



Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2018

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

We are genuinely touched by parents' and pupils' generosity at fundraising and charity events this term. Your **kindness** and **hard work** put in to support our school, and others, is second to none. It's been 'all go' over the past two months! Lots of interesting and active learning experiences. That's what life at Fishermoss is all about! It seems such a long time since the October break, our 'Curriculum Show and Tell' event and our Halloween Discos! This time of year, especially, brings an exciting buzz to our school.

Thanks to everyone who supported our **Christmas Fayre** at the end of November. Your donations, support and attendance was greatly appreciated. It was a very successful evening, where together we raised **£2100!** This is an incredible amount given the current economic climate in the North East. Well done to all involved, pupils, parents, school staff and extended family members. Great team work and a super night with, once again, a Santa's Grotto to rival anything any big department store may have.



Santa made another appearance with a merry bunch of elves from Hillside, Portlethen and Fishermoss School. The '**Santa Runs**' were a great success and such a special community event. A total of **£2500** was collected, **£1500** was shared between the 3 schools and **£1000** went to the foodbank organised by Community Food Initiatives North East (CFine). Thank you to our parents and staff involved in the organisation and implementation of it all! Pictured here are Fishermoss and Hillside Parents along with CFine staff, accepting delivery of the foodbank items. Fishermoss staff have made additional

contributions to the food bank by forgoing a staff 'Secret Santa' and purchasing food bank items.

It was lovely to see so many of you come along and attend our **Nursery & Primary 1 Concerts**. The children shared the Christmas Story in their **Nativity** 'The Inn-Spectors'. A very appropriate script given our recent visit by Her Majesty's Inspectors! **Santa** will be rewarding them for their **hardwork** and may make an appearance at Fishermoss to deliver gifts to them all. Thank you to our **PSC** for helping Santa with pennies for all his activities.

We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**The Grinch**' at the **Cinema**. A great time had by all! We always feel really special having the big screen all to ourselves and our pupils are to be commended for their exceptional behaviour. Our **Nursery** children had a super time as they attended a performance of '**Night Light**' at **The Lemon Tree**. A huge thank you to the **PSC** for covering the costs of all the buses for both events. Our **School Christmas Lunch** was another special school occasion. Well done and thanks to our School Cook and all our kitchen staff. Thank you again to the **PSC** for supplying the crackers for Fishermoss School. Lots of hilarity in the dining hall sharing Christmas jokes and singing Christmas songs!

Thank you for joining us at our **Christmas Church Service**. Our readers and musicians impressed us all. Our church collection will go to '**Dementia Friendly Portlethen**' in support of Portlethen Church's chosen Charity for the Tree Festival. Thank you for your generosity. Once again, a Fishermoss tree was on display at the Festival. Thank you to our Primary 5 class for making the lovely decorations. A few of our classes enjoyed a winter walk to visit the Tree Festival.



'Season's Greetings' and 'Festive Cheer' were brought to the residents of Lethan Park Nursing Home as our **Violin Pupils and School Choir** entertained them with a medley of Christmas songs. Our **Primary 7** class also attended Lethan Park Nursing Home to do some Christmas crafts with the residents. Some of our choir pupils also took up residency in a local coffee shop and sang their hearts out to entertain customers.

Poppy Appeal-Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £52.91 was collected at school in the collection cans. Your **kindness** is appreciated.



November In-Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan

We had a packed programme at school for teaching, support and early years staff. Our main focus was us beginning to develop a whole school Resilience Programme and also a review of our Numeracy and Mathematics Progression frameworks.

Staffing

This term has seen us appoint and welcome new staff. Miss Adam was the successful candidate to replace Mrs Ferrero's teaching post and she joined us just last week! Miss Adam will be teaching Primary 6/7 and is also providing non-class contact time and Additional Support for Learning in a range of classes. We wish her many happy days at Fishermoss School.

In the New Year we will look forward to welcoming two additional Early Years Practitioners to our Nursery team who have just recently been appointed.

We are delighted to have Mrs Gibb, one of our PSAs, back following her leg injury. She has made a remarkable recovery and is thrilled to be back with her Fishermoss family!



Adverse Weather Arrangements

A letter regarding adverse weather was issued to parents at the end of November via e mail. This information is also available on our website.

Great Achievements!

Congratulations to **Abby Dear** in **Primary 7** who has been chosen as a winner in the RunBalmoral 2019 t-shirt design competition. Some Primary 7 pupils took part in the competition and Abby's artwork will appear on the front of the t-shirts given to everyone who competes in the primary schools 1.5km run at Balmoral Castle on Saturday 27th April 2019. In addition, Abby has also earned our school a cheque for £250 to be used for any sports-related project. Full details of the Run Balmoral event can be found at www.runbalmoral.com . Well done Abby!



Fishermoss School has successfully attained **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award** status. This is an outstanding achievement as it is the school's 6th Green Flag Award! The assessors recognised the work we have done on promoting learning for sustainability. Well done to all our Global Warriors!

Some Curriculum News from this Term!



In November pupils were given the opportunity to dress up for **Children in Need** and all pupils were involved in arranging different fund raising activities in classes. A fantastic **£1271** was raised. There was a wonderful atmosphere at school with nearly 300 pupils working together cooperatively to raise funds. Our pupils are to be commended for their creative, enterprising skills in organising these events, their **hardwork** and their generosity and **kindness** in supplying resources and prizes. Activities included face painting, baking, cake decorating, games, competitions, crafts, hair styling and lots more. This was a great opportunity to bring aspects of the curriculum alive, developing pupils' skills for learning, life and work! Fishermoss School community once again continues to support those less fortunate.

Primary 2/3 had a **Day and Night Science Workshop** delivered by one of our parents Mrs Starr to support their class project. Always great to have parents come in to share their expertise and work in partnership with us.

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 a school we annually support our local Rotarians with this initiative by giving Fishermoss families the opportunity to participate should they wish to do so. This year **Primary 4** and **Primary 4/5** took full responsibility for organising and coordinating this event at school. They did an amazing job! Thanks to everyone who donated items and for showing such **kindness**. A record **134 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School which is a fantastic response. It was touching to hear from our pupils what they had included in their boxes and their thoughts about the recipients.

Primary 4/5 have enjoyed the company of ladies from **Dementia Friendly Portlethen**. This has been a good opportunity for the class to be creative, making some Christmas crafts, meanwhile building positive relationships with others in the community. **Primary 4/5** took a walk to the **Portlethen War Memorial** as part of their project on **World War I**. The memorial commemorates the residents of Portlethen who were killed or missing in World War I and World War II.

Primary 5 have been to **Cocoa Ooze** as part of their **Enterprise project**. The class have been looking at the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and designed their own chocolate creations. They were given the opportunity at Cocoa Ooze to create their chocolate bars and were then considering advertising for their chocolate inventions. As part of our work on '**Developing the Young Workforce**' agenda the pupils presented their pitches to various local businesses which included Stonehaven based Shamrock & Thistle, Stepping Stones, Giulianotti and My Beautiful Caravan and Portlethen's 'The Sitting Room'. We think we may see some of our pupils on 'The Apprentice' or 'Dragon's Den' one day!



Primary 6 welcomed back some engineering students from Aberdeen University known as 'Robo Gals' to deliver a '**slime**' workshop. The class were looking at the learning outcome 'changing properties of materials'.

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Maths

All **Primary 6** pupils have been issued with the **Deputy First Minister's Maths Challenge** which is for Christmas 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 7 pupils attended a musical concert at Portlethen Academy. This is one of their transition events and it gave them the opportunity to meet up with other Primary 7 pupils in our school's network. It also gave them the opportunity to experience the musical talents of former Fishermoss pupils.

Portlethen Moss Conservation Group along with the Kincardine and Mearns Ranger Service have created a **Community Orchard** in the Portlethen Community Woodland to commemorate the **First World War**. There were 27 men from Portlethen lost in WW1 and a fruit tree or bush has been planted for each man lost in the Great War. A group of our **Primary 7** pupils were involved in the planting as were pupils from the other Portlethen Schools. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to play their part in creating something quite special for the Portlethen Community to enjoy for many years to come.



Assemblies

The term started with our **Golden Assembly**, where we acknowledged and congratulated pupils who had not lost any Golden Time in Term 1. Their names and faces are now on our Fishermoss 'Tree of Honour' at the front of the school. They should be very proud of this achievement and we look forward to other names being added in January at our next Golden Assembly.

We have had the pleasure of two class assemblies this term. **Primary 5** impressed us with their brilliant presentation skills. They certainly brought alive their **Enterprise** project on **Charlie & the Chocolate Factory**. It was wonderful to have the pupils showcase their learning in such a confident and enthusiastic manner. **Primary 3** helped us mark the centenary of the **First World War** by delivering a thought provoking assembly as part of their project on **Living with Conflict**. They sensitively shared their learning and gave us much to think on.

We have our usual **Learning Celebration** assembly where we focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking** and have done particularly well. Certificates are presented to pupils at these. All our pupils **worked hard** at our hymn practices to prepare songs for our Christmas Church Service. Collectively they make a magnificent sound and we value and appreciate every single voice! **Nursery & Primary 1** pupils also left us suitably impressed and ready for Christmas as they shared their **Nativity** with all classes in their dress rehearsal.

Registration for Primary 1 August 2019

Aberdeenshire Registration Week for Primary 1 is 14th January to 18th January 2019. All children who reach their fifth birthday by 29th February 2020 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admissions in August 2019. Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services has a common starting date for all its school in the middle of August in any particular year. You will be informed of this year's starting date at the time of registration at school.

Parents/carers are asked to visit the Primary school of their choice during Registration Week. If this is not possible, please try and visit the Primary school by the end of February 2019. During registration, please take along the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth, along with evidence of the parent/carers home address (for example a recent utility bill or bank statement).

Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services make no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

Finally, following School Inspections by Education Scotland, Head Teachers are required to complete and present a report to Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee. I recently completed and delivered said report and Councillors asked that I pass on their congratulations to pupils, parents and staff for such a successful school inspection.

Thank you for your acts of kindness and words of encouragement. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2019.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson

Head Teacher

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' Luke 2:14



Dates for your diary!

January 2019

Mon 7th- Pupils and Staff return to school

Mon 14th to 18th - Registration Week for Primary 1 pupils starting in August 2019

Tue 22nd- Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm-All welcome!

Wed 23rd & Thu 24th- Senior Pupils' Burns Event for Senior Citizens-by invitation only.

Wk beginning Mon 28th - Interim Pupil Report being issued by the end of this week

February

Thu 7th, Fri 8th & Mon 11th - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 12th & Wed 13th-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Fri 22nd - School Photographer- Class photographs

Mon 25th Feb-10th March-Fair Trade Fortnight

March

Fri 22nd- Red Nose Day 'Dress as you Please' & Foodbank Collection

Fri 29th - Last day of Term

April

Mon 1st - Fri 12th April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 15th April - Pupils & staff return to school

Fri 19th - Good Friday - School closed to pupils and staff