



Dear Parents/Carers

The start of the new school session really does seem like a lifetime ago! It's been a busy, busy term and we've even managed to squeeze in flu vaccinations so we're all prepared to fight the winter bugs next term!

It has been great to see how quickly our Primary 1 pupils, new pupils and Nursery children have settled in this term. Special thanks to our Primary 7 buddies who have supported Primary 1 so well. It has also been good to welcome parents into school for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening, ALEC Parents' Session (**A**berdeenshire **L**ife **E**ducation **C**entre), Parent/Teacher Consultations, School Book Fayre and for our Senior Pupils Abernethy Residential Trip meeting. 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 from Aberdeen University and Portlethen Academy this term.

## **Parent Groups**

We held our Annual General Meetings in September, for both our **Parent Staff Association (PSA)** 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).

## **Annual School Sponsored Walk**

It was good to see parents join us on our annual Sponsored Walk and a good time was had by all from Nursery through to Primary 7. We were extremely fortunate with the weather given the wet conditions in the morning. The ice lollies provided by the PSA were a welcome treat for pupils and parents enjoyed refreshments and a chat in the hall afterwards. 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! Every penny raised makes a real difference to our PSA funds and all pupils benefit from these.



## 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 Lorna McLean P2/3, Reiss Mitchell P3, Nairn Mathers P4, Emma Miller P4/5, Daniel Wilkins P5, Kai Pope P6, Daniel Rae P6, Yebo Mtika P6/7, Jessica Cutler-Howie P6/7, Momin Rashid P6/7, Emma Taylor P7 and Maria Duffy P7. Pupil Council is made up of representatives from Primary 3 to Primary 7. Additional pupils are appointed from P6 and P7 to represent Nursery, P1 and P2.



At Fishermoss School all pupils are automatically '**Global Warriors**'. Being a Global Warrior is about knowing and understanding our world and having the right values, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. It is about positive relationships and building safe, happy and healthy communities. At class circle time meetings, pupils share and discuss ideas for ways to improve our school which includes ways to improve the way we learn and global issues e.g. Healthy Eating, Eco tasks, Fair-Trade etc. Pupil Council brings together class ideas to decide on the most effective ways to change and improve the school and then talk to those who can help make it happen.

## 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 Health & Well-being education programme. **All children from Primary 1 to Primary 7** attended a session in the mobile classroom where topics included **My Wonderful Body, bCyberwise, Meet the Brain, Decisions, All about Me and Friends**. The specially equipped classroom provided a very worthwhile learning experience for our pupils and complemented our school's health and wellbeing programme.

**Primary 2/3** and **Primary 3** pupils took a trip to **Grampian Transport Museum** to support their class project on Transport past and present and how it has changed to meet our needs. The trip certainly brought the project alive for pupils. To further support the class project, **Primary 2/3** had one of the class mums come in to talk about her job at Aberdeen Airport and she shared the necessary skills required in the '**World of Work!**'

**Primary 4** are **responsible** for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year. They are busy advertising and preparing presentations in the hope that it will be even more successful than last year! If you wish to take part, your child can collect a box from the P4 classroom or boxes can be collected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November during our Curriculum Evening. The class have already e-mailed details to Parents.



**Primary 4/5** 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**.

Congratulations to **Fynn Matthew** in **Primary 5** who was chosen by our local library to win a prize for his Book Cover design as part of the Summer Reading Challenge! Fynn attended a special awards ceremony at Woodhill House to receive his prize. We are very proud of his achievement.

Congratulations to pupils who were in Mrs Ferrero's P3/4 class last session. They wrote letters to the Glasgow Science Centre pointing out that their logo had no capital letters! Their Marketing Manager has been back in touch to say the class were the first to point this out and they will be changing the logo so they are not breaking any rules! The power of the pupil voice!

A number of our pupils have benefitted from the work of Graeme McCall, Active Schools Coordinator. **Primary 4, 4/5 & 5** pupils have enjoyed **Hip-Hop** 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.



### Assemblies

Assemblies are held every Monday afternoon for P1 to P3 & P4 to P7. As parents, you will be invited to attend your child's/children's 'Class Assembly' where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of the 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!

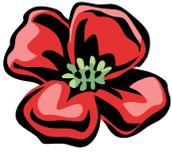
Our assemblies very much focus on our school's vision, values and aims. The emphasis being on supporting our pupils to become: **successful learners** with enthusiasm and motivation for learning; **confident individuals** with physical, mental & emotional wellbeing and self-respect and ambition; **responsible 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 wider 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. '**Learning Celebration**' assemblies focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking** and have done particularly well and certificates are presented. We also celebrate pupils who have stood out in the dining hall for all the right reasons and have earned themselves a seat on the '**Golden Table**' for showing **respect** and **responsibility**.

Assemblies this term also included our new **Pupil Council Representatives** being introduced and information on their role was shared. We also had a focus on the School's **motto, values** and the **Golden Rules** and what the expectations are for all in the playground, classroom and in the wider community. We've shared the role of all pupils as **Global Warriors** and it being their **responsibility** to be the best they can be. **Article 28 'Children have a right to an education'** and **Article 24 'Children have the right to good quality health care, to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment'** were shared but also pupils' **responsibility** in all this e.g. not to interfere with other pupils' learning, to look after belongings, to not waste food and to keep their school clean and tidy. Two of our senior pupils, **Alana Gibb P7** and **Jessica Cutler-Howie P7**, prepared a power point presentation on litter issues which they delivered at both assemblies. They were an excellent example of pupils being actively involved in the life of their school.

We welcomed two new visitors to our school assemblies this term. **Rev Rodolphe Cowal**, the new minister in Portlethen Parish church led an assembly as did **David Young**, Children's Pastor from Aberdeen Christian Fellowship. Both their messages made strong links with our school values and pupils being **Global Warriors**.



### Poppy Scotland

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

### Staffing

Congratulations to Mr Barrow, class teacher, who was appointed to a part-time position at the Montgomery Education Centre over the summer. This has created a vacancy in our Primary 5 class therefore Miss Anderson, our Depute Head, is class committed for 3 days a week in the class and Mr Barrow has agreed to cover the remainder until the post is filled. Unfortunately we have already had to re-advertise the post. Teacher shortages are hitting Fishermoss!

Mrs Rennie, class teacher, returned from maternity leave at the start of this term and she is teaching Primary 3 one day a week.



### Halloween Discos

These will be held on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** in Fishermoss School Hall.

The party for P1 & P2 pupils will be 5-6pm, P3 & P4 pupils 6:15-7:15pm and pupils in P5 to P7 7:30-8:30pm. The entry fee is £2 which includes juice and a sweet. There will be prizes for the best Halloween Costume. Something to

look forward to after the holidays! Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils are asked not to wear masks as this will be the first school party for many of our Primary 1s.

### Children in Need

As part of our work as 'Global Warriors', we will be supporting the Children in Need charity **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Involvement in this event is a significant part of the curriculum with scope for application of their learning in the use of money ranging from simple coin recognition to profit and loss at some stages. Pupils develop communication skills, team work and explore rights and responsibilities. A rich opportunity to develop their skills for learning, life and work! We look forward to a fun filled fundraising Friday at Fishermoss!



### October Holiday Church Events

**Portlethen Parish Church** is running a 'Messy Church' on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 3-5pm in the Portlethen Church Hall. This will involve arts, crafts, music and storytelling followed by a yummy supper! Please book with the Church secretary on 01224 782883 or email [portlethenpc@btinternet.com](mailto:portlethenpc@btinternet.com) Other dates are Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Nov and Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Portlethen Christian Fellowship** have a variety of activities week commencing Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at the 'Porty Cabin' next to the Jubilee Hall. Events include a Community Café, Messy Church and Youth Café to name but a few. Full details are available at [www.portlethencf.com](http://www.portlethencf.com)

Something else for pupils to look forward to **next term!** We have booked the **Cinema** for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December for our Primary School Christmas outing to go and see the new animated adventure film '**Ferdinand**'. The PSA will be covering the cost of buses and the ticket price for pupils will be £5. Further details will follow next term.

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!

Finally, being mindful that many of you do so much for our school, I thought it would be nice to give a particular mention to some of our parents to recognise their efforts and support. Two of our mums, **Lindsey Horne** and **Nikki Lawrie** recently took part in the **10k Great Aberdeen Run** to raise money for the school. They raised an incredible £310 which will go towards Sports Equipment. At the other end of the scale, we have '**The Wilkins Family**' who regularly supply our staff with **fresh eggs** and the proceeds go towards the PSA funds! We're feeling the strength of the Fishermoss Family!

Have a lovely October break everyone!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson  
Head Teacher



### Dates for your diary-Term 2 2017

#### October

Mon 16<sup>th</sup>-Fri 27<sup>th</sup>- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff.

Thu 26<sup>th</sup> -Kincardineshire Development Partnership's AGM, Newtonhill Bettridge Centre 7pm.

Mon 30<sup>th</sup>-Term 2 begins

#### November

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> - PSA Halloween Discos

Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> - Curriculum Event 6-7pm

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Nov-Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> & Tue 14<sup>th</sup> - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils.

Fri 17<sup>th</sup>-Children in Need Dress as You Please Day & fundraising class stalls

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>- PSA School Christmas Fayre 6:30-8:30pm

#### December

Tue 5<sup>th</sup>-Thu 7<sup>th</sup> PSA Community Santa Run

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> -Red Nursery class & Primary 1 Concert to Parents-2:30pm-details to follow

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> - Blue Nursery class & Primary 1 Concert to Parents-9:30am-details to follow

Tue 19<sup>th</sup>-Primary 1 to Primary 7 Fishermoss School Christmas outing to Cinema-details to follow

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> -School Christmas Lunch-details to follow

Thu 21<sup>st</sup> - End of term Christmas Church Service 9:30am-Portlethen Parish Church

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> - Last day of term

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec to Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jan-Christmas Holidays!

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018-Term 3 begins!