



Fishermoss School - Term 4 Newsletter - July 2018

'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 we have had the added excitement of a School Inspection from Education Scotland, the creation of our very own school song and the Head Teacher attending the Royal Garden Party in Edinburgh, all adding to the fun of a final term in the school academic year! The inspectors spoke highly of Fishermoss School and we can anticipate a very positive report when it is issued in August.

We have truly been blessed with wonderful weather this term and were delighted to be able to hold our **Sports Day** and our **Family Picnic** this year. The family picnic, in particular, was a wonderful happy Fishermoss Family occasion with not a cloud in the sky. Thank you to all who were able to join us for both these events. Well done to all our medallists from Sports Day and thank you to our **Parent Staff Council** for covering the costs of these. Our Nursery Sports also enjoyed a dry day and thank you to parents and family members who were able to come along to support them all. We have lots of little keen athletes in our Nursery. We also enjoyed a dry, though misty evening, for our **Family Walk** and had **43** walkers attend this year. Thank you to **ASDA** for supplying the oranges for refreshments.

Thank you to all who attended our **End of Term Service**. For the first time in 26 years I was not present at an end of session school church service due to my attendance at the Royal Garden Party however I was privileged to have our Primary 7 pupils come to share their poems with me prior to the event, in addition to hearing their leavers' songs. An end of session service is often an emotional time as we focus particularly on our Primary 7 leavers. I am sure there weren't many dry eyes as pupils shared memories of their time at Fishermoss. Our School choir, violinists and individual instrumentalists are also to be commended for their preparation for this event. Thank you for the contributions to our church collection which is for **Downs Syndrome Scotland**.

This past term has also seen numerous events for our Primary 7 pupils as they reach the end of their Primary school years. In addition to this, we have enjoyed welcoming new children and parents to our school in preparation for our Nursery and Primary 1 classes in August. This term also brought with it Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations, Book Fayre, Spring 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 Council (PSC)**.



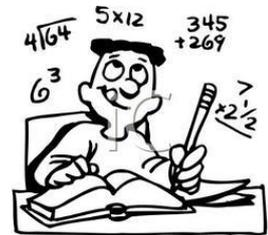
Great Achievements!



Our **Fishermoss Football Association Trophy Night** was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our pupils' success over the year. We were delighted to have Angus the Bull help 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 recent **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 **Mitchell Horne** this year for a staggering **169 hours volunteering**. Congratulations to them all for their efforts and for showing **kindness, responsibility** and **hard work**. Our thanks to Fishermoss PSC 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. This year a record 24 pupils attempted the challenge and 15 completed it, also a record, and 8 pupils gained awards. A super well done to **Mitchell Horne** and **Layla King** on achieving **Gold** awards and **George Burr, Harley Edwards, Meryn Forbes, Emma Taylor, George Wilkins** and **Gareth Bevan** for achieving Bronze. We are extremely proud of our mathematicians and well done to them for their **hard work** put in to prepare.



Fishermoss School Song- Why sing a pre-written song when we can have our very own, bespoke song written in collaboration with our pupils? Our PSC provided funds to allow us to make use of the services of a company known as 'Beat Box Music', based in Fife, who have vast experience working in schools composing songs with children specific to a school's vision, values and aims! They also provided all the recording and mixing options. A big well done to our **Primary 6** pupils who, with the support of Beat Box Music, wrote our school song and taught it to the rest of the school. All our pupils were included in the recording sessions so everyone's voices are included in the final product. Pupils are extremely proud of our Fishermoss song and have really enjoyed singing it at school assemblies

Big Battery Hunt-Congratulations to **Primary 2/3** who registered Fishermoss School to take part in the 'Big Battery Hunt'. This was a nationwide campaign to help recycle batteries. A staggering **11, 410** batteries were collected by Fishermoss School. Mrs Stewart's feedback appeared on the national website where she said: 'This has been a great initiative. The pupils in my class have been so excited to run the collection for the whole school. After delivering an assembly to the school to tell them the benefits of recycling batteries and the dangers of allowing them to go to landfill, they fired up the whole school into action. I have been amazed at the amount of batteries collected by the pupils throughout the school and the interest in recycling. My class have collected 4000 batteries on their own. We are very proud to have been pioneers of this initiative which will continue long after the competition is over'.

John Muir Award-Well-done to **42 Primary 7** pupils on achieving 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.

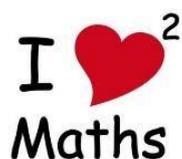
Rotary Quiz-Two **Primary 7** teams were put forward to the Portlethen District Primary Schools Rotary Quiz. Both teams did extremely well competing against other schools. Well done to Thomas Paterson, Robyn Sweeney, Kyle Scott, Fraser Wright, Robbie Thomson, Gareth Bevan, Dan Brocklehurst, Layla King and our reserves Emma Taylor and Ellie Robertson. All are to be commended for their **hard work** and effort put into preparing for the quiz in their own time.

Curriculum News this Term!

Pupils in **Primary 5 to 7** have successfully completed **First Aid Training** as part of Health & Well Being. Thanks to the **PSC** 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 pupils 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 Mrs Sproul-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.



All **Primary 6** pupils have been issued with the **Deputy First Minister's Maths Challenge** which is summer holiday maths family fun! Please check out Parent zone Scotland at www.education.gov.scot/parentzone for more fun ways to help support your child at home with numeracy.

Primary 1 pupils had a **Pig Farmer** visit their class to talk about their job and the skills required as we focus on 'developing the young workforce'. This visit was in connection with the work the class have done in relation to the story 'The Three Little Pigs'.

Primary 6 have also been 'developing the young work force' as they had a **chimney sweep** visit to talk about his work, this visit linked to their **Victorians** project where the class explored children being required to work during that era. The class also experienced a **Victorian Workshop** delivered in class by a visiting speaker. The **Primary 6** class are to be commended for putting together a play on life in the Victorian era where they showcased their learning. The class invited residents at **Lethen Park Care Home** to come to watch their performance and to enjoy some afternoon tea at school. **Primary 6** have struck up a very special relationship with the residents and were the perfect hosts!



National Youth Choir (NYCoS)- All our pupils in **Primary 3 and 4** pupils have experienced a 'taster session' workshop using singing rhymes and Kodaly inspired activities.

The National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) came to deliver their '**Speak Out. Stay Safe**' Programme, formerly Childline Schools Service, which teaches primary school children to speak out and stay safe from abuse. Their programme gives a generation of children the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect. Pupils are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or to Childline. '**Speak out Stay safe**' is delivered by trained NSPCC staff and volunteers. Assembly presentations were delivered to P1 to P3 and P4 to P7 classes. Teachers were present throughout the assemblies so everyone was familiar with the topics covered after the visit. Workshops were also delivered to **Primary 6** and **Primary 7** classes. The programme links directly to the curriculum, helping schools meet their statutory requirements.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Birds delivered outdoor learning workshops to **Primary 2, Primary 2/3, Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 5**. Some of the activities included a minibeast hunt, a focus on habitats and Biobitz! All sessions were linked to class projects.

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 band, some of whom were former Fishermoss Pupils. Our thanks also to Reece Gordon, also a former pupil, 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 **PSC** for their donation towards this event, and also to **Tesco**, Newtonhill and Banchory, and **R S McColls** for donating catering items and to Portlethen's **Domino's Pizza** Store for providing us with cut price Pizza! Thank you also to **John Lewis Department Store** who donated table decorations and place settings. Fishermoss Parent contacts came in very handy with all of these donations! Thank you to two of our Primary 7 mums, Mrs King who made delicious iced cupcakes and Mrs Horne who made a big cake in the form of a signed school uniform top with every P7 pupils names included on it. We are most grateful to all who helped make our leaver's ceilidh a memorable occasion.

Holiday Water Safety-All pupils had a presentation delivered by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute 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!



Primary 4/5 and **Primary 5** have spent the year learning about all the roles and responsibilities required to run our **Fair Trade** Tuck Shop. The Tuck Shop raised £96 this session and P4/5 have put some of the money towards their trip to the Aberdeen Science Centre and Primary 5 have bought books for their classroom library. The remainder of the money has been split between the charity **Mary's Meals** and the two classes having a Fair Trade celebration event at school.

Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot 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 **PSC** for supporting the funding of buses for School Trips. Here's a very brief summary:



Our **Primary 1** classes and **Primary 2** took a trip to **Duthie Park** for some outdoor learning. **Primary 2/3 & P3** enjoyed a day at **St Cyrus Beach** to further support learning on minibeasts. **Primary 4** explored **Montrose Basin** and **Primary 4/5** took a trip to **Drum Castle** with learning being linked to their Jacobite project, and they visited **Satrosphere** Science Centre with a focus on electricity. **Primary 5** visited the Aberdeen **Biodiversity Centre** to focus on Rainforests as part of their Pollution and Conservation Project. **Primary 6** experienced a tour of the **Tivoli theatre** in Aberdeen following their own Victorian production at school. **Primary 6/7** and **Primary 7** attended a **Careers Fair** at Portlethen Primary to further support 'developing the young workforce'.

All **Primary 6** and **Primary 7** pupils had an invaluable Life Skills experience when they visited **ABS SAFE**, paid for by our **PSC**. The 'SAFE' is a purpose build interactive village containing real life scenarios coupled with 21st century technology, with each zone specifically created to tackle a different safety issue such as **home safety, fire safety, road safety and water safety**. This was a fantastic active, engaging way to learn valuable safety lessons with the desired outcome being our pupils have been left with the knowledge to make informed decisions that could save lives.

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. Education Scotland Inspectors were impressed with the support they saw from parents who attended a class assembly during our inspection week.

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! **Primary 2/3** delivered an energetic performance on **Early Man** incorporating song and dance as part of their archaeology centre. We all loved their 'green screen' film clips! **Primary 2** confidently shared all the **French** they have been learning this year which included everything from 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in French to French aerobics! Lots of useful vocabulary for going on holidays! **Primary 5** finished off our class assemblies for the school year with a on the **Scottish Wars of Independence** for their Wallace and Bruce project. They had the very important task of not only impressing parents but also the School Inspectors and that they did with flying colours. Our pupils should all be proud of their involvement in their class assemblies.

We have welcomed **David Young**, Children's pastor, to school again this term as he continues to focus on our school values, making links with characters and stories from the bible and we also welcomed Rev Kowal from our Parish Church. We have as always enjoyed our **Learning Celebration Assemblies**, where pupils achieve certificates and share their learning with other classes, in addition to our **Golden Book** and **Golden Table**.

Pupil Council Well-Being Wednesday certificates were handed out this week by Class Pupil Council Reps to pupils who have brought fresh fruit every Wednesday for a full term for their play piece. Our final Pupil Council meeting of the session indicated a thumbs up for continuing to focus on Health & Wellbeing next session. Something for our next Pupil Council to take forward! A big thank you to our **Pupil Council** members for all their hard work this past year.

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

A number of our fulltime teaching staff are reducing their teaching days from August therefore we will have 5 classes with job share teachers. I am however delighted that we have been able to appoint experienced permanent teachers to support these job share positions. In May we welcomed 3 new teachers namely Mrs Morrison currently job share with Mrs Dawson, Mrs Cameron currently job share with Miss Sang and Mrs Bryson currently providing non class contact time in a number of classes across the school. We will also be welcoming an additional new teacher, Miss Airlie, to our school in August. Miss Airlie is already known to a number of the pupils and staff as she was a student teacher here a few years ago.

We also welcomed in May two new Early Years Practitioners to our Nursery, Miss Lauren Strang and Mrs Carol Eddie. We are also delighted to see Mrs Lesley Milne back with us in Nursery after her extended period of absence. We are grateful to all the temporary supply staff who supported us during our Nursery vacancies.

Due to staffing changes at Portlethen Academy Mrs Piper will no longer be working at Fishermoss School. Mrs Piper provided Additional Support for Learning one day a week as a link teacher with the academy and we are grateful for all her support to pupils. Mrs Piper was replaced this term by Mrs Sanderson and she is settling in well to her role as Primary/Secondary link teacher. She will continue with us in the new academic year supporting Primary 7 pupils.

School Lunches-Changes!

Over recent years in order to accommodate the high numbers having school lunches we have operated a staggered lunch hour. Given our school roll has reduced we are going to revert back to **all pupils having the same lunch hour which will be 12:20-1:20pm**. Also in preparation for the new Government guidelines that will come into force from 21st August, there will no longer be additional drinks sold at lunchtime. Water will be available as normal.

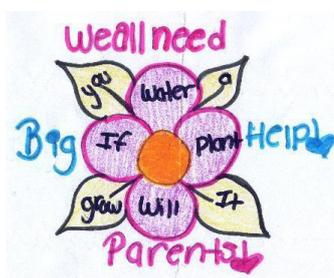


Improving Approaches to Reporting to Parents

Thank you to all who responded to our recent questionnaire regarding 'Improved Approaches to Reporting to Parents'. We had over 70 responses with 97% indicating that our trial of having our **Parent Teacher Consultations** in Term 1 rather than Term 2 was received positively. Advance notice that Parent Consultations will take place on **Wednesday 3rd October 6-8:30pm & Thursday 4th October 3:45-6:15pm**. There will be a **Curriculum Event** at school for **Primary 1 Parents Wednesday 29th August 7pm**. Details will follow in the new session.

Aberdeenshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge!

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 Challenge started on **Thursday 28th June** and will run until **Saturday 25th August 2018**. Alongside the reading challenge is a creative competition for children to enter. Portlethen library have a display of all the prizes that can be won. Do go along, have a look and get involved. A great opportunity to help motivate pupils to read during the summer holidays.



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. 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.

Thank you to all who are involved with our Parent Staff Council 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 Staff Council (PSC)**, as the **AGM** is in the new term. We would be delighted to see more parents attend so you can find out more about what you can do to enhance your child's experience at school. The **PSC AGM is Wednesday 5th September at 7pm**. Please do come along! We need you!

We wish pupils 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 21st August**. **Please see below for term/holiday 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 2018-2019

Monday 20th August 2018-Staff In-service Day

Tuesday 21st August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Friday 12th October-Last day of Term 1

Term 2

Monday 29th October -Start of Term 2

Monday 12th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 13th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Friday 21st December-Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Monday 7th January 2019-Start of Term 3

Thursday 7th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Friday 8th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Monday 11th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Tuesday 12th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Wednesday 13th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Friday 29th March- Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Monday 15th April- Start of Term 4

Friday 19th April-Good Friday Holiday-school closed to staff and pupils

Monday 6th May-May Day Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff

Friday 5th July-Last day of Term 4

Six week summer holiday before session 2019-20 starts on 20/08/19 for pupils.

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