



Fishermoss School-Newsletter 21st December 2016

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

We are genuinely touched by parents' and pupils' generosity at fundraising and charity events this term. Your **kindness** and **hard work** put in to support our school, and others, is second to none. It's been 'all go' over the past two months! Lots of interesting and active learning experiences. That's what life at Fishermoss is all about! It seems such a long time ago since the October break and our Halloween Discos! This time of year especially brings with it an exciting buzz in our school.



It was good to see so many of you at our **Parent/Teacher Consultations** last month. The **Book Fayre** held resulted in **£255.60** commission for the school to spend on books. Thanks also to Primary 7 Pupils and Parents for attending the **Abernethy Meeting** regarding our annual residential trip. A great turnout to the meeting and nearly every Primary 7 pupil has signed up to go!



Thanks to everyone who supported our **Christmas Fayre** at the end of November. Your donations, support and attendance were greatly appreciated. It was a hugely successful evening, where together we raised **£2960!** This is an incredible amount given the current work climate in the North East. Well done to all involved, pupils, parents, school staff and extended family members. Great team work and a super night with a Santa's Grotto to rival anything any big department store may have!



Santa made another appearance with a merry bunch of elves from Hillside, Portlethen and Fishermoss School. The '**Santa Runs**' were a great success and such a special community event. A total of **£2100** was collected which will be shared between the three Primary schools and Foodbank. Thank you to all our parents involved in the organisation and implementation of this and for getting into the spirit of it all!

It was lovely to see so many of you come along and attend our **Nursery & Primary 1 Concerts**. The children shared the real meaning of Christmas in their **Nativity** 'Counting the Miles to Bethlehem'. **Santa** later rewarded them for their **hardwork** as he came to deliver gifts to them all and he also visited our Hillside Primary 1 classes. Thank you to our **PSA** for helping Santa with all his activities.

We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**Moana**' at the **Cinema**. A great time had by all! We always feel really special having the big screen all to ourselves and our pupils are to be commended for their exceptional behaviour. A huge thank you to the **PSA** for covering the costs of the buses. Our **School Christmas Lunch** was another special school occasion. Well done and thanks to our School Cook and all our kitchen staff. Thank you again to the **PSA** for supplying the crackers for Fishermoss School and Hillside School. Lots of hilarity in the dining hall sharing Christmas jokes!



Thank you for joining us at our **Christmas Church Service**. Our readers and musicians impressed us all. Our church collection will go to '**Friends of Anchor**' in support of Portlethen Church's chosen Charity for the Tree Festival. Thank you for your generosity. Once again, a Fishermoss tree was on display at the Festival, decorated by some of our Pupil Council members. Thank you to our Nursery pupils for making the lovely decorations. A number of classes have enjoyed a winter walk to visit the Tree Festival. Finally, to end our Christmas Festivities our **Violin Pupils** brought some festive cheer to the residents at **Lethen Park Nursing Home** as they entertained them with a medley of Christmas songs.



Poppy Appeal-Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £112.79 was collected at school in the collection cans and a minute silence was held as a mark of **respect**. Your **kindness** will make a difference.



Shoe Box Appeal

Each Christmas Rotary Shoe Boxes containing gifts are sent to children, teenagers and elderly persons in Eastern European countries. For many who receive a Rotary Shoe box this will be their only Christmas gift. As a school we supported our local Rotarians with this initiative by giving Fishermoss families the opportunity to participate. Thanks to everyone who donated items and for showing such **kindness**. Approximately 100 boxes were sent from Fishermoss School which is an amazing response. It was touching to hear from our pupils what they had included in their boxes. Our Senior Pupil young volunteers did a wonderful job helping with the organisation of these.

Achievements

Library Reading Challenge- Well done to Hayley Anderson Primary 2 with her prize for winning the picture competition in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Summer seems a lifetime ago but we only heard the exciting news in November when a member of staff from Portlethen library kindly attended school to present the prize.

In Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan

We had a packed programme at school with a focus for teaching staff on how our curriculum delivers Skills for Learning, Life & Work through cross cutting themes. Teaching staff also focused on Outdoor Learning and our Numeracy Progression Frameworks. Pupil Support Assistants had refresher First Aid training and also further training on supporting pupils with Diabetes and Epi Pens. Our Nursery Team were involved in workshops on Pedagogy and 'Talking and Thinking Floor Books'. Fishermoss School's Improvement Plans are available for viewing on our website. These outline areas we are developing as a school over the session. Our school Spelling Policy has been recently revised. A copy of this can be accessed on our website.



Staffing

Congratulations to our school cook who got married during the October break. She is now known as Mrs Thom.

Mrs Wyllie, who currently teaches Primary 5, will be retiring at the end of this term. We are grateful for all Mrs Wyllie has done for the pupils at Fishermoss School over the past 8 years and we wish her a very happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Jenny Storey, one of our class teachers, will be returning from maternity leave in January and she will take over Mrs Wyllie's teaching commitment. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Storey back to Fishermoss from her maternity leave



Adverse Weather Arrangements

A letter regarding adverse weather was issued to parents at the end of November via e mail. This information is also available on our website. Copies of 'Snow Edition' class newsletters are also available on our website. These contain suggested learning activities for pupils should we ever experience an adverse weather closure day.



Fishermoss Netball

We are delighted that three of our non-teaching staff have set up an afterschool Netball Club at Fishermoss. They meet on Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm and this is open to boys and girls in Primary 5 to 7. They would be thrilled to see some more Primary 5 pupils join them when they resume in the New Year on Tuesday 10th January 2017.



Parental Involvement

Our Parent Council will have their **Annual General Meeting** on **Wed 18th January at 7pm**. This meeting was postponed in September. We would be delighted to see as many as possible attend to find out more about what they do and how you can become involved. Our **Parent Council** welcomes parents who wish to further the aims of the school, represent the views of parents and carers and encourage links between the school, parents and carers, pupils and the wider community. The Parent Council works in parallel with our **Parent Staff Association (PSA)**. We hope to see new volunteers come forward.

Seasons for Growth

Community Learning & Development Staff will be back next term delivering the successful 'Seasons for Growth' programme to interested **Primary 6 pupils**. The project is beneficial in supporting young people who are experiencing, or have experienced, loss, change and grief in their lives such as separation, divorce, moving home and family bereavement. Seasons for Growth supports children/young people to understand and respond well to the issues they experience as a result of death, divorce, separation or other significant change in their lives. Staff deliver this initiative after school in the Porty Cabin, using a wide range of age appropriate activities, including arts and crafts, discussions, stories and music. Transport is provided from the school to the Porty Cabin and home again. The young people will be receiving more information about the Seasons for Growth programme in class next term. Parents/carers and P6 Pupils are invited to attend a **Seasons for Growth Information Evening** on **January 19th** in the Porty Cabin and you are invited to pop in anytime between **5-7pm** to meet the staff and find out more information.



Some Curriculum News from this Term!

In November pupils were given the opportunity to dress up for **Children in Need** and all pupils were involved in arranging different fund raising activities in classes. A fantastic **£1417.17** was raised. There was a wonderful atmosphere at school with over 300 pupils working together cooperatively to raise funds. Our pupils are to be commended for their creative, enterprising skills in organising these events, their **hardwork** and their generosity and **kindness** in supplying resources and prizes. Activities included face painting, baking, cake decorating, games, competitions, crafts, hair styling and lots more. This was a great opportunity to bring aspects of the curriculum alive! Fishermoss School community once again continues to support those less fortunate.

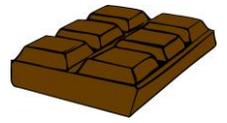
Our **Nursery** experienced a visit from **ZooLab** where the children had the option to handle, or just look, at a range of mini beasts and creatures. ZooLab workshops are all about working with animals to amaze, educate and inspire.



Miss Diez's **Primary 1** class have had a visit from the **Teddy Bear Hospital** to link in with their 'People who help us' topic. This is a charity affiliated with Aberdeen University Medical School, set up to reduce children's fear of going to the doctor and hospital. The children all brought their teddies along as patients and assisted in decisions about their treatment. While waiting their turn in the 'waiting room', the children were taught about x rays. We are pleased to report that all teddy bears are making a good recovery!

Our **Primary 1** classes have also been on a trip to the **Maritime Museum** where they were looking at toys through the ages and they have also experienced a K'nex workshop at school to support their Toys project. One of our Primary 1 Parents who works at the Aberdeen Science centre came to talk to Miss Sang's **Primary 1** class about parachutes. We are always grateful to parents who come and talk about their work and to share their expertise.

Primary 5 have been to **Cocoa Ooze** as part of their **Enterprise project**. The class have been looking at the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have designed their own chocolate creations and had the opportunity at Cocoa Ooze to create them. The class have also been considering advertising for their chocolate inventions. We think we may see some of our pupils on 'The Apprentice' one day trying to get a deal with Lord Sugar!



Primary 6 had a **Victorian Day** at Fishermoss where they experienced what a day at school in Victorian times would have been like. They made such an effort to dress appropriately for the occasion and all got into character.



Our **Primary 7** pupils have undertaken a **knitting project** to coincide with their study of the novel 'The Desperate Journey'. The classes were looking at the skills which were used in those times and are linking them to today. They enlisted the help of some ladies from **Portlethen Parish Church Prayer Shawl Ministry** to help with learning the technique and to support them with 'dropped stitches'. The pupils have enjoyed chatting with the ladies about times gone by. **Primary 7** pupils have also enjoyed a visit to the **Maritime Museum** this term as they looked at artefacts which would have been used during the time of the Highland Clearances.

Primary 7 had an invaluable Life Skills experience when they visited **ABSAFE**, paid for by our **PSA**. The 'SAFE' is a purpose built interactive village containing real life scenarios coupled with 21st century technology, with each zone specifically created to tackle a different safety issue such as **home safety, fire safety, road safety and water safety**. This was a fantastic active, engaging way to learn valuable safety lessons and leave them with the knowledge to make informed decisions that could save lives.



Primary 7 pupils attended the pantomime '**Aladdin**' at Portlethen Academy. This is one of their transition events and it gave them the opportunity to meet up with other **Primary 7** pupils in our school's network.

All pupils from **Primary 4 to Primary 7** are currently involved in the **Scottish Minister's Reading Challenge** and have special passports to record all the books they are reading. This term all **Primary 4 to Primary 7** classes visited Portlethen Library where they met with the librarian to discuss the Reading Challenge further. Each pupil, if they weren't already, was encouraged to become a library member. Our **Primary 7** classes have also established a 'Book Club' to share good reads.

All pupils from **Nursery to Primary 7** have been involved in Planting Bulbs which were provided by the local Rotary Club. Around 4000 purple crocus bulbs were planted at School to raise awareness of the campaign to eradicate polio. Hopefully when they flower in Spring they will be a visual reminder of the importance of beating this devastating disease. Our thanks to Mr Wilkins, our **PSA** chair, who supported us significantly with preparing the ground.



All pupils from **Primary 1 to Primary 7** have enjoyed a recent presentation delivered by The **Scottish SSPCA** on **Food and Farming** which is particularly relevant in this part of the country.



Assemblies

The term started with our **Golden Assembly**, where we acknowledged and congratulated pupils who had not lost any **Golden Time** in Term 1. Their names and faces are now on our Fishermoss 'Tree of Honour' at the front of the school. They should be very proud of this achievement and we look forward to other names being added in January at our next **Golden Assembly**.

We were delighted to have **Rev Dr John Watson** lead us at an assembly this term and we also appreciated a presentation in relation to **Children in Need** from one of our Parents who works for the **Bank of Scotland**. We had our usual **Good Work** assembly where we focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking** and have done particularly well. Certificates are presented to pupils in Good Work assemblies.

We have had the pleasure of a class assembly this term from **Primary 6** where pupils impressed us with their presentation skills. They brought alive their project on **The Victorians**. It was wonderful to have the pupils showcase their learning in such a confident and enthusiastic manner. **Nursery & Primary 1** pupils also left us suitably impressed and ready for Christmas as they shared their **Nativity** with all classes in their dress rehearsal and we enjoyed an extra Nativity performance this year from our Hillside Primary 1 pupils.

Registration for Primary 1 August 2017

Registration Week for Primary 1 is 9th January to 13th January 2017. All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2018 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admissions in August 2017. Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services has a common starting date for all its schools in the middle of August in any particular year. You will be informed of this year's starting date at the time of registration at school.

Parents are asked to visit the Primary school of their choice during Registration Week. If this is not possible, parents should try and visit the school by the end of February 2017. To register for Primary 1 the child's birth certificate is required as evidence of their date of birth.

Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services make no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

Applying for Early Learning and Childcare

Parents can apply if their child was born between 1st March 2013 and 28th February 2015. From Monday 23rd January 2017 parents can go to the school/setting of their choice to collect an application form. These can also be downloaded from:

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/information/early-learning-andchildcare-information/>

Parents are to complete only one application form per child stating three accessible choices. It is important that parents indicate three choices of settings as demand for places in some settings can sometimes exceed supply. Completed application forms are to be returned, to the first choice school/setting by 3rd February 2017, together with supporting documentation which should include your child's birth certificate and evidence of home address, e.g. a recent (last 3 months) utility bill or bank statement.

Any child returning to the same Early Learning and Childcare setting in August 2017 must now complete an application form. A place will be retained for them at their existing setting.

Finally, thank you for your acts of kindness and words of encouragement. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2017!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson

Head Teacher

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Luke 2:14



Dates for your diary!

January 2017

Thu 5th- Pupils and Staff return to school

Mon 9th to 13th - Registration Week for Primary 1 pupils starting in August 2017

Thu 12th- Parent Staff Association Meeting 7pm

Wed 18th - Parent Council AGM 7pm

Thu 19th - Seasons for Growth Information event Primary 6 Pupils & Parents Party Cabin 5-7pm

Mon 23rd- 3rd Feb - Early Learning and Childcare admissions

Wed 25th & Thu 26th- Senior Pupils' Burns Events for Senior Citizens-am-by invitation

February

Fri 3rd - PSA event 'Fishermoss has Talent' - details to follow

Thu 9th, Fri 10th & Mon 13th Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 14th & Wed 15th-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Mon 27th-12th March-Fair Trade Fortnight

Fri 24th - School Photographer- class photographs

March

Wk beginning 13th- Pupil Profile folders go home

Fri 24th - Red Nose Day 'Dress as you Please' & Foodbank Collection

Fri 31st- Last day of Term

April

Mon 3rd - Mon 17th April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tue 18th April - Pupils & staff return to school