



## Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2017

'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 since the October break, our 'Curriculum Show and Tell' event and our Halloween Discos! This time of year, especially, brings an exciting buzz to our school.



Thanks to everyone who supported our **Christmas Fayre** at the end of November. Your donations, support and attendance was greatly appreciated. It was a hugely successful evening, where together we raised **£2781.45!** This is an incredible amount given the current economic 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 certainly arrived in style!



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 **£2011** was collected, £1200 was shared between the 3 schools and £811 went to the foodbank organised by Community Food Initiatives North East. Thank you to our parents involved in the organisation, implementation 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 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'**. **Santa** later rewarded them for their **hardwork** as he came to deliver gifts to them all. Thank you to our **PSA** for helping Santa with pennies for all his activities.

We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**Ferdinand**' 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. Our **Nursery** children had a super time as they attended a performance of '**Flutter**' at **The Lemon Tree**. A huge thank you to the **PSA** for covering the costs of all 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. 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 '**Young People's Sensory Support Services**' 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. Thank you to our Primary 5 pupils for making the lovely decorations. Nearly all our classes enjoyed a winter walk to visit the Tree Festival, unfortunately the ice prevented Primary 6 from attending.

'Season's Greetings' and 'Festive Cheer' were brought to the residents of Lethan Park Nursing Home as our **Violin Pupils, Piano Pupils and School Choir** entertained them with a medley of Christmas songs. Our choir also took up residency outside a local coffee shop last Sunday and sang their hearts out to entertain customers and passers-by.



**Poppy Appeal**-Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £118.90 was collected at school in the collection cans. 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 annually support our local Rotarians with this initiative by giving Fishermoss families the opportunity to participate. This year Mrs Ferrero's Primary 4 class took full responsibility for organising and coordinating this event at school. They did an amazing job. Thanks to everyone who donated items and for showing such **kindness**. A record 134 boxes were sent from Fishermoss School which is a fantastic response. It was touching to hear from our pupils what they had included in their boxes and their thoughts about the recipients.

### **November In Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan**

We had a packed programme at school for teaching, support and early years' staff. We had a focus on Developing the Young Workforce and implementing planning formats for French lessons. We also joined with our Primary cluster colleagues and Secondary maths colleagues as we looked at the use of 'Numicon' to support Numeracy and Maths teaching. Pupil Support Assistants also attended a training day at the academy on supporting pupils with ADHD.

Fishermoss School's Improvement Plans are available for viewing on our website. These outline areas we are developing as a school over the session.



### **Staffing**

Congratulations to our Additional Support for Learning teacher, Miss Brown, who got married recently. She is now known as Mrs Sproul-Brown.

This term has seen us say farewell to Mr Thomson, our piano tutor. We wish him many happy days as he moves away with his family to begin a new adventure.



### **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.

### **Fishermoss Parent Groups**

We held our annual AGMs in September, for both our Parent Staff Association and Parent Council. Whilst the PSA AGM was once again well attended with a committee being elected, unfortunately, for the second year in a row our Parent Council AGM failed to meet the minimum number of parents to form a committee.

The PSA and Parent Council are therefore looking at combining the responsibilities of both bodies into one new body. This new body will cover the fund raising activities of the PSA and the roles previously undertaken by the Parent Council.

In order to do this we are required to hold an **Extra Ordinary General Meeting** of both the **PSA** and **Parent Council** which we intend to do at **7pm on Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018**. At this meeting we will vote to combine the two bodies. A committee for the new body will then be formed.

If you wish to attend this meeting to either express an opinion, or to see if the new group would be something you would be interested in joining, please come along. Alternatively, if you wish to express an opinion or have any questions about anything to do with the PSA, the Parent Council, or the new body, you can email the current members on either [fishermosspsa@outlook.com](mailto:fishermosspsa@outlook.com) or

[fishermossparentcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:fishermossparentcouncil@outlook.com)

## 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 **£1230** was raised. There was a wonderful atmosphere at school with nearly 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, developing pupils' skills for learning, life and work! Fishermoss School community once again continues to support those less fortunate.

All Pupils **Primary 1 to 7** participated in '**The Smarter Travel Roadshow**' which came to Fishermoss. There were hands-on activities, information and displays, giveaways and great ideas to think about alternatives to taking the car and to encourage drivers to give up the car for short journeys like the school run. Indoor activities included a **Smoothie Bike** with a chance for pupils to use pedal power to make delicious fruit drinks and Halfords provided demonstrations of bike checks. Outdoor activities included the SSPCA, Police, Stagecoach and ARR Craib had a lorry to give pupils the chance to sit in the cab to see what a driver can and can't see! Congratulations to two of our Primary 7 pupils, **Emma Taylor** won the banner design competition for the event and **Owen Watson** won the competition for naming a new lorry! Parents were invited to attend this event.

All pupils from **Primary 1 to Primary 7** have enjoyed a presentation delivered by The **Scottish SSPCA on Wildlife and Looking after Animals**.

Our **Nursery** and Primary 1 classes have been visiting the library to further encourage a love for books and reading.

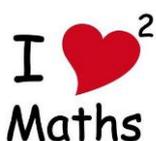
**Primary 4** took a trip to **Frankie & Benny's** where they had the opportunity to make healthy pizza and learned about the skills required to be a chef!

**Primary 4/5** took a trip to **Elsick Estate Farm** to learn about mixed farming in the North East.



**Primary 5** have been responsible for our **Fair Trade** tuck shop this term. They are not only learning more about ethical trading and how basic needs are met around the world but they are also developing their skills for the '**World of Work**' such as planning and organising, communicating, working with others and taking **responsibility**.

**Primary 6** had previously raised £66 from their Museum Café and were issued a 'Big Talk' homework task to discuss how they would like to spend the money. As a class, they chose to support the Homeless and Lethen Park, our local Care Home. A special thank you to Scott Reid as he wrote to the Community Council resulting in the class receiving a donation of £134. The class also decided to forgo the treats the teachers provide them with at Christmas time, bringing the total raised to £240. The class, in groups, were given a budget and a list of items to purchase and they created shopping lists of items to buy for their ASDA visit. The class delivered their items to Lethen Park and items were delivered to the Aberdeen Cyrenians. We are extremely proud of the class for demonstrating such **kindness** towards others. **Primary 6** also enjoyed a visit to **Aberdeen Science Centre** to support their learning for their **Space Project**.



All **Primary 6** pupils have been issued with the **Deputy First Minister's Maths Challenge** which is for Christmas holiday maths family fun! Please check out Parent zone Scotland at [www.education.gov.scot/parentzone](http://www.education.gov.scot/parentzone) for more fun ways to help support your child at home with numeracy.

Our **Primary 6/7** 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 that time period and are linking them to today. They enlisted the help of some **Grandmas** to help with learning the technique and to support them with 'dropped stitches'. The pupils have enjoyed chatting with the 'Grannies' about times gone by. It's great seeing boys and girls choosing to pick up their knitting in their spare time!



**Primary 7** pupils attended the pantomime '**Snow White**' 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.



### 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 David Young Children's Pastor from Aberdeen Christian Fellowship with us. He continued his series on **values** and focused on respect and treating others as we would wish to be treated. We also appreciated an assembly led by **Rev Rodolphe Blanchard-Kowal** where he shared some of Jesus' teaching from Matthew chapter 5. We had our usual **Learning Celebration** assembly where we focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking** and have done particularly well. Certificates are presented to pupils at these.

We have had the pleasure of a class assembly this term from **Primary 6** where pupils impressed us with their brilliant presentation skills. They certainly brought alive their project on **Space**. It was wonderful to have the pupils showcase their learning in such a confident and enthusiastic manner.

All our pupils **worked hard** at our hymn practice assemblies to prepare songs for our Christmas Church Service. Collectively they make a magnificent sound and we value and appreciate every single voice! **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.

### Registration for Primary 1 August 2018

Registration Week for Primary 1 is 15th January to 19th January 2018. All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28th February 2019 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admissions in August 2018. Aberdeenshire Education and Children's Services has a common starting date for all its school 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 2018. 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 for 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 2014 and 29th February 2016. From Monday 22nd January 2018 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-and-childcare-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 2nd February 2018, 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 2018 must 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 2018!

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 2018

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> - Pupils and Staff return to school

Thu 11<sup>th</sup> - Parent Council EGM 7pm

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> - Registration Week for Primary 1 pupils starting in August 2018

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb - Early Learning and Childcare admissions

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> & Thu 25<sup>th</sup> - Senior Pupils' Burns Event for Senior Citizens-by invitation only.

### February

Thu 8<sup>th</sup>, Fri 9<sup>th</sup> & Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> & Wed 14<sup>th</sup> - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> - Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Interim Pupil Reports-2 being issued by the end of this week

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> - School Photographer- Sibling or individual photographs

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb-12<sup>th</sup> March-Fair Trade Fortnight

### March

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sports Relief Day 'Dress as you Please' & Foodbank Collection

Thu 29<sup>th</sup> - Last day of Term

Fri 30<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday - School closed to pupils and staff

### April

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fri 13<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April - Pupils & staff return to school