



## Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-July 2016



'Being the best we can be'  
Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking

Dear Parents/Carers

In the school calendar Term 4 is always bursting with activities for pupils, staff and parents! This year it has been busier than ever! It involves numerous events for our Primary 7 pupils as they reach the end of their Primary school years and also sees us welcoming new children and parents to our school in preparation for our Nursery and Primary 1 classes in August.

This term we had the pleasure of welcoming pupils who will be starting in the Hillside School Primary 1 classes in August. It was lovely to welcome them and their parents and to share with them what Fishermoss School is all about. Our current Primary 6 pupils have already stepped up to the mark of being great buddies for our new August start Primary 1 pupils. We have had some lovely comments from parents commenting on how **kind, respectful**, supportive and **responsible** they were! We aim to please! We also welcomed a number of third year pupils from Portlethen Academy this term who came for a week of 'work experience' in our school. We also had a number of new faces to Fishermoss with new pupils starting in various classes across the school this term and they have settled in well.

Thank you for supporting our **Sports Days**, as we all know there were two this year! It was lovely to see family and friends come and cheer the children on, on both occasions! Unfortunately the arrival of 'monsoon' rains on our first attempt meant our Fishermoss Family Picnic did not happen again this year. However, we all had a day to remember as pupils embraced the fun of getting soaking wet, a whole school indoor picnic and then getting out to play in beautiful sunshine later with their teachers. Thank you to our kitchen staff for providing hot picnic lunches, to parents who helped to decorate our playground and who helped with the class teams for our potted Sports. Thank you to our Parent Council for covering the costs of the medals. Lots of acts of **kindness!** Our Nursery Sports were also well attended by parents and our Nursery pupils had lots of fun!

Well done also to all who made it for our evening **Family Walk** and thank you to **TESCO** for supplying the oranges for refreshments. We had 153 people come along for an evening stroll!

Thank you for supporting our **Spring Fayre**, either by spending your pennies or helping with the organisation and running of the day. Together we raised **£3,979.49!** There was a great buzz about school. This is a fantastic achievement in the current financial climate in the North East and another example of great teamwork with parents, pupils and staff involved in running stalls and also involved in supporting our 'Dress as You Please Day' to collect chocolate the day before the Fayre. Thanks also to the **PSA** for supporting us with our Book Fayre raising **£465** and also a big thank you for organising the end of term Discos.

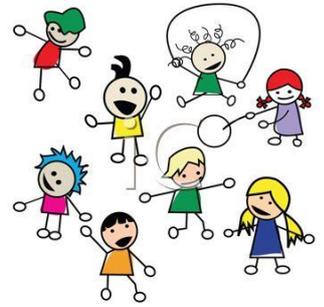
This term also brought with it Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations, Book Fayre, the re-organisation of classes for next term alongside the usual list of challenges and excitements that face a school in the final term. This newsletter makes mention of just some of the rich learning experiences our pupils have had this term.

### Fishermoss School Parking

Please note, in August parents will no longer be able to park directly at the front of the school. This area will be designated for the **bus** for Hillside Pupils. Parents are to please use Bourtree Car Park.

## Fishermoss Quality Improvement Visit

To add to the excitement of this term we had a Quality Improvement Visit from Aberdeenshire Council. The purpose of a Quality Improvement Visit is to support and challenge schools with improving experiences for children and young people leading to raised attainment and opportunities for achieving the skills they will need for, learning, life and work. On the basis of the evidence from their visit, they identified the following **Strengths**:



- Strong leadership which provides clear direction and strategic vision
- Values, vision and aims which shape the work and life of the school
- Strong parent partnership which supports learning
- Wide range of opportunities for wider achievement
- Collegiate ethos which supports school development work
- Caring and dedicated staff focused on improving outcomes for learners
- Well-structured systems to support self-evaluation which gathers the views and opinions of others
- Well-mannered and well-behaved pupils who value learning

As always there are areas for improvement with increased expectations from Education Scotland and the implications of the National Improvement Framework but Fishermoss School is in a good place to address these. Areas for improvement will be included in our school improvement plan for next session which will be on our website towards the end of the new term. Thank you to the parents who participated in the 'parents' meeting' by sharing their views on the quality of education provided by our school and about different aspects of school life.

## Great Achievements!



Our **Football Trophy Night** was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our pupils' success over the year at Football. We were delighted to have Kenny McLean, Aberdeen player, present the trophies to pupils from **Primary 1 to Primary 7**. Always exciting to have a celebrity at Fishermoss! The coaches spoke highly of our pupils in terms of their conduct and progress over the year. Thank you to Fishermoss Football Committee, and the coaches, for their commitment and **hard work**. We are very grateful to the parents who stepped forward at our **Fishermoss Football AGM** to continue the great football opportunities the association provides for our pupils.

**Young Aberdeenshire Volunteers Awards**-As a school we actively encourage our senior pupils to become involved in the Young Aberdeenshire Volunteers Awards. Many of our Primary 7 pupils have been doing a fantastic job volunteering both at school and in the community. The pupils were presented with their certificates at our end of term church service in recognition of their volunteering. Pupils achieved Bronze for 10hrs, Silver for 20hrs, Gold for 30hrs & Platinum for 45 hrs and over. Our Fishermoss School '**Young Volunteer Cup**' has gone to Clare Graham this year for nearly 88 hours volunteering. Congratulations to them all for their efforts and for showing **kindness, responsibility** and **hard work**. Our thanks to Fishermoss Parent Council for funding the trophies.

**Primary 7 Scottish Maths Challenge**-Congratulations to our senior pupils who participated in the Scottish Maths Challenge and successfully gained awards. Well done to Bhargav Shivakumar and Clare Graham on achieving Gold awards, Maria Azeem, Neesha Rees and Cameron Cowell achieving Silver and Ross Burns achieving Bronze. We are extremely proud of our mathematicians and well done to them for all the **hard work** put in to prepare. Our thanks to Mrs Piper, Support for Learning Teacher, for her help with this.



## Curriculum News this Term!

### Eco Show

Pupils in **Nursery to Primary 2** enjoyed a performance at school of '**Be Keen to be Green**', delivered by Hopscotch Theatre Group. This was the perfect springboard for discussing with our younger pupils all things **Eco**. Thank you to our PSA for funding this event.

### First Aid Training

Pupils in **Primaries 5 to 7** have successfully completed **First Aid Training** as part of Health & Well Being. Thanks to the PSA for funding this.

### Lunchtime Play Club

Interested **Primary 3 & 4** pupils have benefitted from an **Active Schools Lunchtime Play Club** arranged by our Active Schools Coordinator providing ideas for new games to try.

### Environmental Education

Pupils in **Primary 4 to 7** had a presentation delivered by Duncan Gardiner, community liaison officer from the **Aberdeenshire Western Peripheral Route (AWPR)**. This was a most informative and engaging presentation. The presenter said our pupils were 'polite, attentive, switched on and above all, very funny! It was an absolute pleasure to speak to them and they are a credit to your school'.

Our pupils had some great questions but if anyone missed out and wants to ask anything they can get in touch with the team anytime by emailing [community@awprcjv.com](mailto:community@awprcjv.com). They also have their Contact and Education Space at their Stonehaven offices which are open to the public all week from 9 until 5:30 and on a Saturday from 10 until 4:30.

### Fairtrade Tuckshop

**Primary 4/5** and **Primary 5** have been responsible for organising and running a Fairtrade Tuckshop all year. They have raised £53 in this enterprise activity and have decided as a class to donate the money to **Clan**. The pupils said they wanted families to have a better and happier life. We are proud of their **hard work**, **kindness** and the thoughtfulness they have shown in this activity.

### Primary 7 Transition Events

Our **Primary 7** pupils have had an action packed term with their **Abernethy Residential Trip**, **3 day Academy Induction**, **Cluster Bridge Building Team Work Activity** and other associated workshops to support their transition from Primary to Secondary. They also reeled and jigged the night away last week, to a live ceilidh band at school, at their **Leavers Ceilidh** to mark the end of their Primary School Years. We are very grateful to the Portlethen Academy pupils who played in the ceilidh band, some of whom were former Fishermoss Pupils. Our thanks also to Mr Barrow and Miss Brown for being DJs for the disco tracks and to all the teaching and support staff who turned up on the night to help with this event. Our senior pupils looked the part with lots of posh frocks, kilts and smart shirts. Plenty smiles and poses for the paparazzi! We were all very proud of them. Thank you to the PSA for their donation towards this event and also to **Tesco**, Newtonhill and the local **Coop** for donating catering items and to Portlethen's **Snappy Pizza** Store for providing us with half price Pizza! We are most grateful to these businesses for their support. A great time was had by all and a memorable evening!

### Holiday Water Safety

All pupils had a presentation delivered by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute at the very end of term on the subject of **Water Safety**. **This** is part of 'Keeping ourselves safe' in the Health and wellbeing part of the curriculum. A vital talk before the summer holidays!



## Space Biologists

Mrs Stewart's **Primary 3** were successful with their application to be part of a nationwide project, called Rocket Science, run by the European Space Agency. At the end of last year, two kilograms of rocket seed travelled from Kazakhstan on the Soyuz rocket to the International Space Station. The seeds were stored in microgravity by Tim Peake before their return to Earth this Spring.

This term **Primary 3** received a package containing two packets of seeds - one which has been in Space and one which has remained here on Earth. The class did not know which packet was which and planted the seeds under strictly controlled scientific conditions. They measured and recorded key data for the seeds as they germinated and grew, recording similarities or differences in plant growth between the two seed packets. At the end of the experiment the class entered their results in the national database where the findings were analysed and published. A very exciting, specially recorded, video in which Tim Peake revealed the true identity of the space seeds was released to the class before the end of term. They should be proud of their contribution to the global scientific understanding of growing plants in space.



## Delivering the Curriculum Out and About

This term has been particularly active with outings to all sorts of interesting places. These educational excursions further enhance our delivery of the curriculum. Thanks yet again to the PSA for supporting the funding of buses for School Trips.

Here's a brief summary:

Our **Primary 1** classes took a trip to **Drum Castle** to learn about the history of the castle and to experience the Woodland Walks. **Primary 1/2 and P2** visited **Crathes** for some outdoor learning on gardening and minibeasts. **Primary 1/2** also had an educational visit to **Tesco, Newtonhill** to take part in their **Farm to Fork** project. **Primary 3/4** visited **Satrosphere** and also joined with **Primary 3** on their trip to **Crathes** for more adventures with minibeasts. **Primary 4/5** took a trip to Dundee Science Centre to support their Science part of the curriculum. **Primary 5** enjoyed a day at Montrose Basin for a spot of pond dipping and mud basin investigations with the Ranger. **Primary 6** visited **Satrosphere** to further enhance their learning in their Space project. **Primary 6 pupils**, in our **P6/7**, took off while the Primary 7s were at the Academy, and they took a trip to **Stonehaven**. There have also been many walks and runs out and about in our local area as a number of classes are participating in the **daily mile challenge**. It's all go at Fishermoss!

## Assemblies

Once again it has been great to see so many family members taking the time to attend class assemblies this term. We really do appreciate your support at these.

**Primary 3** impressed us with their **Egyptian** themed assembly with a wonderful performance in every sense. They shared fascinating facts about Egypt, showcasing their learning and the skills they'd developed during their project! We all loved their 'on location' green screen film clips.

**Primary 1/2** finished off our class assemblies for the year with the theme based on the book 'The Enormous Turnip'. A confident performance with lovely singing. Our pupils should all be proud of their involvement in their class assemblies.

**Mr Barrow**, class teacher, delivered a presentation on Rwanda and shared information about his planned educational trip there this summer holiday. Mrs Ann Carolann, from **Portlethen Library**, came to share information about the Summer Reading Challenge to support us as we encourage pupils to participate.

In addition to our **Golden Book**, a new feature at assembly is a special mention for pupils who have been spotted in the dining hall for keeping the Dining Hall Golden rules (these are listed in pupil homework diaries). Pupils are issued with **Golden Raffle Tickets** to put their name on and they are entered into a monthly prize draw.

We have as always enjoyed our good work assemblies where pupils achieve certificates and share their learning with other classes. We also had our Sports day presentations where teams and individuals were awarded medals and certificates for their skills in Sport. We held our termly **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 also had an end of term **Golden Assembly** to recognise pupils who have not lost any golden time all year and they were presented with special certificates for this significant achievement.



### Staff News

**Mrs Willox**, one of our **class teachers**, will be retiring this summer after 26 years at Fishermoss School. We are extremely grateful for all she has done to support pupils, parents and colleagues over the years and for the significant part she played serving on the PSA. She will be greatly missed by us all and we wish her many happy days doing all the things that busy working lives makes us put on hold. Thank you to David Wilkins and Nicola Cameron who came and presented Mrs Willox with flowers on behalf of the Parent Staff Association.



**Miss Lynsey Coutts**, our cluster **Active Schools Coordinator**, is being moved to another cluster for next session. We are sorry to see Lynsey go and are extremely grateful for all she has done in our school community. We wish her every success in her new cluster and look forward to welcoming Graeme McCall, our newly appointed Active Schools Coordinator, in August.

I am delighted to say that at this moment in time we are in the very unique and fortunate position of having no class teacher vacancies for August. Let's hope it remains that way! The new school year will see us welcoming two Primary 1 teachers for the Hillside School classes **Mrs Morbey and Mr MacGregor** who will move to Hillside School with their classes when the new school opens. I am also delighted to say that we will have two new visiting specialists joining us in August, **Mrs Alyson Morrison** will be teaching Art one day a week and **Mrs Catherine Middleton** will be teaching science three days a week. We are sure they will all quickly feel at home at Fishermoss School.



### Parental Involvement

Parents are genuine partners at Fishermoss and so many things just would not happen without their help. Our thanks to those who have given up precious time to come and help with the running of activities over this academic year. Special thanks to parents who have children moving on to the Academy and who have played such a big part in the life of our school. Activities parents help with include library duty, Friday toast, bikeability training, class trips, sports, covering books, coaching, serving on committees, organising fund raising events, donating items, organising uniform, hanging up bunting & general support in classes and the list goes on and on. Not forgetting parents who make the effort to come and say 'thank you' or 'well done.' It means a great deal to all of us at Fishermoss School.

Thank you to the many parents who regularly provide informal feedback throughout the school year and to our Parent Council and Parent Staff Association for their continued support as together we strive to make Fishermoss School the best it can be. Advance notice for Parents who wish to become involved in our **Parent Council** or **Parent Staff Association (PSA)**, as both these parent bodies have their **AGMs** in the new term. We would be delighted to see you attend so you can find out more about what they do to enhance your child's experience at school. The **PSA AGM is Wed 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm** and the **Parent Council AGM is Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 7pm**. Please do come along! We need you!

## Fishermoss has Talent!

Get your thinking caps on in the holidays as 'Fishermoss has Talent' will be returning. Details to follow in the new session following the PSA AGM. If you hear 'I'm bored' mentioned in the holidays suggest to your children they come up with a performance to include in the show, better still they could get together with friends and come up with something! Lots of time to practise in the holidays.

## Aberdeenshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge-Your Place, Your Space....Just Read!

This is a fun and accessible activity for children of all ages and aims to promote reading. Each child taking part will receive a card to keep track of the books they have read and stickers and prizes can be earned. Children of all abilities are able to take part by reading their own choice of books, listening to talking books or downloading e-books. A great event to get involved in over the school summer holiday period. The challenge will run until 20<sup>th</sup> August and it also includes the option of a photo competition.



## School Lunches-Changes to times and prices

As you know to accommodate the high numbers having school lunches we operate a staggered lunch hour. We will continue with the staggered lunchtimes in August but with some changes to the times classes go to avoid splitting year groups, and peers, where we have composite classes. Changes are also required to help accommodate the Hillside Primary 1 pupils. Lunch times in August will be as follows: **All Fishermoss Primary 1 pupils and pupils in Primary 5 to Primary 7 will have their lunch hour 12:20-1:20pm. All Hillside Primary 1 pupils and pupils in Primary 2 to Primary 4 will have their lunch hour 12:50-1:50pm.**



The price of a two course standard meal in all Primary Schools will increase by 5p. From Monday the 15th August 2016 a two course standard meal for pupils will be £2.15

## Meet the Teacher

There will be a **Meet the Teacher Curriculum Event** at school for **Primary 1 Parents on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 7pm** and on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 6-7pm** for all other classes. Details will follow in the new session.



Thank you to all who were able to attend our end of term service where our Primary 7 pupils shared memories of their time at Fishermoss. They were 'my little ones' in Nursery when I started at Fishermoss School as Head Teacher. It has been a real privilege to watch them grow in every sense! Well done to all who played a particular part in the service and to all the pupils for their lovely singing. I am extremely proud of Fishermoss School and grateful to pupils, parents and staff for helping to make it such a special school to be part of. The church collection will go towards Cancer Research in memory of loved ones.

We wish pupils, staff and parents who are leaving Fishermoss every success for the future! We will miss you but will not forget you! We look forward to hearing all the holiday adventure stories when our pupils return on **Tuesday 16th August. Please see the next page for dates for next session.**

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and safe travels wherever you go!

Yours sincerely

Margaret. M Ferguson

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson-Head Teacher



## **Term and Holiday Dates Session 2016-2017**

### **Term 1**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016-Staff In-service Day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October-Last day of Term 1

### **Term 2**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October -Start of Term 2

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December-Last day of Term 2

### **Term 3**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017-Start of Term 3

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March- Last day of Term 3

### **Term 4**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April- Start of Term 4

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May-May Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June-Last day of Term 4

Seven week summer holiday before session 2017-18 starts on 22/08/17 for pupils.

**Please visit Aberdeenshire Council website for school holiday dates beyond session 2016/17.**