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Dear Parent or Guardian

## **Introducing the 'Big Conversation'**

As we approach the summer, many parents and children are thinking about the changes ahead – perhaps a new class or even a new school. This is also the time when we reflect over the past year and celebrate together the achievements of our children and young people.

It is a privilege to work in schools and in the wider Education and Children's Services and we want to develop the relationship we have with you, both as individuals and through organisations and groups, such as Parent Councils. We view our relationship with you as an important partnership. However as with any partnership, we can make it better and help the understanding in the roles we all play in giving children and young people the best possible education.

To do this, over the next few weeks and into next term, I have asked your head teacher to discuss with you what you feel makes a good partnership. We would hope that the output from these conversations would be the development of a document which would illustrate how we work together for our children, schools and communities.

Your head teacher will arrange a series of meetings which fit into your school's normal arrangements and we want to have this "Big Conversation" to continue until late September. In addition to schools' conversations, we will organise some family days at different venues over the summer to talk to you more about this topic.

Giving our Aberdeenshire children the very best start in life is our mutual aim. Meantime, I wish you and your family a very happy summer.

Yours sincerely

**Maria Walker**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**