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| Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a lovely time over the Christmas holidays. I would like to thank all parents, on behalf of the staff, for all of our many and kind gifts. The Christmas party at Kirkton Hall last term was a fantastic afternoon – the tasty food was quickly devoured and a super afternoon of dancing, games and a visit from Santa was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the Parents’ Committee for organising this event.  **Green Flag** - I am delighted to let you know that we have been awarded a further Green Flag for our work on Eco projects for the last 3 school sessions. The whole school community works hard in this area and it is fantastic to have our work once again recognised – well done everyone!  **School Improvement Update** – This session we will be continuing our work with the children on developing a growth mindset – through classwork and a series of assemblies. Our whole school topic will be learning about UNICEF’s Global Goals, this will link to our work on the Rights of the Child.  **Schooling for Chantelle** – the money raised on our Christmas Jumper day will go towards our continued sponsorship of Chantelle through Action Aid. This money continues to support her schooling for the next year – thank you to all who contributed.  **Shoe Share** – many thanks to all who supported The Community Group’s collection for this initiative, we collected over 70 pairs of shoes. Clarks donate money to Unicef from the money raised for recycling these shoes which goes towards enabling children to attend education worldwide, supporting the UNICEF Article 28 – every child has the right to an education.  **Attendance -** Please be aware that in line with Aberdeenshire Council policy, regular unauthorised absence **or** a lower than expected attendance rate will be subject to monitoring. In time this may result in your case being referred to the Education Authority for further action.  For holidays in line with guidelines issued by the Scottish Government, absence during term time must be recorded as unauthorised.  **Staffing update** -Our new PSA, Mrs Jones, was able to take up post just before Christmas. She will be working on Thursdays and Fridays. We also have a new dinner lady, Corrie Methven, who has now started with us.    **Reporting Process -** Our iBook reports have been shared with you, as well as a PDF version, followed by an appointment on Wednesday 31 January at Parents’ evening. We took on board feedback from our initial iBook reports and have altered their layout where appropriate.  **The tea time chat!**  I am sure that sometimes when asking about your child’s day the only news you might get is about what they ate for lunch or the answer that they didn’t really do anything that day! Our Learning Journals are part of our solution for sharing your child’s ongoing learning by providing a snapshot of current work and below are a list of some other questions you might like to use during that tea time chat.  What made you laugh today?  Did you learning about something you didn’t previously understand today?  Who inspired you today?  What was your favourite/least favourite part of the day?  What were your highs and lows today?  What is something you heard today that surprised you?  What is something you learned about that has made you really think?  Who did you play with today?  Tell me something you know today that you didn’t know yesterday?  What was a mistake you made today? What did you learn from it?  **Parents’ Committee News**  THANK YOU for supporting the brilliant Christmas Party.  **Bonus Ball -** We started drawing the weekly numbers last year...and no winners yet.  The good news is there are plenty of numbers still up for grabs. They only cost £35 and there are lots of weeks/ opportunities to go to win your money back, or even make a profit and replenish the post-Christmas coffers! Choose your lucky number between 0-50 and let Ali, Elaine or Jill know your choice. Pay £35 by cheque to Durris School Parent's Committee, or cash to any of us (labelled envelope via Bee, Harriet, Ali N, James N, Innes or Tillie) or bank transfer 00256302 sort 83-28-46 (ref your name and 'bonus ball'). You can also pay in instalments £15 now, £10 in March and £10 in May. Maybe you friends or neighbours have a lucky number too?  This is such a fab fundraiser, it is low effort and low impact on all of us but raises a lot for our great little school; funds are used to take YOUR children on an exciting trip or buy new books, iPads etc. What are you waiting for? **In it to win it!** We look forward to getting your support - thank you.   🌸 Please Save The Date for our *Mother's Day Afternoon Tea* ( all Mums, Grannies, Aunties, neighbours and friends from near and far are welcome). *Sunday 11th March*, it promises to be a really lovely afternoon, with bubbles, cake and great company. Details to follow. 🌸  **Clubs** -We are always striving to enrich the experiences we offer to our learners at Durris School, so this year all teachers will run a club at some point either this term or next. Active Schools will also be offering a Yoga club for the P4-7 pupils.  Monday – Run Club, open to all pupils  Tuesday – Puzzle and Challenge Club for P4-7  Thursday – Yoga Club for P4-7  Friday– Lego Club for P1-3 and Sewing Club for P4-7  Pupils who are attending Run Club, Puzzle & Challenge Club and Sewing Club will all require a packed lunch on those days. An email with details of dates for the club will be sent shortly to parents whose children have signed up.  **Masterclasses -** We will shortly be starting our new masterclass sessions for Term 3 and I am delighted that 4 of the clubs will be largely run by pupils. We are always encouraging our pupils to be confident individuals and effective contributors – this is clearly evident in their enthusiasm to run these classes – well done boys and girls! Masterclasses this term will include – Cooking, Construction, Science Fun, Circuits & Fitness, Card games & tricks and Arts & Crafts.  **Nursery News**  A Happy New Year to all our children and families for 2018 also a warm welcome to Ellie, Elsie, Logan and Vivienne, our new starters.  Image result for nessie cartoonOver the next few weeks we will be continuing our theme “Winter Festivals” starting next week with **Scottish Week**, w/c 22nd January. We will celebrate Burns Night and focus on the Doric culture and language of the North East Scotland area.  Our celebrations, led by Mrs Duncan, will include learning some Doric poems and reading some traditional Scottish stories. We will also weave some tartan craft and on Feasty Friday we will make shortbread. Children can attend nursery on Thursday in tartan if they would like to.  Image result for chinese dragon danceAfter the mid term break we will celebrate **Chinese New Year** joined by Isabel’s mummy Yi-Pei w/c 19th February. Our celebrations will include, making a dragon, learning the dragon dance and percussion accompaniment for a dragon dance parade. Making lanterns, learning about Mandarin script, and of course, Feasty Friday tasting some Chinese food delicacies and opening our fortune cookies.  A full diary of events leading up to the Easter break will be available on the parents’ notice board soon. |

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| **Dates for Term 3**  Wednesday 24th January - P5 I can Animate@ Drumoak School  Wednesday 31st January - Forest Schools  Friday 2nd February - Rag Bag Collection  Fri 9th & Mon 12th February - Holidays  Tue 13th & Wed 14th February - In-Service Days  Wednesday 21st February - Forest Schools  Monday 26th February - P6/7 Enterprise Day @ Drumoak School  Wednesday 7th March - Forest Schools  Thursday 8th March - P5-7 Absafe Visit  Wednesday 21st March - Forest Schools  Thursday 29th March - Last day of Term  Monday 16th April - Term Begins |