



# Fishermoss School-Term 1 Newsletter-October 2019

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to see how quickly our Primary 1 pupils, new pupils and Nursery children have settled in this term. Special thanks to our Primary 7 buddies for supporting Primary 1 in the playground. It has been good to welcome parents into school this term for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening, Parent/Teacher Consultations and for our Senior Pupils' Abernethy Residential Trip meeting. These were **opportunities to support you to be involved in your child's learning**. We have also welcomed Laurence Findlay, Director of Education, who visited a number of classes, in addition we have enjoyed having several students attend for teaching experience from Aberdeen University and Portlethen Academy this term.

## Parent Staff Council

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who attended our Parent Staff Council (PSC) AGM. There was a great energy in the room with very enthusiastic and supportive parents, and staff, willing to give up precious time for the benefit of all Fishermoss pupils. We are very grateful to those who were willing to serve as Office Bearers which enabled a Council to be formed. We are aware that not all parents are able to attend PSC meetings but do not fear, there will be lots of different opportunities for you to help throughout the course of the year, one being our Christmas Fayre Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. You will notice several references to the PSC throughout this newsletter.

## Annual School Sponsored Walk



It was good to see parents join us on our annual Sponsored Walk and a great time was had by all from Nursery through to Primary 7. We enjoyed near perfect weather given the very wet and cold start to the week! The ice lollies provided by the PSC were a welcome treat for pupils, and parents enjoyed refreshments and a chat in the hall afterwards. Thank you to all who came to help, joined in and to the PSC for organising this event. Thank you to pupils and parents for their efforts to get sponsorship! Every penny raised makes a real difference to our PSC funds and all pupils benefit.

## Halloween Discos

These are being organised by the PSC for **Wed 30<sup>th</sup> October** in Fishermoss School Hall. The party for P1 to P3 pupils will be held 6-7pm and 7:15-8:30pm for pupils in P4 to P7. The entry fee is £2 which includes juice and a sweet. There will be prizes for the best Halloween Costume & Dancers. Something to look forward to after the holidays! **Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils are asked not to wear masks** as this will be the first school party for many of our Primary 1s.



## Staffing

Congratulations to two members of our team who reflect the high calibre of staff at Fishermoss. Mrs Golding, Early Years Practitioner, has been appointed to an Early Years Lead Practitioner position in Aberdeen City. Mrs Young, P2/3 teacher and former Acting DHT, has been appointed as a lecturer at Aberdeen University. We wish them both every success in their new posts and thank them for all they have done to support children, parents and colleagues at Fishermoss. We are grateful to Mrs Bloice who has taken over Mrs Young's teaching responsibilities in Primary 2/3.

## Pupil Council

**'Fishermoss pupils are listened to, valued and respected and feel they are involved in making decisions in the school'**



At Fishermoss School all pupils are **'Global Warriors'**. Being a Global Warrior is about knowing and understanding our world and having the right values, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. It is about positive relationships and building safe, happy and healthy communities. At class circle time meetings, pupils share and discuss ideas for ways to improve our school which includes ways to improve the way we learn and global issues e.g. Healthy Eating, Eco tasks, Fair-Trade etc.

Pupil Council brings together class ideas to decide on the most effective ways to change and improve the school and then talk to those who can help make it happen.

As usual this term, following pupil presentations and class votes, our new **Pupil Council** members have been appointed and were presented with their badges at assembly. Thank you to our **PSC** for providing the badges. Congratulations to **Daniel Wilkins P7, Euan Mitchell P7, Cameron Watt P7, Liam Law P6/7, Isla Barrowman P6/7, Isabella Duncan P6/7, Harvey Kurek P6, Ritchie Horne P5, Georgia Inglis P4/5, Lilly Robertson P4, William Miller P3, Sophia Riley P2/3**. Pupil Council is made up of representatives from Primary 3 to Primary 7. Additional pupils are appointed from P6 and P7 to represent Nursery, P1 and P2. Pupil Council **Well-Being Weeks** have already got off to a flying start!



## Children in Need

As part of our work as **'Global Warriors'**, we will be supporting the Children in Need charity **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov**. All pupils and staff are invited to **'Dress as they please'** and to donate a £1 for the privilege. This can range from pyjamas to sports gear to frocks to fancy dress to casual. Primary classes are also organising various enterprising stalls, in the morning, which will include a range of activities from playing games to selling bakes. Pupils in P1-P7 can bring some extra pennies to school to spend on these activities. As a guide, stall activities will range in price from 20p to a £1. Involvement in this event is a significant part of the curriculum with scope for application of pupils' learning in the use of money ranging from simple coin recognition to profit and loss at some stages. Pupils develop communication skills, teamwork and explore rights and responsibilities. A rich context to develop their skills for learning, life and work! We look forward to a fun filled fundraising Friday at Fishermoss!

## Children's Eye Health & Sight-Free Eye Examinations

All children in Scotland are entitled to an annual free eye examination by a qualified Optician. These examinations are really important for checking the health of your children's eyes and for making sure that children get any help they may need to make the most of their vision. Sometimes children do not notice that one eye cannot see as well as the other and an eye examination can check to see if your child has any squints or 'lazy eyes' or if they need glasses. Vision can change over time, so it is important to have checks regularly to see if there has been any change.

The Optician will give a prescription for glasses for your child if they need it. There is no obligation to buy glasses from the same Optician. Your child is entitled to an NHS optical voucher to help cover the cost of glasses. If the glasses you choose costs more than the voucher, you will have to pay the difference. The Optician will explain this in more detail. We would encourage all parents to take their children to any high street Optician for regular eye examinations whether or not they think they may need glasses.

## Curriculum News this Term!

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, Friends, Feelings, Decisions and bCyberwise**. A Parent/Carer's session was also arranged. These workshops complement our school's Health and Wellbeing Programme.

Mr Josh Gill, Mrs Gill our School Administrator's son, came to deliver a presentation to **Primary 7**, sharing his knowledge, expertise and artefacts on **World War II**. We make use of all members of the extended Fishermoss Family!

**Primary 4** are responsible for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year. The class had a representative from the local rotary club come and kick start the project. They have since been busy preparing and delivering presentations to classes in the hope that they will encourage as many pupils as possible to help those less fortunate to have a special Christmas day! They have been developing their skills for the '**World of Work**' such as planning, organising, communicating, working with others and taking **responsibility**. Boxes were available at our Parent Consultations and the deadline for returning these is Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November.



**Primary 6, Primary 4/5 and Primary 3** had a '**Relax Kids**' taster session at school. 'Relax Kids' helps children learn and use basic relaxation and stress reducing techniques.

**Primary 7** pupils have been developing their **skills for learning, life and work** by undertaking play leader training in class and our Active Schools Coordinator, Graeme McCall, will shortly be assessing the pupils on their skills development. Our senior pupils are trained to be able to organise and teach our younger children games in the playground. The **PSC** supports the funding of our Active Schools Coordinator.

**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 worries, how to deal with them and mindfulness. This is to support them as they prepare for the transition to secondary school.

### Assemblies



Assemblies are held every Monday afternoon for P1 to P3 & P4 to P7. As parents, you will be invited to attend your child's/children's 'Class Assembly' where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of the assembly. Details will appear in class newsletters as appropriate. For children in our Primary 1/2 classes, this will take the form of a Nativity during term 2-details to follow!

Our assemblies very much focus on our school's vision, values and aims. The emphasis being on supporting our pupils to become: **successful learners** with enthusiasm and motivation for learning; **confident individuals** with physical, mental & emotional wellbeing and self-respect and ambition; **responsible citizens** with respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in their community and the wider world and also **effective contributors**, who can communicate, work together, be creative and enterprising.



Regular features at assembly include us focusing on '**Good News about Me**' where pupils share wider achievements and the '**Golden Book**' where individual pupils are given a special mention for significant effort in work, and also in relation to the golden rules. '**Learning Celebration**' assemblies focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking**, have done particularly well and certificates are presented.

Assemblies this term also included our new **Pupil Council Representatives** being introduced and information on their role was shared. We also had a focus on the School's **motto, values** and the **Golden Rules** and what the expectations are for all in the playground, classroom and in the wider community. We've shared the role of all pupils as **Global Warriors** and it being their **responsibility** to be the best they can be.

**David Young**, Children's Pastor from Aberdeen Christian Fellowship, delivered an assembly on **Friendship** and shared the bible story of the crippled man. **Rev Rodolphe Kowal**, Portlethen Parish Church Minister, delivered an assembly on the Creation of the World as told in the book of Genesis in the Bible where God said, 'It is very good'. It gave us an opportunity to consider how we can show respect for, and care for, planet earth.



### Poppy Scotland

As always, we are supporting this important appeal. Collection tins and poppies will be circulating classes after the holidays.

**Finally**, we collected £122.82 at our end of term service in July for Cancer Research. Sincere thanks to all who were able to donate. We are aware there are several references being made to charities and upcoming fundraising events in this newsletter. Do as you feel led and able. There is no expectation that our Fishermoss Families are involved in them all. Every little helps!

Wishing our Fishermoss Family a lovely October break!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson  
Head Teacher



### Dates for your diary-Term 2 2019

#### October

Fri 11<sup>th</sup>- Staff Inservice Day -School closed to pupils & parents.  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup>- Fri 25<sup>th</sup>- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff.  
Mon 28<sup>th</sup>-Term 2 begins  
Wed 30<sup>th</sup> - **PSC** Halloween Discos

#### November

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Show & Tell Curriculum Event 6-7pm  
Thu 7<sup>th</sup> Nov-Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup>- Children in Need Dress as You Please Day & fundraising class stalls  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> & Tue 19<sup>th</sup> - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils & parents.  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup>- **PSC** School Christmas Fayre 6:30-8:30pm

Contd/

## December

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> -Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Community Santa Run

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas Outing to The Lemon Tree - 'Icehouse'-details to follow

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - **PSC** Cinema Night Portlethen Academy

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas Get Together 11:15am/2:45pm

Thu 12<sup>th</sup> - Primary 1/2 Classes- Nativity to P1/2 Parents-2:30pm-details to follow

Tue 17<sup>th</sup>- Primary 1 to 7 Fishermoss School Christmas outing to Cinema-details to follow

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> -School Christmas Lunch-details to follow

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> - End of term Christmas Church Service 9:30am-Portlethen Parish Church

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> - Last day of term 2

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec to Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan-Christmas Holidays!

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020-Term 3 begins!