



# Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter-March 2019

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

Daffodils and crocuses appearing in our school grounds are a welcome sign of Spring and plans for our annual Spring Fayre are well under way! The date is set for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10am-1pm. The 'society event of the year' at Fishermoss, as we like to call it! This is a significant date in our fundraising calendar so we do hope you can make it along! We are of course looking for volunteers to help out on our Spring Fayre stalls so if you can spare some time we would be most grateful, either on the day or with setting up the afternoon before. No previous experience required. Options for offering your help are to fill in the slip at the very end of this newsletter and return it to the school office, call the office or alternatively you can email direct to [FishermossPSC@outlook.com](mailto:FishermossPSC@outlook.com) and 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 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 7pm in our staffroom.

To support our Spring Fayre, the PSC have requested a 'Dress as You Please Day' on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May where pupils are asked to bring an item of chocolate to support the chocolate tombola. As with all charitable donations, please only give if you feel you are able to do so.

## Comic Relief Day



As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Comic 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' raising £275. 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 2/3, Mrs Stewart, Miss Richardson and Primary 7 for all their help organising the food! The following words of thanks, from one of the coordinators at the Foodbank, lets us all know how much our efforts have been appreciated:

*'Thank you very much for organising the collection for Aberdeenshire South Foodbank during 'Comic Relief' day. The pupils, parents and staff donated an amazing amount of food, which is now logged in and ready to go out to help local families in food crisis in our area. Last year we were able to help over 800 people by providing 3 days' worth of food. The clients really appreciate that almost all of our food has been donated by local people. Thank you, also, for sorting into food types - that made it much quicker back at our store! Thank you to the enthusiastic helpers from your class packing up and loading my car!*

## School Lunches

A reminder that from week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April the price of a two course standard meal in all Primary and Special Schools will increase by 20p with the same percentage increase applied to the Academy tariff. This was the decision by Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019. A two course standard meal will therefore cost £2.50.

## Some Curriculum News from this Term!

Our Primary 7 and Primary 6/7 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 pupils by preparing the scones and shortbread. Calum Shepherd, one of our 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. 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 an 'Open Afternoon' this term. This was a great opportunity for the children to showcase their learning experiences and the great progress they have made.

Earlier this term our school welcomed **Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre (ALEC)**. 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 workshop where topics included **My Wonderful Body, It's Great to Be Me, Feelings, Welcome to Utopia, All About Me and Friends**. These workshops complement our school's Health and Wellbeing Programme.



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.

The **Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** were invited to deliver a number of workshops from their 'Prevention through Education Programme'. 'Rabbit Rescuers' was delivered to **Primary 1, Primary 2 & Primary 3** pupils by class teachers and encouraged them to think about an animal's needs and feelings. **Primary 4/5 and Primary 5** experienced 'Go Wild' with a focus on Oscar the owl to help pupils open the doors to the **Scottish SPCA's National Wildlife Rescue Centre**. Through learning how to code Oscar, pupils learned amazing facts about the diverse wildlife we have in Scotland, their biology, the environment they live in, and how clever they really are. **Primary 6** experienced 'Pet Patrol' which focused on pet ownership and highlighted that everyone has a duty of care towards animals.

**Primary 1** classes took part in the **2019 Big Schools' Birdwatch**, the world's biggest wildlife survey! All the numbers are now being crunched by scientists and we will hear in due course which bird came out on top!



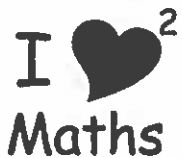
**Primary 2** had a Mr Stuart Allan from the Thomson Memorial Rally Committee to talk to the children about **R W Thomson** as part of their topic work on Famous Scots. For those who don't know, **R.W. Thomson (1822-73)** was the inventor of the pneumatic tyre in 1845 and was born in Stonehaven.



**Primary 4 & 5** pupils have experienced some **Golf** taster sessions this term arranged by our **Active Schools Coordinator, Graeme McCall**.

Primary 4 & Primary 4/5 had a workshop delivered by 4<sup>th</sup> year Pharmacy Students from Robert Gordon's University. This consisted of the students carrying out various activities and speaking to our pupils on the topic of 'Medicines and You'. This supports delivery of our Health & Wellbeing Programme.

Primary 6 took part in the **Scottish Inventors Challenge!** This is a one-day programme for Primary Schools, designed to bring Scottish Inventors into the lives of primary pupils. The pupils designed and created new futuristic inventions and presented this back to the groups in their class in the form of an advert and jingle. Pupils worked collaboratively and independently, developed presentation skills, were able to generate ideas, manage time and resources, able to pitch an idea to an audience and take an idea from concept to a fully developed presentation. This experience gave them an introduction to and an understanding of business and encouraged entrepreneurial thinking.



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

Primary 7 and Primary 6/7 pupils took part in a 'Face Equality Workshop' at school delivered by the charity 'Changing Faces'. The workshop addressed the issue of appearance-related bullying through video, discussion, case studies and butterfly pledges. The aim of the session was to promote inclusion and respect, raise awareness and change attitudes.



### Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and About'

Educational Excursions or 'school trips', as they are often referred to, are used to support delivery of all curriculum areas. The educational excursions experienced by some of our classes this term have supported delivery of Social Studies, commonly known as 'class projects', Religious and Moral Education and Health & Wellbeing. Our Parent Staff Council support significantly with the funding of these excursions.

Primary 4 and Primary 4/5 visited the Mosque in Aberdeen to support delivery of Curriculum for Excellence's Religious and Moral Education Experiences and Outcomes in relation to Islam. The focus of the visit was namely, 'I am discovering how followers of world religions demonstrate their beliefs through prayer/meditation, worship and special ceremonies' and 'I am developing respect for the practices and traditions of others'.

Primary 4/5 and Primary 5 attended the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project at Nigg with a focus on how the environment was being both affected and protected. The visit also focused on the different forms of employment in a project of this scale, further supporting our work as a school on **Developing the Young Workforce**.

Primary 6 and Primary 7 experienced ABSAFE, fully paid for by our Parent Staff Council. The 'SAFE' is a purpose built interactive village in Aberdeen containing real life scenarios coupled with 21<sup>st</sup> 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 is a fantastic active, engaging way to learn valuable safety lessons and leave pupils with the knowledge to make informed decisions that could save lives.

Primary 7 visited the Aberdeen Science Centre and also had the unique opportunity to hear a presentation from a NASA Engineer and an Astronaut. 'Inspirational' is how Rihanna Meredith P7 described the experience and Olivia Inglis P7 thanked the presenters for sharing their 'miraculous experience' with the class. A great opportunity for Developing our Young Workforce!

A group of Primary 7 pupils joined with some other pupils from our cluster schools to participate in a transition workshop on Coding. The workshop not only developed their technology skills but also allowed them to start establishing new friendships and build their confidence in preparation for the move to the Academy.

## Recent Achievements!

Two Primary 7 teams were put forward to the Portlethen District Primary Schools Rotary Quiz. Both teams did extremely well competing against Newtonhill, Hillside and Portlethen. Well done to Emily Law, Uche Ikenwilo, Airlie Robertson, Olivia Inglis, Rosie Laundon, Jonah Case, Jamie Cowell, Rebecca Westland and reserves Abby Dear and Alistair Graham. All are to be commended for their hard work and effort preparing for the quiz in their own time

We are extremely proud of two of our Pupil Council Representatives Airlie Roberston and Emma Melvin, both Primary 7, who have put themselves forward to serve on the Local Youth Platform. The aim of the Platform is to give young people, and the schools they represent, a voice within the wider community, as well as having an opportunity to bid for local funding. Participation within the platform provides young people the opportunity to take part in the decision making process at a local, regional and national level. Airlie recently represented the young people of Portlethen when he participated in a transport consultation, drugs in our schools and communities conversation. Evelyn Hart, Community Learning and Development Worker, said he did a 'phenomenal' job representing the Portlethen Youth Platform.

## Assemblies

We have enjoyed seeing many of 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 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. We know many of our pupils have been spreading the Fair Trade message at home too!

Primary 7 shared what happens at a Burns Supper giving a flavour of what our Senior citizens were going to experience. With this being their last class assembly at Primary School they certainly showcased a wide range of skills and talent developed over the years.

Primary 2/3 finished off our class assemblies for the term with the theme of Weather. They showcased their Music, Art, Drama, Technology and impressive French skills throughout their assembly. Lots of evidence of cooperative work and great enthusiasm. An impressive performance.

We have welcomed visiting speakers to assemblies this term including David Young, Children's Pastor, Rev Rodolphe Kowal our school chaplain and Beth Dobson representing The Boys' Brigade. 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 have also enjoyed Learning Celebration Assemblies and a Hymn Practice in preparation for our Easter Assembly next term.

## February In-Service days-Improvement Planning

Nursery, teaching and support staff were involved in a range of Professional Learning Activities linked with our School Improvement Plan during the Feb In-Set days. Nursery and Support staff joined cluster colleagues for Outdoor Learning training using Loose Parts. Teaching staff also engaged with other colleagues in the cluster focusing on holistic assessments. Teaching and support staff, along with cluster colleagues, had training delivered by our partners in the Speech & Language service. Teaching staff also focused on Learning Celebration Books, French resources to support delivery of the language and Health & Wellbeing.

## Staffing

This term we welcomed back Miss Anderson, Depute Head, who returned from maternity leave. We are most grateful to Mrs Young and to Mrs Sproul Brown for the great job they did as Acting Depute Heads over the past year during Miss Anderson's maternity leave. Miss Anderson is currently covering the role of Additional Support for Learning Teacher with Miss Adam and Miss Weston also providing cover.

Congratulations are due to Mrs Sproul Brown, who following illness, has a new part-time job closer to her home. We are grateful for all she has done to support pupils, parents and staff as Additional Support for Learning Teacher and recently as Acting Depute Head. She also had significant involvement with our School Choir and band over recent years. We wish her a full recovery and many happy days in her new job. We are most grateful to Mrs Young for taking on the role of fulltime Acting Depute Head during Mrs Sproul Brown's absence through illness. This was a significant support to our school.

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 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 Holiday!

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Margaret M Ferguson*

Head Teacher



*Diary dates on following page!*

## Dates for your diary-Term 4 Session 2018-2019

### April

- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> - Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays
- Mon 15<sup>th</sup> April - Term 4 begins for pupils and staff
- Fri 19<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
- Thu 25<sup>th</sup>-Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm -All parents welcome!

### May

- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pupil Reports issued to Parents
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup>-Bank Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> - Fishermoss Football Trophy Night
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 6-8:30pm-details to follow
- Thu 16<sup>th</sup>- Parent Consultations & Book Fayre 3:45-6:15pm-details to follow
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> - Dress as you please day-bring chocolate for our Spring Fayre
- Sat 18<sup>th</sup>- Spring Fayre 10-1pm
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Fri 24<sup>th</sup> - Primary 7 pupils' residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre
- Tue 21<sup>st</sup>- Nursery Induction for Parents 7pm (Session 2019/20 Nursery intake)
- Tue 28<sup>th</sup>- Primary 1 Induction for Parents 7pm (August 2019 Primary 1 intake)

### June

- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:30am Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds-weather permitting
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> - Fishermoss Football AGM 7pm-TBC-All welcome!
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup>- Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event 10:30am Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds-if wet on the 7<sup>th</sup>
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> to Fri 21<sup>st</sup> - P7 pupils' Induction Days at Portlethen Academy
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup>- Pupils meet their teacher for session 2019/20
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup>- 2:30pm New Fishermoss Primary 1 entrants for session 2019/20 meet their teacher
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> -End of Year School Discos-details to follow.
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> & Fri 21<sup>st</sup> - New P1 Pupils & Parents School Lunch Invitation -details to follow
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> - Family Walk-7pm start at school
- Thu 27<sup>th</sup> - Primary 7 Leavers Ceilidh 7-9:30pm

### July

- Thu 4<sup>th</sup> -End of School Year Church Service 9:30am Portlethen Parish Church
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> -Last day of term. Pupils return Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August

## Fishermoss School-Spring Fayre-Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019-Helper Slip!

Please return this slip to the school office



Your Name(s):

Child's class:

Contact telephone number:

E-Mail address: