



Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter-March 2018

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

Daffodils and crocuses peeping through in our school grounds are a real sign of Spring! They have done well to have survived the snow we had earlier this month! The start of the year really does seem like a lifetime away and the year has brought opportunities as well as challenges to us as a school!

In January our Parent Staff Association (PSA) and Parent Council held an Extra Ordinary General Meeting to vote to combine the responsibilities of both bodies into one new body. By a vote of 17 to 0 the proposal was accepted and the new body is now known the **Parent Staff Council (PSC)**. This one body covers the fund raising activities of the PSA and the roles previously undertaken by the Parent Council. We would encourage you to please attend these meetings. Copies of previous minutes can be found on our school website, which includes information regarding committee members. Recent discussions have included a focus on improving approaches to reporting to parents, a look at our Homework Policy, playground improvements and our Annual Spring Fayre. If you have an interest in being part of how we can best continue to support both our pupils and staff in making Fishermoss a great place to learn then please do come along to our meetings.

Plans for our annual **Spring Fayre** are well under way! The date is set for **Saturday 19th May 10am-12 noon**. The 'society event of the year' at Fishermoss! This is a significant date in our fundraising calendar so we do hope you can make it! We are of course looking for volunteers to help out on our Spring Fayre stalls so if you can spare an hour or two we would be most grateful, either on the day or with setting up the afternoon before. No previous experience required, just fill in the slip at the very end of the newsletter and return it to the school office or just call the office and leave your details, alternatively you can email direct to FishermossPSC@outlook.com A member of the Parent Staff Council (PSC) will get back in touch with you.

If we all take a wee turn then we can spread the load! You do not need to be a member of our PSC to help out and no PVG is required as you will not be supervising children. If you would like to be involved in some of the planning for the Fayre, our **next Parent Staff Council meeting is Wednesday 25th April 7pm in our staffroom.**

To support our Spring Fayre, the PSC have requested a '**Dress as You Please Day**' on **Friday 18th May** where pupils are asked to bring an item of chocolate, for the privilege, to support the chocolate tombola. A date for diaries!



Sports Relief Day

As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sports Relief Day brings the entire nation together to raise cash and change lives. Fishermoss School played its part with a 'Dress as you please Day' and charged for the privilege, raising **£310**.

Fishermoss families also supported the South Aberdeenshire Food Bank by taking in items of food. Your **kindness** was much appreciated and your support of others less fortunate is always humbling. Well done Primary 3 and Mrs Muir for all their efforts organising the food! The following words of thanks, from one of the coordinators at Aberdeenshire South Foodbank, lets us all know how much our efforts have been appreciated:

'Thank you so much for another amazing collection for Aberdeenshire South Foodbank! Many thanks to all the pupils, parents and staff who contributed to the collection - a very generous thought and deed, which will be much appreciated by those in the local area who we will be able to help over the next few months. The need for the foodbank has grown a little over the past year, and it is always doubly welcomed by the clients when they know that the food is donated by the community.

Thank you also for doing some sorting of the items - that did make our job of checking and stocking our shelves much easier! Now our shelves are well stocked up with the wide range of donations from you'.

Curriculum News this Term!

All our Primary 7 pupils welcomed senior citizens and other dignitaries to school for our annual **Fishermoss Burns Coffee Mornings**. Our guests enjoyed entertainment which included toasts to the lassies and laddies, singing, instrumental musical pieces and poetry recitations, as well as polite conversation with our pupils. A great time was had by all and our senior pupils should be very proud of their achievements as they showcased their skills and talents by hosting and organising this memorable event. The pupils were responsible for everything from the initial invitation letters right through to meeting and greeting guests and keeping them entertained. Our kitchen staff supported the pupils by preparing the scones and shortbread. Some former pupils also attended and performed and there was a wonderful atmosphere at school as pupils shared some quality time with more mature members of our community. The 'best Burns Supper yet' is once again the word on the street! Our senior pupils demonstrated the values of our school throughout the event and were an excellent example to all of what is important at Fishermoss.

Our Nursery children invited their parents and carers to '**stay and play**' with them during a number of Nursery sessions. This was a great opportunity for the children to showcase their learning experiences and the great progress they have made.

All pupils received a £1 **World Book Day** token this term which entitled them to a free £1 World Book Day book from participating stores such as ASDA and various bookshops.



Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils had a recent session at school led by our Police Liaison Officer on the safe use of social media and the internet. This supports school in the delivery of some of the experiences and outcomes in **Health and Wellbeing**.

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils had an '**Art of Photography**' presentation delivered by local photographer Andy Hall to encourage entries into a competition being arranged by the Rotary club.

Primary 6/7 took a trip to **Yo Sushi** in Aberdeen to support their learning in their class project on Japan. They had experience of making sushi and further developed their skills for learning, life and work.

Primary 7 and Primary 6/7 pupils took part in our '**Making a Difference**' project at school, arranged in partnership with **Community Learning & Development**, regarding friendships, resilience and peer pressure. This is to support them as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. This will be enhanced next term with a drop in lunch time session to further support pupils with their move from Primary to Secondary School.

We are grateful to Miss Brown and Mrs Young, our Acting Depute Head Teachers, for running our **Fishermoss School choir**. This involves pupils from **Primaries 5 to 7** during Thursday lunchtimes. Choir members are to be commended for their effort and enthusiasm in coming together to share their love of **music**.



Primary 2/3 registered Fishermoss School to take part in the '**Big Battery Hunt**'. This is a nationwide campaign to help recycle batteries. At assembly, pupils from P2/3 told everyone that once a battery ends up in a landfill rubbish site, it can take a hundred years to break down and leaks harmful chemicals into the soil and water. They explained about the importance of recycling batteries and how the metals within them have lots of different uses, from manufacturing cars to construction.

As an ECO school, we believe that recycling batteries can make a real difference to our planet, and we want to care for our environment, now and in the future. The Big Battery Hunt gives pupils the opportunity to be pioneers in an exciting recycling challenge to encourage everyone nationwide to recycle more batteries. Pupils will not only be helping to save the planet, but will be in with the chance of winning some great prizes for collecting and recycling the most used batteries.

Primary 6 have been continuing their visits to **Lethan Park Nursing Home**. Their visits this term have involved doing practical craft activities and sharing poetry recitals. They have struck up a great relationship with the residents and this is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their skills for learning, life and work not to mention the benefits experienced by the residents.

Active Schools



Some of our **Primary 3 & 4** pupils were selected to take part in a cluster **Badminton Festival** held at Portlethen Academy. Well done to Charlie Wilson, Liam McShane, Freya Alexander, John Cullion and Sophie Middleton in Primary 3 and Kaedan Mackay, Shanleigh Fitzgerald, Owen Geddes, Isla Barrowman and Nairn Mathers in Primary 4.

Primary 4 & 5 pupils have experienced some **Golf** taster sessions and they have also experienced a block of **Swimming** lessons this term. All these events have been arranged by our Active Schools Coordinator, Graeme McCall.



Achievements



Euro Quiz 2018

Congratulations to **Primary 6** pupils Tyler Martin, Rosie Laundon, Abby Dear, Alistair Graham and Rihanna Meredith in **Fishermoss A** and Jamie Cowell, Niamh Sutherland, Uche Ikenwilo, Olivia Inglis and James Ferguson in **Fishermoss B**, who were all selected to represent our school in the Aberdeenshire South Euro Quiz heats.

Special congratulations to **Fishermoss A** who made it through to the Aberdeenshire Heat. Both our teams are to be commended for their enthusiasm and efforts to prepare.

Assemblies

We have really enjoyed seeing our pupils take the lead in class assemblies over the past few weeks and have been delighted to see so many parents and family members attend. Our pupils have done us proud as they confidently showcased some of their **hard work** and learning from this term.



All classes from Nursery to Primary 7 took part in **Fairtrade Fortnight**. Primary 1 to 7 classes were involved in a school assembly where representatives from each class shared what they had learned about Fairtrade and what it means to the global community.

Primary 4 brought the **Romans** to life for us with great expression, enthusiasm and fabulous acting skills! They showcased tuneful singing and shared their learning with lots of evidence of cooperative work. Clearly a great learning experience!

Primary 4/5 took us on an amazing World Food Tour. Pupils used Google Earth to take us on a journey, during their assembly performance, to show us where our breakfast comes from. They impressed us as they used sign language at various points in their presentation and even incorporated sign language into their singing. They shared their knowledge of climates and food production across the globe. An impressive performance.

Primary 7 shared what happens at a Burns Supper and impressed us with their talent. They gave us a flavour of what our Senior citizens were going to experience. With this being their last class assembly at Primary school they certainly demonstrated their broad skills set and showed what a long way they had come since their Primary 1 Nativity performance!

We also held our **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 acknowledged pupils who earned themselves a **Pupil Council Well-Being Wednesday certificate** for having fresh fruit every Wednesday for a full term for their play piece! We have also enjoyed **Learning Celebration Assemblies**.



David Young, Children's Pastor, challenged us in the New Year to not have New Year's Resolutions which are often unrealistic and broken by the end of January but rather to consider the idea of 'More and Less', more of the good stuff and less of the bad. Some of the examples given were more encouraging and less complaining, more smiling and less frowning, more asking for help and less getting upset, more focus and less day-dreaming, more learning at home and less TV. A concept that we could all use in different areas of our lives. He also helped us focus on our school values. We are grateful to **Rev Rodolphe Kowal** who led our Easter Assembly.

February In-Service days-Improvement Planning

All staff, teaching and support, were involved in Bounce Back Training. 'Bounce Back' is an award winning positive education approach to wellbeing, resilience and social-emotional learning for primary school children. This is something that we will be progressing next academic year. Training was also delivered to all staff on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and time was spent focusing on 'Self- Evaluation for Improvement'. Self-evaluation of a school involves all stakeholders namely pupils, parents and staff. One example of an opportunity for pupils and parents to be involved in evaluating the work of Fishermoss School is through comments being shared in the interim reports. These were issued weeks beginning 4th Dec and 19th February, in our pupil homework diaries. These additional reports are new to us all and are a response to feedback from parents in our consultation on 'Improving Approaches to Reporting to Parents', held at the end of last session. The interim reports are an example of **'You said, we did'**. We would very much welcome, and value, pupils and parents completing the 'Pupil Comment Section' and 'Parent Comment Section', if they haven't already done so.



Staffing

Congratulations to Miss Anderson, Depute Head, on the birth of her third son Lachlan. Mummy and baby are doing well and can be spotted now and again in the playground around our Nursery for a cuddle and chat.

As previously shared with you, congratulations to Mrs Sproul Brown, Additional Support for Learning teacher, and Mrs Young, Primary 6 class teacher, on being appointed as Acting Depute Heads in a job-share capacity while Miss Anderson is on maternity leave.

Also previously shared, this term saw us say farewell to Mr Barrow, who was teaching Primary 5, to allow him to focus on his work with the Montgomery Centre. Mrs Middleton, who previously taught science, has been teaching Primary 5 in a temporary capacity but congratulations are due to her as, following interview, she has been appointed as a fulltime permanent teacher at Fishermoss.

We sadly bid farewell to Ms Charlton, one of our Early Years Practitioners in our Nursery, at the end of this term. She will be moving to a new post closer to home. We are grateful to her for all she has done to support our younger children and we wish her many happy days in her new job.

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council have been focusing this term on playground games, playground improvements and ECO matters in relation to litter in our playground. They also accepted a cheque for £100 from our local R S McColl store. Our local McColls nominated Fishermoss School to receive a donation of £100 from Making a Difference Locally (MADL) which is a registered charity (no 1123800) that operates throughout all Nisa independent stores across the UK. We plan to use the money to replace some of our board games in classes throughout the school.



Our last Pupil Questionnaire indicated that 23% of pupils did not feel we encouraged them to make healthy food choices. We put this back to pupils to suggest what we could do as a school to make sure everyone felt encouraged to make **healthy food choices**. A decision was taken at Pupil Council last session for a '**Wellbeing Wednesday**' where pupils will be 'encouraged' to bring Fresh Fruit for playtime every Wednesday. Certificates have been designed by our Pupil Council to award to pupils each term who bring in fresh fruit every Wednesday. Our school tuck shop, operated by our school kitchen, are also on-board with only fruit being provided on Wednesdays. We would really appreciate the support and encouragement of parents for this Pupil Council initiative.



Finally, some 'Fishermoss Family Holiday Homework' to tie in with Spring Cleans! It would be really helpful if parents could please check, over the holiday period, that their children have gym shoes that fit as there are a number of pupils with ill-fitting gym shoes for PE lessons. Also, if parents could possibly check in cupboards, toy boxes and under beds to see if any Fishermoss reading books are hiding somewhere. We would be delighted to have these brought back please. We will only have smiles, no frowns, if we see books being brought back! Also, with it being 'Spring Clean' time do remember our ECO Rag Bag Bin at school! Your donations are a great help for raising funds!

Wishing you all a lovely Easter Holiday!

Yours sincerely
Mrs Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher



Diary dates on following page!

Dates for your diary-Term 4 2018

March/April

Fri 30th March - Fri 13th April - Easter Holidays.

Mon 16th April - New Term begins

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th April - Primary 7 pupils' residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre

Wed 25th-Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm -All parents welcome!

May

Fri 4th- Pupil Reports issued to Parents

Mon 7th-Bank Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Thu 10th - Fishermoss Football Trophy Night

Wed 16th- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 6-8:30pm-details to follow

Thu 17th- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 3:45-6:15pm-details to follow

Fri 18th - Dress as you please day-bring chocolate for the privilege for our Spring Fayre

Sat 19th- Spring Fayre 10-12noon

Tue 22nd-7pm Nursery Induction for Parents (Session 2018/19 Nursery intake)

Wed 30th-7pm Primary 1 Induction for Parents (August 2018 Primary 1 intake) -Details to follow

June

Fri 8th - 10:30am Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds-weather permitting

Wed 13th - Fishermoss Football AGM 7pm-All welcome!

Fri 15th- Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event 10:30am Bourtree Park-if wet on 8th-no picnic!

Wed 20th to Fri 22nd - P7 pupils' Induction Days at Portlethen Academy

Wed 20th- Pupils meet their teacher for session 2018/19

Wed 20th- 2:30pm New Fishermoss Primary 1 entrants meet their teacher for session 2018/19

Thu 21st -End of Term School Discos-details to follow.

Thu 21st & Fri 22nd- New P1 Pupils & Parents School Lunch Invitation -details to follow

Tue 26th - Family Walk-7pm start at school

Thu 28th - Primary 7 Leavers Ceilidh 7-9:30pm

July

Wed 4th -End of School Year Church Service 9:30am Portlethen Parish Church

Fri 6th -Last day of term. Pupils return Tuesday 21st August

Fishermoss School-Spring Fayre-Sat 19th May 2018-Helper Slip!

Please return this slip to the school office



Your Name(s):

Child's class:

Contact telephone number:

E-Mail address: