



Date: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

---

**Dear parents/carers,**

As you will be aware, after a long and intense recruitment process, Mr Thomas Sherrington has been appointed to the post of Head Teacher at Ellon Academy and all being well, he will take up his new post after the summer break. I have already met with Mr Sherrington to being the process of handover and we have other meetings in our diaries before and during the summer break. This is an exciting time for Ellon Academy and Mr Sherrington is enthusiastic and keen to get started. Because I have been so happy at Ellon Academy, it is hard to say goodbye. This is a wonderful school, and we are so fortunate to have great staff, supportive parents and carers and the most amazing young people. The job of Head Teacher is a privilege and an honour and so rewarding in so many ways.

There is still work to be done before I go though, and we are looking forward to meeting our P7 pupils again at our 3 Induction Days on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June. I am finalising the whole school calendar for next session and making sure our Improvement Plan and summary of our self-evaluation tasks are ready to hand over to Mr Sherrington.

This week we had the pleasure of our annual Sports Awards and the outcome on the Ellon Community Council logo competition – all will be revealed next week! We also look forward to our Dance and Drama Showcase evenings before the end of term, and it was a pleasure to attend our Sports Awards on Thursday afternoon and to chat with parents and carers of our successful pupils too!

**Relaxed Uniform during warmer weather:**

SLT have agreed that pupils will be permitted to wear shorts during the expected spell of warmer weather. Pupils are asked to continue to wear usual shirts and ties and are reminded that this relaxation is not a reason to come to school in beachwear, it means shorts that are appropriate for school wear. Therefore, to clarify, no football strips, very short Lycra shorts (these are inappropriate and can be a flame risk), strappy tops or cropped bra style tops. Thank you, SLT.

**Book Sale:**

Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff who have so kindly donated to our Book Drive this week. These books will be added to our pre-loved Book Sale on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July to raise funds for Ellon Academy library. Pupils will get a Merit for bringing their books! We hope everyone can support us!



### Weekly Merits:

At respective House Meetings, we are really pleased to report home, that your child is in the top group of learners who earned merits from their teachers this week. Well done, and we are sure parents/carers will pass on the good news and our appreciation of those learners achieving Excellence at Ellon!

Here are the pupils who have accrued the most merits this week.

Well done, and they can collect their Fast Passes from Mrs Buchan after registration in the sunken social area on Mon 24.6.24.

### Well done all!

Joshua	Q	1C1
Ethan	M	1F1
Alfie	B	1S1
Alix	J	1S1
Georgie	Q	1S1
Emma	B	2C2
James	M	2F1
Varvara	L	2K2
Fraser	M	2M1
Mathew	M	3F2
Ruby	Q	3S1
Ava	B	4C1
Callie	C	4F1
Liam	B	4K2
Mollie	C	4K2
Scarlett	G	4K2
Neo	S	4S2
Sienna	G	5C1
Esther	A	5F2

### Share your Success:

As ever, our learners continue to impress us every week with all of their various achievements in and out of school and we hope you enjoy our updates and reading about our pupil successes in this week's newsletter.

If your child/children have successes you'd like to share with us, please send us an email via the school email address marked FAO Mrs P Buchan, Rector. Any photos you can share with us are always welcome too.

[ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:ellon.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### Assemblies:

Due to our P7 Induction days and the Drama Showcase on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jule, there won't be assemblies until after the summer break.

There will be P7 Assemblies during registration next week as follows:

P7 Assembly – Tues 25.6.24

P7 Assembly – Wed 26.6.24

### Parent Council Up-date:

The next Parent Council met on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June and the minutes will be published on the school website in due course.

The Parent Council also want to welcome P7 parents and remind them to answer the security questions if they would like to access the Ellon Academy Parent Council Facebook page. Thank you.

### Quote of the Week beginning Mon 24.6.24:

"Cherish your children... for they are the footprints you will leave behind."  
– Taylor Evan Fulks

## S5/6 Blazers:

Thanks to parents/carers and pupils who expressed an interest in purchasing a school blazer for next session. We confirm Stevensons will be in school on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, Period 6 to carry out sizing exercises and give details of how to purchase.

From the initial survey, a number of people expressed an interest in recycled blazers that had been donated. We only have a small number as it would appear many have been passed on to family friends already.

[Aberdeen - Stevensons](#)

Thank you, Mr Cowie, DHT.

## Here is our Canteen Menu for Week beginning 24.6.24:

Week beginning 24.6.24	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup	Lentil	Broth	Chicken Noodle	Lentil	Potato
Main 1	Chicken Tikka, Rice and Naan	Chicken Enchiladas with Savoury Rice	Macaroni Cheese	<b>Beef Steak Pie (49g)</b>	<b>Breaded Haddock</b>
Main 2	Vegetable Curry, Rice and Naan	<b>Mince &amp; Mealie (48g)</b>	Sweet & Sour Chicken	Cajun Chicken Pasta with Garlic Bread	Sausage Roll and Chips
Vegetarian	Vegetable Curry	Quorn Mince	Macaroni Cheese	Cajun Vegetable Pasta	
Snack	Southern Fried Chicken Goujon Wrap Pizzini	Hot Dog Pizzini	Pizzini <b>Breaded chicken Burger</b>	Pizzini Rollover Hot Dog	<b>Sausage Roll (35g) Pizzini</b>
Panini	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese	Cheese
	Cheese and Ham	Tuna Melt	Cajun Chicken	Chicken Tikka	
Vegetable 1	Peas	Broccoli	Peas	Broccoli	Peas
Vegetable 2	Sweetcorn	Carrots	Sweetcorn	Carrots	Baked Beans
Pot / Carb	Rice	Mash/Rice	Garlic Bread/Rice	Mash	<b>Chips</b>

## Pupil Achievement – Sports Awards 2024:

What a special afternoon we had on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, celebrating all of the many and varied sporting achievements of our Ellon Academy pupils. Amongst other aspects of our school, Health and Wellbeing are also leading lights and the very heart of what we do. We were delighted to share in all the successes of our young folks yet again. Many thanks to Mr M Lawson, PT Health and Wellbeing and all his staff and the other school staff who run sports clubs and activities in our school. Well done to everyone!

Click on the link to view 'A year in sport at [Ellon Academy Community Campus](#)





**Ellon Academy Book Drive:**

What a great response to our very first book drive organised by the new Exec Team.


Thanks to pupils, parents and staff who have donated books and jigsaws.

Here's a wee taster of what we will be selling at our Community Book Sale on Monday 1st July in Community Room 1. Thank you again for all your support.




MONDAY  
1st July 2024  
10am to 3.30pm

COMMUNITY ROOM 1  
ELLON ACADEMY  
COMMUNITY CAMPUS



**COMMUNITY BOOK SALE**

New and pre-loved books and jigsaws  
Cash sales only...  
Prices starting at 20p



We are a **Reading School** Gold



## Aberdeenshire Libraries - Summer Reading 2024

Summer Reading Fantasy Fiction Starts on Thursday 13th June and will run until Saturday 24th August 2024.

Participants of all ages can take part (0 to 100+ years) - children, young adults, families, adults, friends, and groups. This year's summer reading theme is Fantasy Fiction to coincide with the bicentenary celebration of George MacDonald in 2024. He is often referred to as the founding father of fantasy fiction. George was born and lived in Huntly, Aberdeenshire and influenced well known authors such as CS Lewis and Tolkien.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clkm0ejnzedo>

How do I take part?

- Participant(s) can pick up a collector's card from their local library, and download from the Live Life Aberdeenshire website - <https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>
- You can register to take part by filling in our online form, ask library staff for details or go online.
- The collector's card has 8 circles to keep track of the books you have read and events you have taken part in within Libraries.
- For each collector's card completed a certificate will be awarded by staff at your local library or you can download online.
- Your completed card can be dropped off at your local library, or an eCopy sent to - [summerreading@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:summerreading@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)
- It will then be entered into a draw to win one of many prizes which includes signed books, book bundles, gift cards and much more... We also have a creative competition that everyone can take part in and prizes to be won.
- The creative competition for 2024 is for all ages to take part in.
- The competition this year will be to create a short fantasy fiction story and illustrate one of the characters in the created story - 500 to 750 words.
- Or you can write a story only or illustrate a fantasy creature only. There are different options for different abilities and ages.
- Creative Competition entry forms will be available to pick up from your library or download online.
- Creative competition will have 4 age group - Pre-School, 5-11 years, 12+ and Adults.
- Winners will be chosen from each Aberdeenshire area and will be published as an eBook on our Digital Library platform - Libby.

Find out more information on our website when summer reading launches on the 13th June - <https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/>

Further information is also available from Libraries HQ, Oldmeldrum - [librarieshq@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:librarieshq@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)





## **Important Information for Parents/Carers from National Crime Agency Alert - Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion**

The following information has been provided to schools by the National Crime Agency in order to raise your awareness of this issue and outline how to address it should you become aware of situation involving a child in your care. In school we will be reminding the children of how to use the internet safely and about the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they find themselves in a situation where they feel uncomfortable or that worries them.

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image.

Find out more about online blackmail on [CEOP Education's parents and carers website](#).

### **Talking to your child/young person:**

It's important to have frequent, open, and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support them if something goes wrong. Financially motivated sexual extortion should be included in those conversations. Here are some tips about how to approach this:

- Chat regularly about their life online: have ongoing conversations with them about their life and time online. Continue to take an interest as they grow, explore new apps and sites together and talk in a balanced way, considering the benefits and the potential harms.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex: organisations like [CEOP Education](#), [Childline](#) and [Brook](#) have age-appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics.
- Review privacy settings: talk to your child about the importance of using privacy settings on their accounts to restrict who can contact them. Read CEOP Education's advice on [how to talk your child about their privacy settings](#).
- Make sure they know where to go for support: let them know that they can come to you with any concerns and won't be judged. It's also important to make them aware of other trusted adults or sources of support, if they feel they can't talk to you, such as Childline.
- Make sure they know where to report and remind your child how you can help them to report an incident to the police or using the CEOP Safety Centre. Let them know that if a nude or semi-nude of them has been shared without their consent, they can take these 3 steps to try and get them removed:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).

To learn more about what resources are available to help you support your child, visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

## What can I do if this has happened to my child?

If your child tells you that someone is trying to trick, threaten or blackmail them online:

- Don't pay, do stop contact and block: you may be tempted to pay, but there is no guarantee that this will stop the threats. As the offender's motive is to get money, once you have shown you can pay, they will likely ask for more and blackmail may continue. If you have paid, don't panic but don't pay anything more. Help your child to stop all communication with the offender and block them on any accounts that they have been contacted on.
- Avoid deleting anything: try not to delete anything that could be used as evidence such as messages, images, and bank account details.
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report any online blackmail attempts.

If it has already happened and your child has shared an image and sent money to someone exploiting them:

- Reassure them that they've done the right thing by telling you: make sure they know they are not to blame for what has happened and they have done the right thing to ask for your help.
- Children and young people's mental health may be negatively impacted by experiences of exploitation; you can [find advice on looking after your child's mental health from the NHS](#).
- Report to the police or CEOP: call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child. Or you can use the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report an incident. If your child is 18 and over, call 101 or 999 if they are at risk of immediate harm.
- Report any images or videos that have been shared: help your child to remove images that are online or prevent images being shared online by following these three steps:
  1. Use [Report Remove](#), a tool from Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation. Your child can use this to remove images that have been shared or might be shared.
  2. Use [Take It Down](#), a tool from the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. Your child can use this to remove or stop the online sharing of images or videos.
  3. Report directly to the platform or app that the incident has occurred on. For advice on how to report to major social media platforms, visit [Internet Matters](#).



### Extra-Curricular Activities:

We are always encouraging our learners to take part in clubs and activities in and out of school to support skills development, so thanks to Mrs Warne for pulling together all the Ellon Academy extra-curricular activities into one booklet for pupils and parents/carers. The booklet can be viewed by following the link to our website below:

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/extra-curricular-activities/>



### Pupil information:

#### ALL PUPILS – BREAKTIMES IN THE LIBRARY

Reminders for all pupils:

- The library is open at breaktimes for borrowing, returning and renewing library items, reading and printing.
- The library is a RED ZONE at break time – no phones.
- Pupils should have their snack before coming to the library at breaktime.

#### ALL PUPILS – PAIRED READING

Can those of you interested in Paired Reading with the new S1s or in Primary Schools, please attend at short meeting in S10 at lunchtime on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. We will use the meeting to form a committee and plan for the year ahead. Bring your lunch and your pals! The more the merrier! Mrs Warne.

#### ALL PUPILS – ART CLUB

The Art Club returns! We provide a creative place where pupils can create their own work, work on mini projects, and meet new people! Bring your lunch and your imagination. This is open for all skills levels. Come along to G62 at lunchtime every Wednesday!

#### ALL PUPILS – DIVERSITY CLUB

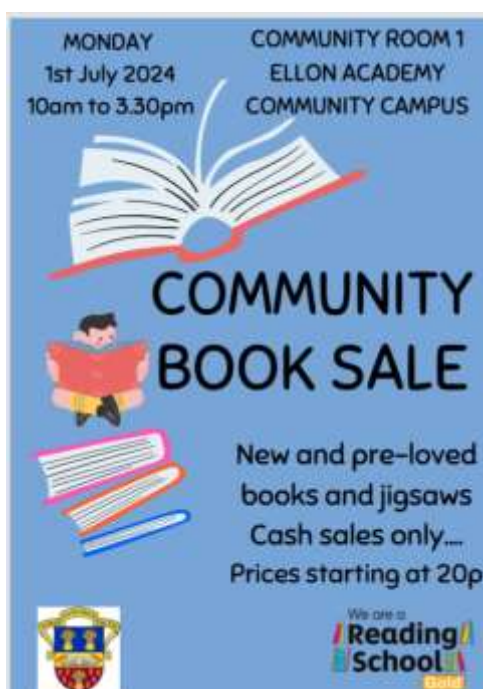
The Diversity Club will relaunch on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July! All pupils are welcome to join us in the Library at lunchtime.

#### ALL PUPILS – SUMMER READING QUIZ

Summer Reading 2024 launches on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please come along to the library at lunchtime on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June to find out more and sign up to take part. We will also be holding a Summer Reading Fantasy Kahoot Quiz – enter as a team or individually! Mrs Murdoch, School Librarian.

#### ALL PUPILS

The Garden Club will resume on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – all welcome. Miss Swallow.



### **ALL PUPILS - Fund Raising for Maggie's**

Good luck to Rachael C 5K1, her mum and her brother who have signed up to participate in Maggie's Culture Crawl this year, taking place today!

They will be walking 6 miles around different areas of Aberdeen, which will be awesome! These different areas will include food/ drink/ entertainment etc, so it adds to the experience!

Maggie's provides support for those affected with Cancer, whether it be emotional, practical, physical, financial support, or for those with younger children, and other family members. As part of this exciting opportunity, they have to do a wee spot of fundraising!

They have a Mint Aero Chocolate Hamper for £2.00 per square.

A Galaxy Chocolate Hamper to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.

3 different Sweetie Bouquets to be raffled off, £2.00 per square.

Two x 1000-piece jigsaw + a 2025 Calendar to be raffled off- £ 2.00 per square.

Payment can be made through our Just Giving page @

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_fundraiser\\_page\\_launched&utm\\_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=postoffice&utm\\_term=1708890116649](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/SusanClark2024?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_launched&utm_content=678913f2-e675-4adf-93b4-368064d44e4d&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1708890116649)

Or PayPal / Bank Transfer/ cash.

Thank you.





**\*\*EASA RAFFLE\*\***

This year's EASA Raffle will take place at the Dance Showcase on Thursday the 27th of June. Tickets for the raffle will be available to buy on the night at the showcase. Last year we raised an amazing £1347 for EASA and this money has gone towards equipment, uniforms, and subsidising bus costs.

**SAAS information for Parents/Carers:**

Do you know a young person heading to college or university?  
 We recommend applying early for 2024-25 courses to ensure funding is in place prior to their course starting. For information on types of funding, eligibility and how to apply, visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk).  
[#StartWithSAAS](https://twitter.com/StartWithSAAS)

SAAS - The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) is Scotland's student funding agency. We provide government money to colleges and universities to pay for your course tuition fees, as well as giving money directly to you to help with your living costs while you study.

Our Path to Possibilities campaign is now fully underway and I'm getting in touch to let you know that we now have six new videos on our YouTube channel to help students, parents and carers familiarise themselves with the funding available and the steps they need to take to submit an application.

Our Guarantee Date is the 30th of June and we are encouraging all students to submit their application by this date to ensure their funding is in place for their course starting.  
 To note: this is not a deadline, we just encourage early applications to avoid any delays in receiving their funding. To register with SAAS please copy and paste the link below into your browser:

<https://myportal.saas.gov.uk/saas/register?execution=e1s1>  
 You will also find videos on YouTube to support too:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L89U2BwmYbY>

## Dates for Your Diary:

### Term 4:

25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> June P7 Induction Days  
Tues 25.6.24 P7 Parents Evening  
Wed 26.6.24 Period 6 S5/6 Blazer try on with Stevensons.

Wed 26.6.24 U15 GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE DECIDER. ELLON V INVERURIE.  
Game will take place on Wednesday 26th at Ellon Meadows with a 3.45-4.00pm  
Same squad as mentioned in previous posts.

Thurs 27.6.24 Dance Showcase – 7pm Theatre  
Tues 2.7.24 Drama Showcase – 7.30pm Theatre  
Fri 5.7.24 Dress Down Day/End of Term

The Ellon Academy School Calendar for session 23/24 is available to view on our school website by following the link below.

<https://ellonacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/calendar/>

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have a lovely weekend.

*P Buchan*

Rector 21.6.24