



Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-July 2019

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



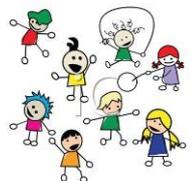
Dear Parents/Carers

In the school calendar Term 4 is always bursting with activities for pupils, staff and parents and this newsletter is filled with 'Thank you' for the significant part Parents and Carers play in the Fishermoss Family.

We were delighted to be able to hold our **Sports Day** and our **Family Picnic** this year with a window in the weather. The family picnic 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 (PSC)** for covering the cost of these. It was great to have Senior Academy Pupils volunteer to help us with our Potted Sports. 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 evening, for our **Family Walk** and had **57** walkers attend this year. Thank you to **TESCO** for supplying the oranges for refreshments.

Thank you to all who attended our **End of Session Church Service**. An end of session service is often an emotional time as we especially focus on our Primary 7 leavers. It is always special to hear the pupils share memories of their time at Fishermoss and they sang beautifully for us. All our Primary 7 pupils, School Choir, Violinists and individual Instrumentalists are to be commended for their preparation and performances for this significant event in our School Calendar. Thank you also to Reece Gordon, Mrs Young & Mrs Stewart for leading our School Choir and to Mrs Davidson for teaching our Violinists. We are most grateful to Parents & Carers for supporting our early start to the school day to accommodate another significant church event that day. The '**Fishermoss Family**' at its best! Thank you also for the contributions to our collection for **Cancer Research**.

This past term has seen numerous events for our Primary 7 pupils as they reach the end of their Primary school years. In addition, we have enjoyed welcoming new children and parents to our school in preparation for our Nursery and Primary 1 classes in August, and new families moving into Portlethen. This term also brought **Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations, Book Fayre, Dress As You Please, 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 **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 **Scott McKenna** 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.

John Muir Award-Well-done to all our **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.

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 assembly and 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 **Niamh Sutherland** this year for **128 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.

Curriculum News this Term!

Pupils in **Primaries 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 **Choir Practice**. High praise also for our **Violin Pupils** who put in the extra hours practising. They are all to be commended for their punctuality, keenness, good behaviour and readiness to work. Together they all create a wonderful tone and should be proud of their hard work and talent.

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have had a **Drugs Talk** delivered by our School's Police Liaison Officer to support delivery of our Health and Well-Being Curriculum. **Primary 4 to 7** classes had a presentation delivered by a Local Ranger about **Pollination**, following a recent discovery of an underground Digger Wasps' nest in our playground.

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Maths

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

Primary 4 & 5 pupils attended a free **Generation Science Show** at School, generously supported by **Total E&P UK Ltd**. Generation Science is the touring Science Education Programme run by Edinburgh International Science Festival. In the theatrical show, 'Smart Grid Science', pupils were transported through the process from electricity creation to its use in the home.



Primary 5 have been helping us continue to fly the flag for all things Eco as they have set up crisp packet **recycling** bins and a **pen recycling** box in school. They also created and opened their very own **Medieval Museum**, inviting parents, and classes across the school, to visit.



Fishermoss Big Talk Family Homework

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we aim to continue to raise attainment in **Numeracy and Maths**, and to further develop the vision set out in '**Developing the Young Workforce**'. This includes developing our children's skills and understanding which prepare them for their future career pathways and the World of Work. Thank you to all our families who participated in a 'Big Talk' at home with their children about how Parents use Maths in the workplace or in everyday life. We had **200** pupils participate with their family, **76%** of the school, which was a great response. It was lovely to see the range of ways pupils captured their conversations in the displays around the school shared at our Parent Teacher Consultations. Thank you to all Parents and Carers who supported our pupils with this activity.

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 all who played in the band, some of whom are former Fishermoss Pupils. Our thanks to Reece Gordon, also a former pupil, for being DJ for the disco tracks, and to all the staff who turned up on the night to help with this event. Our Senior Pupils looked the part with lots of posh frocks, kilts, smart suits and 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 to all the Primary 7 Parents who got involved this year to add some 'extra special' touches. These included supplying and fitting fairy lights in our school hall, setting up a Photo Booth and supplying all the associated accessories, arranging Boogie Buses, providing balloons to decorate the hall and providing delicious baking which included a large cake iced with the names of all our Primary 7 pupils. Thanks also to one of our P7 mum's for taking it upon herself to arrange hoodies for the Primary 7s. Thank you to **R S McColls**, Hillside **Co-Op** and **The Paddock** for donating catering items, **Matalan** for vouchers for table decorations, **McDonalds** for napkins and cups and to Portlethen's **Domino's Pizza** store for providing us with cut price Pizza! We are most grateful to all who helped make our Leaver's Ceilidh a memorable occasion.

Active Schools

Primary 4 & 5 pupils had the opportunity to experience **Rugby** taster sessions this term. We also had a new After School Club on offer with **Multi Sports** provided for all age groups, led by Graeme McCall, our Active Schools Coordinator. **Badminton** and **Yoga** continued to be firm favourites this term.



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 is a whistle stop tour:

Our **Nursery** had the **Critter Keeper** visit with a variety of creatures and beasts.

Our **Primary 1** pupils visited **Castle Fraser** to link with their Fairyland Topic and to give the pupils the opportunity to explore a real Castle!

Primary 2 took a trip to **Drum Castle** in connection with their Famous Scots and Scottish Castles project.

Primary 2/3 enjoyed a day at **St Cyrus Beach** as they looked at pollution on beaches and the impact on wildlife.

Primaries 3 & 4 visited **Balmedie Beach** in connection with their Forces Project to see the Windfarm and its impact on the seascape. This has prompted much discussion! The classes also enjoyed experiencing some Sand Art!

Primary 4/5 have been supporting in the local area with the **Men's Shed** doing some intergenerational local community work supporting them with their **Dementia Garden**.

Primary 5 have also had a local area trip and visited the 'Tea-Room' for 'Afternoon Tea', funded by their Medieval Museum takings.

Primary 6 visited the **Maritime Museum** in connection with their Titanic Topic.

Primary 6/7 took a trip to **Yo Sushi** where they made their very own sushi and enjoyed some samples as part of their Japan project.

Primary 6/7 and **Primary 7** attended a **Careers Fair** at Portlethen Primary to further support 'Developing the Young Workforce'.

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.



All classes showcased their learning from our '**Bounce Back**' programme at a special Whole School Assembly. It was encouraging to hear pupils share where they are on our journey towards becoming more **resilient** and able to '**bounce back**' from life's challenges.

Primary 4/5 took us on a trip with their **Time Machine** back to the year '1919' where they shared how approaches to learning and our diets have changed over the years. Moving on, they took us to the year '2121' where the focus was **Renewable Energy Sources, Vertical Farming** and **Hydroponics** no less! Highbrow learning at Fishermoss! An amazing showcase of their very rich learning where they also shared their views on the skills set that would be required for jobs in the future!

Primary 4 delivered every Head Teacher's dream assembly focusing on **Perseverance, Resilience** and **Resistance!** Highbrow themes continue at Fishermoss! The class had something for everyone as they spoke of bouncing back, not giving up and keeping going! Powerful messages brilliantly presented, and we all loved the Superhero '**Yet**'. The power of yet!

Primary 2 confidently showcased their '**Learning Across the Year**' presenting themes from their Science **Weather** topic, **Day and Night** Project and their study on **Famous Scots!** They even provided singing in French! A very high standard from our little ones!

Primary 6 presented a mature and confident performance with their **Titanic** themed assembly. They sang beautifully, looked amazing and demonstrated excellent drama skills. They impressed us all!

We have welcomed **David Young**, Children's pastor, to school again this term and we also welcomed **Rev Kowal** from our Parish Church to lead our **Easter Monday Assembly**. 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**.

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 this past term. 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. We also had our **Sports Day** presentations at our Golden Assembly where individuals were awarded medals for their achievements in the flat races and certificates were presented for the highest scoring class teams at the Potted Sports. Certificates were also presented to Primary 6 pupils for Bikeability, Primary 7 pupils for their participation in the John Muir Award scheme, and Pupils in Primary 5 to 7 for their First Aid training.



Pupil Council Well-Being Weeks certificates were handed out at our Golden Assembly and the response to our revised award scheme has been amazing. The aim of the Pupil Council's **Well-Being Weeks** was to encourage pupils to make healthy food choices during the month of June by having one of their '**5 a day**' at morning break. Gold certificates were awarded for bringing one of their 5 a day every day, Silver for choosing 3 days each week and Bronze for 1 day each week. An amazing **165** pupils, 65% of the school, participated in the scheme and **106 pupils achieved Gold!** Thank you to parents for supporting this initiative. We received extremely positive feedback from classes about the scheme. Our final Pupil Council meeting of the session indicated a thumbs up for continuing with this next session going for a 4-week block in both Terms 1 & 2 and a 6-week block in Terms 3 & 4. Certificates would be at the end of the year as per our Golden Assembly arrangements. A big thank you to our **Pupil Council** members for all their hard work this past year.

Staff News

Two of our supply teachers who have provided regular teaching cover at Fishermoss over the academic year include Miss Weston, who delivered Additional Support for Learning and Mrs Forbes who provided non class contact time for teaching staff and Additional Support for Learning. We are grateful to them both for their support to our pupils and staff over this past session and I'm sure we will see them again in the new academic year at some point.

August will see us welcome a new member of teaching staff to Fishermoss. We look forward to Miss Blacklaws joining our team and she will be teaching Primary 5.



This time of year can sadly see us saying farewell to staff. Farewell and congratulations are due to Mrs Janette Thom our School Cook. Mrs Thom will be starting a new chapter in her life cooking at a Private Nursery. We are most grateful to her for all she has done to keep the pupils and staff at Fishermoss well fed and nourished over the past 13½ years. We wish her many

happy days in her new job!

We will also be saying farewell to Miss McKay, one of our Early Years Practitioners. We are grateful for all she has done to support our Nursery children over the past year and wish her every success for the future.

Due to budget savings, we will no longer have Miss Sanderson providing Additional Support for Learning for one day per week to our senior classes. She was our Primary/Secondary link member of staff. We are grateful for her support to our senior pupils and she will be a welcome familiar face to our Primary 7 pupils moving up to the Academy. Additional Support for Learning (ASL) for our senior pupils from August will be picked up by our Primary ASL teachers.

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 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 **Friday 21st June** and will run until **Saturday 24th August 2019** Alongside the reading challenge is a creative competition for children to enter. A book token/gift card will be awarded to the "Star Reader" from each Library in Aberdeenshire. Star Readers are invited along to the Prize-Giving event in September. This year, they will also be awarding a prize to an overall **Aberdeenshire Star Reader** from these and the prize for this has been kindly donated by **Mackie's of Scotland** - £100 Book Gift Card and a year's supply of Mackie's Ice Cream! Do go along to Portlethen Library 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, bikeability training, class trips, football 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.

Thank you to all who are involved with our **Parent Staff Council (PSC)** as together we strive to make Fishermoss School the best it can be. Advance notice for Parents who wish to become involved in our **PSC**, as the **Annual General Meeting** is in the new term. We would be delighted to see more parents attend so you can find out what you can do to enhance your child's experiences at school. The **AGM is Wednesday 4th September at 7pm. Please do come along! We need you!** The PSC have already planned the date for our school **Sponsored Walk** for the afternoon of **Friday 27th September**. A date for your diary. It would be great to have parents join us for the walk and parents to support as marshals for the event would also be great. Refreshments will be provided at school after the walk.

We wish Pupils and Parents who are leaving Fishermoss every success for the future! We will miss you but will not forget you. You will always remain part of the Fishermoss Family!

We look forward to hearing all the holiday adventure stories when our pupils return on **Wednesday 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 2019-2020

Monday 19th & Tue 20th August 2019-Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils

Wednesday 21st August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Monday 23rd September Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Thursday 10th October-Last day of Term 1 for pupils

Friday 11th October-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Term 2

Monday 28th October -Start of Term 2

Monday 18th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 19th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Friday 20th December-Last day of Term 2

Term 3

Monday 6th January 2020-Start of Term 3

Thursday 13th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Friday 14th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Monday 17th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Tuesday 18th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Wednesday 19th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Friday 3rd April- Last day of Term 3

Term 4

Monday 20th April- Start of Term 4

Friday 8th May-May Day Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff

Friday 3rd July-Last day of Term 4

Please visit Aberdeenshire website for dates beyond Session 19/220920.