



Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter-31st March 2017

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

Daffodils and crocuses in full bloom in our school grounds are a real sign of Spring! This Spring sadly sees us bid farewell to our Hillside School Primary 1 classes, Mrs Morbey, Mrs Marley, Mr MacGregor and Mr Armstrong. We also bid farewell to 14 Fishermoss Primary pupils and 10 Fishermoss Nursery pupils who live up at Hillside and are making the move to their new local school. We will miss you all! Hillside pupils and staff have very much felt at home at Fishermoss and that was always our goal! Our Primary 7 buddies are to be commended for their kindness shown to the Hillside pupils and it's been hugs all round this week with farewells! We look forward to working in close partnership with Hillside School in the near future and wish them all many happy days in their new school.



You'll recall that during Term 2 all pupils from **Nursery to Primary 7** were involved in planting crocus bulbs which were provided by the local Rotary Club. These were planted at School to raise awareness of their campaign to eradicate polio. It has been beautiful to see them bloom this term and they have been a visual reminder of the importance of the Rotary's campaign and Fishermoss School's involvement in it.

Speaking of Spring, before you read on, plans for our annual Spring Fayre are well under way! The date is set for **Saturday 20th May 10am-12 noon**. The 'society event of the year' at Fishermoss! This is a significant date in our fundraising calendar so we do hope you can make it! We are of course looking for volunteers to help out on our Spring Fayre stalls so if you can spare an hour or two we would be most grateful, either on the day or with setting up the afternoon before. No previous experience required, just fill in the slip at the very end of the newsletter and return it to the school office or just call the office and leave your details. A member of the Parent Staff Association (PSA) will get back in touch with you. If we all take a wee turn then we can spread the load! You do not need to be a member of our PSA to help out and no PVG is required as you will not be supervising children. To support our Spring Fayre, the PSA have requested a Dress as you please day on Friday 19th May where pupils are asked to bring an item of chocolate for the privilege to support the chocolate tombola.

Our **PSA** held another '**Fishermoss has Talent**' evening at school which was once again a huge success. Over 40 pupils volunteered to take part and are to be commended for their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment in preparing for this event. There was a wonderful atmosphere at school as pupils shared their talents. They were all magnificent and should be proud of their achievement. A special thank you to our PSA parents who, for a number of weeks now, have supported our pupils after school with rehearsals in preparation. Thank you also to the fantastic audience who were hugely supportive of our pupils on stage with big cheers for them all!



Red Nose Day

As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Red Nose Day brings the entire nation together to raise cash and change lives. Fishermoss School as always played its part. The school held a 'Dress as you please Day' and charged for the privilege, raising **£385**. Fishermoss families also supported the South Aberdeenshire Food Bank by taking in items of food. Your **kindness** was much appreciated and your support of others less fortunate is always humbling. Red Nose Day is about donating and transforming lives and Fishermoss School can be proud of the part it played to support this event.



Pupil Profile folders sent home this month will have given you a snap shot of your child's/children's best achievements at school. Do read on to hear of many more achievements that have made it a successful Spring term for us all and find out why **Maria Walker**, our **Director of Education and Children's Services**, came to visit a class at Fishermoss!

Curriculum News this Term!

All our Primary 7 pupils welcomed senior citizens and other dignitaries to school for our annual **Fishermoss Burns Event**. This year, due to the high number of people wishing to attend, we held two events in the form of coffee mornings. Our guests enjoyed entertainment which included toasts to the lassies and laddies, singing, dancing, instrumental musical pieces and poetry recitations as well as polite conversation with our pupils. A great time was had by all and our senior pupils should be very proud of their achievement as they showcased their skills and talents by hosting and organising this memorable event. The pupils were responsible for everything from the initial invitation letters right through to meeting and greeting guests and keeping them entertained. Our kitchen staff supported the pupils by preparing the scones and shortbread. Some former pupils also attended and performed and there was a wonderful atmosphere at school as pupils shared some quality time with more 'worldly wise' members of our community. The 'best Burns Supper yet' is once again the word on the street! It just keeps getting better and better! Our senior pupils demonstrated the values of our school throughout the event and were an excellent example to all of what is important at Fishermoss.

Our Nursery children invited their parents and carers to '**stay and play**' with them during a Nursery session. This was a great opportunity for the children to showcase their learning experiences and the great progress they have made.

With a focus on our **natural environment**, **Primary 1 classes** had a visit from the **RSPB** to support their **Bird Watch** and **Primary 4** took a trip to **Montrose Basin** as part of their **Scotland** topic.

All pupils received a £1 **World Book Day** token this term which entitled them to a free £1 World Book Day book from participating stores such as ASDA and various bookshops.

Classes shared their love of books and further developed their literacy skills in various ways including pupils sharing their favourite books, writing about their favourite book character and buddy classes involved in paired reading sessions with younger pupils.



Primary 6 went 'Global' this term and were Ambassadors for not only Fishermoss School but Aberdeenshire Primary Schools as they attended a **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Conference** at Robert Gordon's School. They focused on *Goal 14, Life below Water* and *Goal 15, Life on Land*. We, as a school, have begun work on giving consideration to these

Global Goals as part of our role as *Global Warriors*. The class chose *Goal 14* because of their awareness of dying sea life due to pollution and their awareness of the importance of these animals in our food chain. The class composed a song where they wrote the words and the music. They also created an amazing backdrop for their performance out of recycled materials. **Maria Walker**, our **Director of Education and Children's Services** came to visit us at Fishermoss specifically to hear the class perform. Our Acting Quality Improvement Officer, Alison Reid, attended the event at Robert Gordon's and said, 'I enjoyed the whole event and definitely learned a lot from the young people involved, but I was particularly proud of the Fishermoss pupils, who behaved impeccably, and delivered their presentation with conviction and confidence'. Primary 6 will be sharing their presentation with the rest of the school in April to support us in making pupils more aware of the *Global Goals*.

Primary 7 pupils have had a focus on **Health and Wellbeing with** a recent session at school led by our Police Liaison Officer on the use of social media and the law. They have also experienced the play **'The Journey'** presented at school by **Baldy Bane Theatre Company**. The aim of the production was to make our Primary 7 pupils aware of the possible dangers to which they will be exposed during the early years of secondary. They explored the issues around different people they will meet, places they will go and associated influences on their behaviour. Despite restrictions from parents and teachers, peer pressure can encourage a sense of rebellion. The production was about helping them realise those dangers and to consider safe and correct options available to them.

All pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 have now experienced a term of **Kodaly** with instructor Mrs Janet Okumu this session. Kodaly singing is a **Youth Music Initiative Project** funded by the Scottish Government via Creative Scotland.

We are also grateful to Miss Brown, Additional Support for Learning Teacher, and Mrs Young, class teacher, for running our **Fishermoss School band**. This has included pupils from **Primaries 5 to 7** during Thursday lunchtimes. Band members are to be commended for their effort and enthusiasm in coming together to share their love of **music**. Next term, at the request of a significant number of pupils, the music focus will shift from instruments to voice with our **School Choir** being resurrected. This will be open to boys and girls in Primary 5 to Primary 7 during Thursday lunchtimes.



Active Schools



Some of our **Primary 3 & 4** pupils were selected to take part in a cluster **Badminton Festival** held at Portlethen Academy. Well done to Amy Milne, Cara McDonald, Anna Davidson, Tobe Ikenwilo and Oscar Tadjiev in Primary 3 and Eden Evans, Arran Cameron, Liam Law, Corey Stephen and Lewis Burnett in Primary 4.

All Primary 4 to 7 pupils have experienced some **Basketball** taster sessions and all our **Primary 4 & Primary 5 pupils** experienced a block of **Swimming** lessons earlier this term. **Primary 6 and Primary 7** got Active with a **Hip Hop Dance** session. All pupils in **Primary 2 to Primary 7** enjoyed a number of weekly **football** training sessions with a coach from Aberdeen Football Club and a group of pupils were selected to represent our school and experience a tour of Pittodrie. All these events have been arranged by our Active Schools Coordinator, Graeme McCall.



Achievements



Fishermoss School has achieved a **Bronze sportscotland School Sport award!** The Bronze award is recognition of our school's ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and continuous improvement and for putting young people at the forefront of the decision making, planning and implementation processes around sport and physical activity in our school. The award is also recognition of our ongoing effort to increase the opportunities and engagement in physical education, school sport and leadership. Our Pupil Council, from last session, played a part in the self-evaluation process and the application for the award along with Mr Barrow who has a significant role in taking forward bikeability in our school.

Rotary Quiz- Two **Primary 7** teams were put forward to the Portlethen District Primary Schools Rotary Quiz. Both teams did well competing against Newtonhill, Banchory Devenick and Portlethen. Well done to Alanna Towler, Leah Crawford, Jack Keir, Kosi Adibe and reserve Sean McNally in **Fishermoss A** and Becky McKechnie, Jack Laundon, Kyle Buchan, Craig Jamieson and reserve Adam Heddle in **Fishermoss B**. All are to be commended for their **hard work** and effort put into preparing for the quiz in their own time

Euro Quiz 2017

Congratulations to **Primary 6** pupils Dan Brocklehurst, Owen Watson, Jessica Cutler Howie, Layla King and reserve Louis Grochla in **Fishermoss A** and Claire Conniff, Megan Conniff, Robyn Sweeney, Blair Thompson, R and reserve Maria Duffy in **Fishermoss B**, who were all selected to represent school in the Aberdeenshire South Euro Quiz heats held at Fishermoss. Both our teams are to be commended for their enthusiasm and efforts to prepare. A thank you to our senior pupils Hana Reid, Carla Baxter, Leah Hay, Sean McNally and Jack Keir who gave up their break times to coach our Euro Quiz teams. An act of **kindness!**



Assemblies

We have really enjoyed seeing our pupils take the lead in class assemblies over the past few weeks and have been delighted to see so many parents and family members attend. Our pupils have done us proud as they confidently showcased some of their **hard work** and learning from this term.



All classes from Nursery to Primary 7 took part in **Fairtrade Fortnight**. **Primary 1 to 7 classes** were involved in a school assembly where representatives from each class shared what they had learned about Fairtrade and what it means to the global community.

Primary 2 shared lots of scientific facts in relation to their project on **Day and Night** and we even witnessed an experiment. They managed to incorporate our school motto and values as they linked scientific change to changes in our lives as we grow up. They did so well to remember the words they spoke as well as those they sang with this being their first class assembly since their Nativity in Primary 1.



Primary 4 brought the **Vikings** to life for us and showed us they were quite a scary bunch with great expression and acting skills! They confidently shared, and remembered, their facts about the Vikings without relying on any notes. They also shared super art work, great singing and showcased their learning with lots of evidence of cooperative work.

Primary 5 gave a very confident performance in relation to **Pollution and Conservation**. They presented a range of learning experiences including songs they had written, litter surveys they'd undertaken in the playground and even recycled pencil pots they had made including the design process they went through. Brilliant team work!

Primary 5/6 shared with us some amazing facts they had been learning in their **Titanic** project. We were impressed with the way in which they shared the stories of the passengers on board with such confidence, their amazing singing and with the writing they undertook in class as part of their project. A very thought provoking performance.

Primary 7 shared what happens at a Burns Supper and impressed us with their talent. They gave us a flavour of what our Senior citizens were going to experience. With this being their last class assembly at Primary school they certainly demonstrated their broad skills set and showed what a long way they had come since their Primary 1 Nativity performance!

We also held our **Golden Assembly** and had new faces, and many faces remaining, on our Fishermoss Tree of Honour which recognises pupils who have not lost Golden Time. We have also enjoyed **Good Work Assemblies**, a hymn practice and an assembly focusing on the **Global Goals** in relation to New Year resolutions and setting targets for ourselves. We are grateful to **Rev Dr John Watson** who led our Easter Assembly.



Staffing

This term saw us say farewell to Mrs Duffy who supported us in our school office. She has been appointed to a new post at Hillside School and we wish her every success in this exciting opportunity. We are delighted to say that we have appointed Mrs Angela Leiper as Mrs Duffy's replacement to support Mrs Gill in the school office. She joined our staff team this week and we wish her many happy days at Fishermoss. Mrs Leiper has significant school experience having previously worked in a school office in Aberdeen City. We have assured her that pupils, parents and staff will quickly make her feel at home at Fishermoss School.

February In-Service days-Improvement Planning

Staff were involved in French training, numeracy moderation, and looking at improving approaches in reporting learner's progress. Information regarding modern languages in Primary Schools and a consultation on our reporting procedures will be shared next term.



Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council have been focusing this term on all things ECO to create minimum expectations for all classes at Fishermoss in order to ensure all pupils see themselves as Global Warriors and play their part in sustaining our **ECO Schools Award**.

Our Pupil Questionnaire from last session indicated that 23% of pupils did not feel we encouraged them to make healthy food choices. We put this back to pupils to suggest what we could do as a school to make sure everyone felt encouraged to make **healthy food choices**. A decision was taken at Pupil Council for a '**Wellbeing Wednesday**' where pupils will be 'encouraged' to bring a healthy snack for playtime every Wednesday. This decision was shared with our Parent Council who were in support of the Pupils' suggestion. The Pupil Council were at pains to say that this is only about 'encouraging' pupils and not forcing anything on anyone. They have come up with various ideas about points systems to award classes and to make it a bit more competitive and fun in the hope that this will encourage more pupils to participate. Our Pupil Council will have further discussion next term to progress this.



Parent Council

We are very grateful to the Parents who came forward to join our Parent Council at its AGM at the start of this term. At a recent meeting the ongoing concerns in relation to parking and the dangers to our pupils, were once again discussed. As many will be aware, safety of pupils in relation to inconsiderate parking has been on the agenda for a significant number of years with the involvement of Aberdeenshire Council and the Police. A parking survey undertaken by the Parent Council last session indicated ongoing concerns from parents. A decision was taken at a recent Parent Council meeting to pilot from May next term shutting off the entrance to the south side of the school. This is the entrance opposite Ash Grove. This leaves three alternative entrances to the school, two of which are along the public footpath by Bourtree Park and one at the front of the school by the bicycle shelter. The entrance at the front of the school has zig-zag lines which means there are no parked cars there. We have more entrances than most primary schools to their playground so hope that once we all get used to using one of the other three entrances this will not cause an inconvenience but rather we will see this reducing the risks to our pupils. Could we ask parents to please also consider if taking their car is necessary? Many families stay nearby and there are many benefits in a good brisk walk to and from school, talking to your child about what they learned and sharing your day with them. This is time well spent and nice weather next term will hopefully make the extra walk more enjoyable. This will help us ensure that Fishermoss is a happy, healthy and safe place to learn where we all demonstrate **Respect, Responsibility and Kindness**.

Finally, some Fishermoss Family Holiday Homework to tie in with Spring Cleans! It would be really helpful if parents could please check, over the holiday period, that their children have gym shoes that fit as there are a number of pupils with ill-fitting gym shoes for PE lessons. Also, if parents could possibly check in cupboards, toy boxes and under beds to see if any Fishermoss reading books are hiding somewhere. Our book stocks are diminishing as a result of a significant number of library and reading books not being returned. We would be delighted to have these brought back please. We will only have smiles, no frowns, if we see books being brought back! Thank you for your support with this. Also, with it being 'Spring Clean' time do remember our ECO Rag Bag Bin at school! Your donations are a great help for raising additional funds!

Wishing you all a lovely Spring Holiday!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson

Head Teacher



Dates for your diary-Term 4 2017

April

Mon 3rd - Mon 17th- Easter Holidays. **New Term begins Tue 18th.**

Sat 22nd - PSA Fun Box Highland Fling-tickets available at www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

Thu 27th-PSA Meeting 7pm

Fri 28th - PSA Movie Night

May

Mon 1st-Bank Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Fri 5th- Pupil Reports issued to parents

Wed 17th- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 6-8:30pm-details to follow

Thu 18th- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 3:45-6:15pm-details to follow

Fri 19th - Dress as you please day-bring chocolate for the privilege

Sat 20th- Spring Fayre 10-12noon

Mon 22nd- 26th Primary 7 pupils' residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre

Tue 23rd-7pm Nursery Induction for parents (Session 2017/18 Nursery intake)

Tue 30th-7pm Primary 1 Induction for Parents (August 2017 Primary 1 intake) -Details to follow

June

Fri 2nd-10:30am Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds-weather permitting

Tue 6th- Parent Council 7pm

Fri 9th- Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event 10:30am Bourtree Park-if wet on 2nd-no picnic!

Wed 14th-Fri 16th P7 pupils' induction days at Portlethen Academy

Wed 14th- Pupils meet their teacher for session 2017/18

Wed 14th- 2:30pm New Fishermoss Primary 1 entrants meet their teacher for session 2017/18

Thu 15th -End of Term School Discos-details to follow.

Thu 15th & Fri 16th - New P1 Pupils & Parents school lunch invitation-details to follow

Wed 21st - Family Walk-7pm start at school

Thu 22nd - Primary 7 Leavers Ceilidh 7-9:30pm

Thu 29th -End of School Year Church Service 9:30am Portlethen Parish Church

Fri 30th -Last day of term

Pupils return Tuesday 22nd August- please note 7 weeks holiday this summer!

Fishermoss School-Spring Fayre-Sat 20th May 2017-Helper Slip!



Please return this slip to the school office

Your Name(s):

Child's class:

Contact telephone number:

E-Mail address: