



Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-June 2017

'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 as busy as ever! This past term has seen 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.

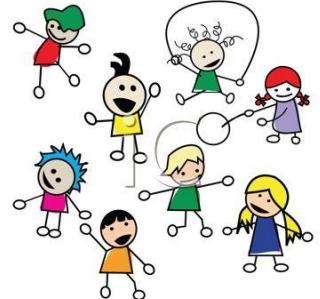
Our current Primary 6 pupils have already stepped up to the mark of being great buddies for our new August start Primary 1 pupils. We have had some lovely comments from parents commenting on how **kind, respectful, supportive and responsible** they have been. We also welcomed some third year pupils from Portlethen Academy this term who came for a week of 'work experience'.

The weather has unfortunately not been on our side for a number of school events this term. We were unable to hold **Sports Day** on either of our dates due to the weather. Teachers have however managed to hold the flat races and we were able to enjoy presenting medals for these at assembly. Well done to all our medallists and thank you to our **Parent Council** for covering the costs of these. It is always a pity to miss out on the family picnic and parents coming along to cheer pupils on at Sports Day but hopefully other events at school made up for the disappointment. The rain did hold off for our Nursery Sports and thank you to parents and family members able to come along to support them.

Last year we have 153 attend our **Family Walk** and this year we had 13 hardy walkers who are worthy of mention by name given the weather conditions. Well done to Innis Mathers Nursery, Declan Murray P1S, Lorna McLean P2, Nairn Mathers P3/4, Rosie Laundon P5, Jack Laundon P7S, Mrs Sayer, Mrs Gill, Miss Anderson & the parents of our pupils. They turned up with wellies, waterproofs and smiles and enjoyed jumping in puddles, the little ones that is, and made the most of a 'dreich' night. We totally understand why the rest of you didn't come and join them! Thank you to **ASDA** for supplying the oranges for refreshments.

Our **End of Term Service** was also affected by heavy rain and was held in our school hall rather than us walking to the Parish Church. This meant limited space so unfortunately we could only accommodate Parents of our Primary 7 pupils. There weren't many dry eyes as pupils shared memories of their time at Fishermoss and sang beautifully for us. Our School choir and violinists are also to be commended for their performances. We are grateful to Rev Dr John Watson who has supported us for 8 years with our end of year service. He plans to retire 'again' and we look forward to welcoming the new minister at the Parish Church to Fishermoss School. Thank you for the contributions to our collection which raised £120 for the Abernethy Outdoor Centre.

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. Many of these have been supported by funds from our Parent Staff Association. We do hope you all managed to read about the fantastic work the PSA did this year through their Newsletter recently e mailed.



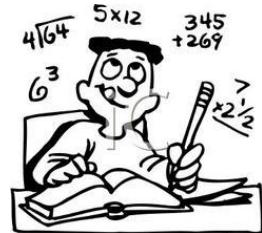
Great Achievements!



Our **Football Trophy Night** was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our pupils' success over the year at our Fishermoss Football Association. 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. Our Nursery group also had their own mini medal event after a recent coaching session to recognise their achievements. 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 **Carla Baxter** this year for just over **74 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 **Leah Hay** and **Przemek Grudzien** on achieving Silver awards and **Sedra Droubi, Hana Reid, Leah Crawford, Carla Baxter, Alanna Towler and Jack Laundon** for achieving Bronze. We are extremely proud of our mathematicians and well done to them for all the **hard work** put in to prepare.



Tesco Art Competition-Congratulations to **Cara McDonald, Mallie Murphy, Charlie McCombie & Eilidh Anderson** all from Mrs Muir's Primary 3 class for their artistic talents. They were shortlisted from 8,000 entries and nearly made it into the final 10!

John Muir Award-Well done to all **39 Primary 7** pupils who attended the Abernethy outdoor centre residential trip achieved their John Muir awards. We trust that this has enhanced their awareness of wild places and that they enjoyed taking responsibility for them and sharing their experience. The John Muir Award is a progressive scheme and we hope that our pupils will continue to create positive connections with nature.

Curriculum News this Term!

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. **Primary 6** pupils have completed **Level 2 Bikeability** (Cycling Proficiency) course. Well done and many thanks to our willing parent helpers. We could not deliver this without you! Many schools no longer deliver cycling proficiency due to a lack of volunteers so we are extremely grateful and I know many of our parents and pupils share this sentiment.



Well done to our **33 pupils from P5 to P7** who are members of our **School Choir** who have continued to give up their lunchtime to attend weekly school **Choir Practice**. They are all to be commended for their behaviour, punctuality, keenness and readiness to work. Our thanks to Miss Brown and Mrs Young for also giving up lunchtimes to lead the choir. Together they all create a wonderful tone and should be proud of their hard work and talent.

Our school's **Police Liaison Officer** has supported us with the delivery of **Drugs Education** sessions to pupils in Primary 7. All Primary 6 pupils experienced a **Bike Maintenance Workshop** delivered by **Halfords** to help keep them on the road during the summer.

The **Bank of Scotland** came to deliver a workshop to our Primary 7 pupils on all things financial to bring another dimension to their class maths lessons on APR. Special mention to Mrs Cullion who also happens to be one of our parents!

Active Schools -A number of classes have experienced some further taster sessions this term. P5 & P5/6 had **Golf** sessions, P4-P7 **Soo Yang Do** and P5 enjoyed some **Yoga**!

Primary 7 Transition Events

Our Primary 7 pupils have had an action packed term with their **Abernethy Residential Trip**, **3 day Academy Induction** 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 for being DJ 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, the local **Coop** at Hillside and **ASDA** for donating catering items and to Portlethen's **Domino's Pizza** Store for providing us with cut 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 our delivery of Health and wellbeing in the curriculum. A vital talk before the summer holidays!



First Minister's Reading Challenge-As part of our continued involvement in the First Minister's Reading Challenge, we invited Aberdeenshire's Library Services to come and help 'weed out' our Junior/Senior Library by removing tired, outdated books. Our library has been transformed! Thank you to our PSA for contributing £1500 as we begin to purchase replacement books. The PSA also purchased school a dedicated library i-pad to support with cataloguing books in a more efficient, modern manner. We are most grateful to Mrs MacMillan, one of our parent helpers, for all her hard work supporting us to catalogue the books and her year round support in the Junior/Senior library. All books removed from the library will be going to the charity 'Books Abroad'. Work has already begun in our Infant library to do the same exercise as Mrs Willox and Mrs Laundon, our willing infant library parent helpers, are cracking on. Do let us know if you'd like to help with our libraries.

Forensic Science Workshops-A number of our classes experienced Forensic Science delivered by one of our school families, Dr Ann Tough & Iain Tough, arranged by our Science Specialist Mrs Middleton. Some classes also experienced their science lessons delivered by Mrs Middleton at Portlethen Academy to give them a feel for a science lab!

Fishermoss in the Community- Lethen Care Home Visits- Primary 2/3 visited **Lethen Park Care Home** to share elements of their class assembly performance on their Weather Topic with the residence which went down a 'storm'-pun intended! Primary 3/4 and Primary 4 visited the Care Home to support the Care Homes' friendship theme day. They sang songs, played games and read stories and poems to the residents.



Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and Aboot'

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 2 and P3** visited **Duthie Park** for some outdoor learning on growing things. **Primary 2/3 & P3/4** enjoyed a day at **St Cyrus Beach** for a spot of habitat, migration & pollution investigations. **Primary 4** also took a trip to **Drum** with their focus being on **tourism**. **Primary 5/6** took a trip to **Frankie & Benny's** where they experienced **Pizza Making** and gained further insight into the world of work and the catering industry. Mrs Dawson's **Primary 7** took a walk up to Hillside school for a day of sporty activities with their **Hillside Buddies** and **P3/4** met up with their **Portlethen Primary Pen Pals** at **Nicol Park**.

Primary 5 took a trip to the **Maritime Museum** and the result was they created their own **Scotland Museum** back at school which they opened to Parents. This came complete with artefacts, displays, tour guides, curators, 'pop up' café with refreshments, performances, music and so much more! A fantastic enterprise experience for our pupils with an insight for them into the world of work amongst everything else. They certainly put their knowledge and skills into practice and impressed the many parents and family members who came along to experience their museum.

Primary 6 visited **Aberdeen Science Centre** and took a **Victorian Trail** to further enhance their learning in their **Renewable Energy Project** and their Victorians topic this session. There have also been many walks and runs out and about in our local area as a number of classes continue to participate 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 6 shared the presentation they delivered at a recent **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Conference**. **Primary 3/4** gave a very energetic and informative performance on **Keeping Healthy and The Body**. They even managed to show-off the French they have been learning in class. **Primary 3** delivered an **Egyptian** themed assembly and 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 2/3** finished off our class assemblies for the year with the theme of weather. They reminded us all of the unpredictable nature of Scotland's weather and brightened our day with their beautiful voices. Our pupils should all be proud of their involvement in their class assemblies.

Mrs Ann Carolann, from **Portlethen Library**, came to share information about the **Summer Reading Challenge**. In addition to our **Golden Book** and **Golden Table**, this term saw the arrival of **Golden Carrot**! This came about following our consultation with pupils last session where pupil responses in relation to us encouraging healthy eating were lower than we would have liked. This has been discussed by all classes and has been a focus for our Pupil Council. The decision was taken to have a '**WellBeing Wednesday**' introduced with pupils encouraged to bring fruit every Wednesday! This has been really well received by pupils and our final Pupil Council meeting of the session indicated a thumbs up for it continuing next session with some new suggestions. Something for our next Pupil Council to take forward! A big thank you to our **Pupil Council** members for all their hard work with making the Golden Carrot, collecting in weekly scores, calculating percentages and displaying results!



We have as always enjoyed our **Good Work** assemblies, which have been re-branded as **Learning Celebrations**, where pupils achieve certificates and share their learning with other classes. We also had our Sports day presentations where individuals were awarded medals for their achievements in the flat races. 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. Their names will go up on our **Roll Of Honour** displayed opposite our Golden Tree at the front of the school.

Staff News

Miss Diez, one of our **class teachers**, will be leaving at the end of term as she is moving to Madrid to be near family where she will be taking up a teaching post in the British Council School. She would like to express her thanks to all the supportive parents who have made her feel so welcome in her 6 years at Fishermoss School. We are grateful to her for all she has done to support our pupils at and for all she has done as part of the Fishermoss Familia. We wish her many happy days in her new adventure!

We will also be saying farewell to **Mrs Laura Merson**, one of our Early Years Practitioners and to **Mrs Anne Ritchie**, one of our part-time Early Years Practitioners and part-time Pupil Support Assistants. Mrs Merson is having a bit of a career change and will be working for the company 'Never Knowingly Undersold'. Mrs Merson has been at Fishermoss 16 years however you never know, we might just see her back doing some relief work for us on her days off! Mrs Ritchie, who works in our Nursery and as a Pupil Support Assistant, has secured a permanent fulltime post as an Early Years Practitioner at Hillside School and we wish her many happy days in her new job. We are grateful for all they have done to support our pupils and wish them both every success in their new jobs!

Mrs Thompson our Art Specialist will be finishing at the end of term to go on maternity leave. We wish her well in the coming days. **Mrs Rennie** will be returning after the summer following her maternity leave for one day a week to provide non-class contact time for class teachers. We look forward to her return!

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.

Lunch times in August will be as follows: **All pupils in Primary 2 to Primary 5 will have their lunch hour 12:20-1:20pm. All Primary 1 pupils and pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7 will have their lunch hour 12:50-1:50pm.** This facilitates our buddies being with our Primary 1 pupils as well as avoiding splitting year groups. It also gives a split of 6 classes in the first lunchtime sitting and 5 in the second. The price of a two course standard meal in all Primary Schools will increase by 5p. From the start of the new session a **two course standard meal for pupils will be £2.20**



Improving Approaches to Reporting to Parents

Following our recent consultation regarding how we report to parents, we are going to trial having our **Parent Teacher Consultations** in Term 1 rather than Term 2. Parent Consultations will take place on **Wednesday 27th September 6-8:30pm & Thursday 28th September 3:45-6:15pm**. There will be a **Curriculum Event** at school for **Primary 1 Parents at 7pm Tuesday 29th August**. The **Curriculum Event** previously held in September for other classes will now take place on **Thursday 2nd November 6-7pm**. Details will follow in the new session. The longer summer this year does mean everything will be a bit later this year.

Aberdeenshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge-Be drawn into a good book!

Aberdeenshire Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge is a fun and accessible activity for children of all ages and aims to promote reading, encourage progression, support curricular outcomes and involve children in cultural activity. The organisers design the challenge to ensure that children of all abilities are able to take part and encourage participants to read their own choice of books, listen to talking books or download and read e-books over the school summer holiday period. The theme for this year's reading challenge is all about Books and their Illustrations - "Be Drawn into a Good Book". The Challenge starts on **Thursday 22nd June** and will run until **Saturday 26th August 2017**. Alongside the reading challenge, is a creative competition for children to enter.



Parental Involvement

Parents are genuine partners at Fishermoss and so many things just would not happen without your 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 over the years. 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 & general support in classes and the list goes on and on. Not forgetting parents who make the effort to come and say 'thank you', 'well done' or 'how about'. It means a great deal to all of us at Fishermoss School. We have all been touched by the many cards and gifts that have been delivered to school this week.

Mr Barrow's Primary 6 pupils held an informal **Fair Trade Coffee Morning** following our End of Year Service to say thank you to our many parent volunteers. Their event included music from our violinists, singing from our School Choir and thank you speeches delivered by some pupils. We know many parents were unable to attend but please do be aware how much we appreciate all you do for Fishermoss. You are such an important part of our school.

Thank you to the parents who gave us feedback for our recent consultation on 'Improving Approaches to Reporting to Parents' 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 Monday 4th September at 7pm** and the **Parent Council AGM is Wednesday 13th Sept 7pm**. Please do come along! We need you!

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 22nd 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 2017-2018

Term 1

Monday 21st August 2017-Staff In-service Day
Tuesday 22nd August Start of Term 1 for Pupils
Friday 13th October-Last day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 30th October -Start of Term 2
Monday 13th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Tuesday 14th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Friday 22nd December-Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Monday 8th January 2018-Start of Term 3
Thursday 8th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 9th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Monday 12th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 13th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Wednesday 14th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Thursday 29th March- Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Monday 16th April- Start of Term 4
Monday 7th May-May Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff
Friday 6th July-Last day of Term 4

Six week summer holiday before session 2018-19 starts on 21/08/18 for pupils.

Please visit Aberdeenshire Council website for school holiday dates beyond session 2017/18.