetry in particular Haiku. They have worked hard on writing their own 'Winter Haiku'.

P4 have been working on their tiling and tessellation in Maths. They have also been investigating the concept of time. As part of their Scotland IDL, they have been using watercolours to paint pictures of Scottish Landscapes. In PE they have been working collaboratively in team games and enjoying learning some Scottish Country dances. In writing they are looking at the Katie Morag Stories.

P5 have been learning about the physical features of Scotland and are using watercolours to paint Scottish landscapes. They are also looking at bagpipes and are going to design and create their own ones.

P6 have been busy writing New Year Resolutions both in English and in French. They are also comparing Scotland with other countries and have also been looking at the Scottish climate. In Science they have been developing their knowledge about electrical circuits with Mr McPake. In HWB they are looking at Growth mindsets.

Mrs Talbot and Mrs Smart's class have also been busy working on their class assembly and are creating their own scripts for it.

P7 have been learning the names for parts of the body and having fun learning how to sing head, shoulders, knees and toes in French. They have also been working on their Big Maths alongside graphs, fractions, decimals and percentages. In Science they have been developing their learning and understanding of circuits and how to construct them. The P7s have also been revisiting parts of speech. P7K have also been learning about Chinese New Year. All classes have been setting targets for themselves.

Enhanced Provision

We have been working to improve the outdoor area of the lifeskills room to enhance the sensory experiences for the children who access this provision. Swimming has restarted along with access to the outdoor Nursery Garden, and the Snoozelean.

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School Social Media: closed Facebook Groups – one for Nursery, one for the school and one for ASL/Support. Please ask for details if you can't access these – they are 'closed' groups.

Twitter: @BanchoryPrimary

Instagram: banchoryprimaryschool

Website: <https://banchory-pri.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

