



Dear Parents/Carers

The start of the school year really does seem like a lifetime ago as here we are at the end of term enjoying a 'Dress as you please Day' with pupils bringing a bar of chocolate for the privilege to be used at our Christmas Fayre. It's been a busy, busy term!

It has been great to see how quickly our Primary 1 pupils, Hillside pupils, new pupils, new staff and Nursery children have settled in this term. Special thanks to our Primary 7 buddies who have supported Fishermoss and Hillside Primary 1 pupils. It has also been good to welcome parents into school for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening, ALEC Parents' Session (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres) and our Meet the Teacher. These were all **opportunities to support you to be involved in your child's learning**. Thank you for coming along! We have also enjoyed having a number of students attend for school teaching experience.

Pupil Council

'Fishermoss pupils are listened to, valued and respected and feel they are involved in making decisions in the school'

As usual this term, following pupil presentations and class votes, our new **Pupil Council** members have been appointed and were presented with their badges at assembly. Congratulations to Rylen Meredith P2/3, Tobe Ikenwilo P3, Beth Craik P3/4, Zander Johnston P4, Emily Law P5, Robbie Thomson P5/6, Fraser Wright P6, Hana Reid P7D and Morgan Stephen P7S. Pupils have recently been involved in class discussions regarding our dining hall rewards system, playground rotas and the opportunities pupils have for personalisation and choice in their learning.

Parent Groups

Our sincere thanks to the parents who attended our Annual General Meeting for our Parent Staff Association (PSA). Not a spare seat to be found in our staffroom which was great! Your support, **kindness** and **hardwork** here is greatly appreciated and makes a significant difference to enhancing the experiences we can offer our pupils. If you did not manage along, but would like to be involved, then do contact the school office as we would welcome new members. Our PSA have Halloween discos planned for the evening of Thursday 27th October and the Christmas Fayre on the evening of Friday 25th November where help is always needed and appreciated. Our **Parent Council AGM** was postponed this term due to committee member commitments. It is anticipated they will arrange to meet early next term. Details to follow.

Annual School Sponsored Walk

It was great to see parents join us on our Sponsored Walk and a great time was had by all from Nursery through to Primary 7, including Hillside pupils. We were extremely fortunate with the beautiful weather, and the icicles provided by the PSA was a welcome treat for pupils and staff. Parents also enjoyed refreshments and a chat in the hall afterwards.

The total raised so far is an amazing **£2905** and sponsor money is still coming in! Every penny raised makes a real difference to our PSA funds and all pupils benefit from this money raised. Thank you to all who came to help and joined in and to the PSA for organising this event. Thank you to pupils and parents for all their efforts to get sponsorship! Team Fishermoss does it again!



Curriculum News this Term!

Earlier this term our school received a visit from the **ALEC (Aberdeenshire Life Education Centres)** mobile classroom. **ALEC** is part of **Coram Life Education**, a charity providing a unique drug education programme which teaches children about the wonder of their bodies, how to take care of themselves and how drugs can affect them. The **8 different programmes** were **age appropriate, matching the physical/emotional development** of the children. **All children from Primary 1 to Primary 7, including Hillside**, attended a session in the classroom. The specially equipped classroom provided a very worthwhile learning experience for the children and complemented our school's health and wellbeing programme.

Allan's Magic Show gave a performance to all pupils in **P1-P3**, including Hillside, about **Road Safety**. This supported delivery of Health & Wellbeing outcomes in our curriculum and reminded pupils of **Stop, Look, Listen** and **Think** as we encourage parents and pupils to walk to school more.

The **Royal Zoological Society, Wild about Scotland**, outreach programme bus came to visit Fishermoss Pupils in **P5-P7**. The focus of the workshop on the bus was **Endangered Animals** and the main threats to wildlife in Scotland. The pupils were challenged to consider what personal action they can take to help. This event was sponsored by the Clydesdale Bank.

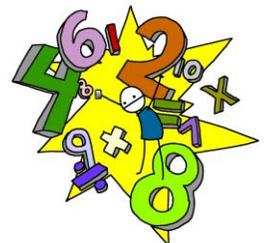
Mr Barrow's **Primary 6** Pupils experienced a **Victorian workshop** at school to support their class project where they had the opportunity to explore 'hands on' a range of artefacts and memorabilia.

Primary 7 pupils have completed Levels 1 & 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.

Primary 7 pupils also experienced a '**History of Art**' session at school delivered by John Morrison, History of Art Professor at Aberdeen University. The focus was on Art Work from the time of the Highland Clearances in connection with their class project based around the novel the 'Desperate Journey'. They have also been further exercising their brains as they participate in workshops on **Growth Mindset** delivered by our Educational Psychologist.

A number of our pupils have benefitted from the work of Graeme McCall, our newly appointed Active Schools Coordinator. **Primary 4, 5 & 5/6** pupils have enjoyed **Hockey** taster sessions and some pupils also participated in our after School Club for Yoga. It is funds raised through the PSA that helps us pay for the Active Schools Coordinator.

Congratulations to **Ellie Robertson** in **Primary 5/6** who came 3rd in the **National on-line Maths Competition SUMDOG**. She had to answer 1000 questions and she answered 983 correctly. Ellie competed against 6,322 other students. She shared her success with the school at assembly in our 'Good News about Me' and showed her certificate of merit. We are very proud of her achievement.



Pupil Questionnaire Results



Pupils in Primary 4 to 7 took part in a questionnaires at the end of last term which involved 152 pupils. The questions are based on ones used by Education Scotland. Pupils in Primary 1 to 3 were involved in class discussions in relation to some of the questions. The results and comments shared are encouraging but there are areas for us to work on. As always we are about continuous improvement.	Agree %	Disagree %	% Don't know
Q1. The School is helping me to become more confident	95	3	2
Q2. I enjoy learning at school	93	5	2
Q3. I am getting along well with my school work	97	2	1
Q4. Staff encourage me to do the best I can	99	1	
Q5. Staff talk to me regularly about how to improve my learning	82	12	6
Q6. I get help when I need it	94	6	
Q7. Staff listen to me and pay attention to what I say	95	4	1
Q8. I have a say in making the way we learn in school better	75	17	8
Q9. Staff expect me to take responsibility for my own work in class	98	1	1
Q10. Staff and pupils treat me fairly and with respect	91	6	3
Q11. I feel safe and cared for in school	97	2	1
Q12. I have adults in school I can speak to if I am upset or worried about something	91	5	4
Q13. I find it easy to talk to staff and they set a good example	94	3	3
Q14. Staff make sure that pupils behave well	97	2	1
Q15. Staff are good at dealing with bullying behaviour	91	4	5
Q16. The pupil council is good at getting improvements in the school	94	5	1
Q17. The school encourages me to make healthy -food choices	77	10	13
Q18. I take part in out of class activities and school clubs	80	11	8
Q19. I know what out-of-school activities and youth groups are available in my local area	92	5	3



Pupils were also asked to write comments. The most common responses included:

***My favourite learning activity/event this year has been...**class assemblies, projects, trips, music, drama, science, PE, Young Leaders, Burns Supper, First Aid, Art, Sumdog, swimming, maths, ICT etc etc

***My favourite whole school activity or event this year has been...**Cinema visit, Dress as you please days, Children in Need day, Fayres, Sports Day, Ceilidh, Abernethy etc etc

***The best change or improvement in Fishermoss School this year has been....**Basketball hoops, litter duty, Golden Raffle, Daily Mile, lunchtime changes, our Motto, on-line lunches etc

***Name one thing that you think would make Fishermoss School even better....**Lunchtime clubs, quieter dining hall, more selection in tuck, sausage rolls back, skipping ropes, better behaviour in playground, a zip wire, swings, bigger classroom, separate dining hall etc etc

Staffing

Mrs Rennie, class teacher, went on maternity leave earlier this term and we are delighted to announce the safe arrival of her son Calvin. Congratulations are also in order for Mrs Donna Gibb who has been recently appointed as a Pupil Support Assistant.

This term saw us say farewell to Nicola Murray one of our kitchen staff. We are grateful for all she did for our pupils at Fishermoss School over the past 7 years and wish her well.

Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning

Staff organised and baked for a Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 30th September and parents who help during the school day with Bikeability, library, Friday toast etc joined us at morning break to help raise funds for this worthy cause. The event raised an amazing £327.34! Well done to all involved!



Assemblies

Assemblies are held every Monday afternoon for P1 to P3/4 & P4 to P7. Hillside pupils also join us for our assemblies. As parents, you will be invited to attend your child's/children's class assembly. Details will appear in class newsletters as appropriate. For children in our Nursery & Primary 1 classes, this will take the form of a Nativity during term 2-details to follow!

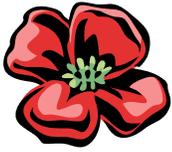
Our assemblies very much focus on our school's vision, values and aims. The emphasis being on supporting our pupils to become: successful learners with enthusiasm and motivation for learning; confident individuals with physical, mental & emotional wellbeing and self-respect and ambition; responsible citizens with respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in their community and the wider world and also effective contributors, who can communicate, work together, be creative and enterprising.

Regular features at assembly include us focusing on 'Good News about Me' where pupils share personal achievements and the 'Golden Book' where individual pupils are given a special mention for significant effort in work, and also in relation to the golden rules. 'Good Work' assemblies focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking** and have done particularly well. Certificates are presented in Good Work assemblies.



Assemblies this term also included our new **Pupil Council Representatives** being introduced to everyone and information on their role was shared. We also had a focus on the School's **motto, values** and the **Golden Rules** with links made with the Olympic Games, the commitment of athletes and the skills we all require for work. For Primary 1 pupils the theme was on the Golden rules being like a map to guide them on their journey and it being their **responsibility** to choose the right road so they have the best

possible experience at school. Links were made with the Head Teacher's cycling holiday and the reliance on maps and instructions to ensure being happy, healthy and safe! **Mr Barrow, Primary 6 class teacher**, also led an assembly sharing some of his holiday experiences as he undertook voluntary work in Rwanda and trained teachers in a number of schools. **Hillside School Head Teacher Miss Munro** also attended one of our assemblies to meet our pupils and to thank them for making Hillside pupils, staff and parents feels so welcome. She shared some exciting pictures of the progress of the new school.



Poppy Scotland

As always, we are supporting this important appeal. Collection tins and poppies will be circulating classes after the holidays.

Rotary 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 in previous years, we would like to support our local Rotarians with this initiative by giving Fishermoss families the opportunity to participate. If you wish to participate, please put a note to your eldest child's teacher and they will be given a box to take home to fill with items suitable for a boy or girl, either younger child or teenager.



Suggested contents include matchbox type car, small bouncy ball, yo-yo, doll, colouring book, crayons, pencils with sharpener, notebook, stickers, jigsaw, lego, small clothing items-pants, socks, gloves, hat etc, hair slides/hairbrush/comb, small toiletry items, make up toothbrush/toothpaste, cheap jewellery items, bangles, necklace. We're sure the children will have other ideas too. All items must be new. **NB** No war related toys or toys that require batteries and no chocolates, sweets or other food items and no English language books. If you are able, the Rotary have requested a £1 or £2 coin to go on top of the box to help with transport costs, which is voluntary through Dyce Carriers. Rotarians accompany the boxes from start to finish and are involved in the distribution. Boxes are usually to be returned to school by mid-November but this is yet to be confirmed by the Rotary-we will keep you posted. Please do not wrap or seal the box as they are checked at random by customs.

Thank you for considering this humanitarian project, if you would like to know more please go to the following link. <http://www.rotaryshoebox.org/> We are aware of the numerous requests for donations at this time of year and we thank you once again for supporting, and showing **kindness** to others less fortunate than ourselves. Pupils will hear more about the work of the Rotary in assembly after the holidays.



Halloween Discos

These will be held on **Thursday 27th October** in Fishermoss School Hall. The party for all P1 pupils, including Hillside, will be 5-6pm, P2 to P4 pupils will be 6:15-7:15pm and pupils in P5 to P7 7:30-8:30pm. The entry fee is £2 which is payable at the door and this will include juice and a sweet. There will be prizes for the best Halloween Costume, Primary 1 pupils are asked not to wear masks. Something to look forward to after the holidays!

Night at the Movies-Hotel Transylvania 2

This event is being held at Portlethen Academy on Friday 28th October at 6pm and is being jointly run by 'Fishermoss School PSA' and 'Portlethen Primary School Parents in Partnership' group. Tickets will be available from Portlethen Library during the holidays. There will be a tuckshop available and please feel free to dress up for Halloween. Tickets are £3 for adults and £2 for children which includes a drink and a snack! There must be one responsible adult for each group of children attending. Something else to look forward to after the holidays but get to the library quickly as tickets are limited.

Children in Need

We will be supporting the Children in Need charity **Friday 18th Nov**. All pupils and staff are invited to 'Dress as they please' and to donate a £1 for the privilege. This can range from pyjamas to sports gear to frocks to fancy dress to casual. Primary classes are also organising various enterprising stalls, in the morning, which will include a range of activities from playing games to selling bakes. Pupils in P1-P7 can bring some extra pennies to school to spend on these activities. As a guide, stall activities will range in price from 20p to a £1. We look forward to a fun filled fundraising Friday at Fishermoss!



P7 Residential Trip Meeting

Advance notice that P7 Pupils and their Parents are invited to a meeting at school on **Wednesday 16th November 6pm** regarding our annual residential trip to the Abernethy Outdoor Centre, Inverness-shire. Invitation letters will be issued after the October holidays.

Responsible Citizens

One of the four capacities in our curriculum is to enable all young people to become responsible citizens, with respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in their community and the wider world. The challenge for us is getting all parents to lead by example as there continues to be neighbours who remain unhappy as some parents are regularly blocking driveways, double parking and parking in the bus bay. There is an accident waiting to happen. Cars can often look abandoned at the school entrance.



There have been regular reminders in newsletters and individual parents have been spoken to directly. The response back from parents involved has sadly been a negative one. School and residents have had to contact Police about the matter. The Police have been supportive and, when time has allowed, have attended the school to move parents on but this is a waste of Police time. This situation does not give a good message to our pupils.

Could we ask parents to please 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. Bourtree Carpark is available should a car journey be essential. Disabled parking spaces in the staff car park are for disabled badge holders. Let's stand out from other schools by having the reputation of being a community of **responsible, respectful** car users. The parking issues happened long before our numbers went up with Hillside pupils so there is much room for improvement.

Consultation on Early Learning and Childcare in Aberdeenshire 2016

As a result of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 all Local Authorities have a statutory duty to consult and plan with appropriate stakeholders every two years.

This year Aberdeenshire are consulting on the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, including flexibility of early learning and childcare provision. They aim to provide a service which looks to meet the needs of the children and families in Aberdeenshire. They are seeking the views of all parents/carers, professionals and other interested stakeholders on how best these services can meet their needs. The link below is to the survey monkey regarding the flexibility consultation for Early Learning and Childcare. The survey will be live until December at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/AberdeenshireELC>

Finally, please note the dates and times for **Parent Consultations** below. Letters will be sent out when we return after the October break.

Please also note the date of our end of term **Christmas Church Service** as it is being held on a Monday rather than the usual Thursday. We would also like to take this opportunity to share that a total of £345 was collected for **Cancer Research** at our July end of term church Service in memory of our loved ones.

Something else for pupils to look forward to next term! We have booked the Cinema for Tuesday 16th December to go and see the new Disney Film Moana. The PSA will be covering the cost of buses. Details regarding tickets to follow.

We are aware there are a number of references being made to charities and upcoming fundraising events in this newsletter. Do as you feel led and able. There is no expectation that families are involved in them all. Every little helps!

Have a lovely October break everyone!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher



Dates for your diary-Term 2 2016

October

Mon 10th-Fri 21st- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 24th-Term 2 begins

Thu 27th - PSA Halloween Discos

Fri 28th- Night at the Movies

November

Wed 2nd - Flu Immunisations

Wed 2nd 6-8:30pm & Thu 3rd 3:45-6:15pm Parent/Teacher Consultations & Book Fayre-details to follow

Mon 14th & Tue 15th - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils.

Wed 16th - Abernethy Residential Trip Meeting- 6pm- P7 Pupils & Parents

Fri 18th-Children in Need Dress as You Please Day & fundraising class stalls

Friday 25th- PSA School Christmas Fayre 6:30-8:30pm

December

Tue 13th-Primary 1 to Primary 7 Fishermoss School Christmas outing to Cinema-details to follow

Wed 14th -School Christmas Lunch-details to follow

Thu 15th -Red Nursery class & Primary 1 Concert to Parents-2:30pm-details to follow

Fri 16th - Blue Nursery class & Primary 1 Concert to Parents-9:30am-details to follow

Mon 19th - End of term Christmas Church Service 9:30am-Portlethen Parish Church

Wed 21st -Last day of term

Thu 22nd Dec to Wed 4th Jan-Christmas Holidays!

Thu 5th January 2017-Term 3 begins!