



Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2019

'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 **£3782!** This is an incredible amount. Well done to all involved, pupils, parents, school staff and extended family members. Great teamwork and a super night with another spectacular Santa's Grotto.



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 **£3400** was raised. The money is to be shared between the 3 schools and 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! **Santa** will be making yet another appearance at Fishermoss to deliver gifts to our Nursery children and Primary 1 pupils. Thank you to our **PSC** for helping Santa with pennies for all the gifts.

It was lovely to see so many of you attend our **Primary 1/2 Nativity**. The children shared the Christmas Story in their performance of 'Hey Ewe'. Thanks also to all who attended the **Nursery Christmas Get Together** for a 'sing song' and mince pies.

We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**Frozen II**' 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 behaviour. Thank you to all our helpers! Our **Nursery** children had a super time also as they attended a performance of '**Ice House**' 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!

Thank you for joining us at our **Christmas Church Service**. Our readers and musicians impressed us all. Our church collection will go to '**Kincardine Home Start**' 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 which was decorated by Senior Pupil Council Representatives. Almost all 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** entertained them with a medley of Christmas songs. **Primary 1/2** classes shared some of their Nativity songs with the residents and our **Nursery** children also impressed the residents with their Christmas songs.

Poppy Appeal-Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £45.78 was raised by 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 as we began work on a draft of our **Relationships and Behaviour Policy**. Thank you to Pupils, Parents and Staff for their contributions to our consultation exercise earlier this term. Responses have helped inform policy content. Our Pupil Support Assistants and Early Years Practitioners also undertook a refresher **First Aid** course and we had a '**Relax Kids**' taster session for staff. Relax Kids is a planned and structured programme which aims to take children from high energy levels to a relaxed state, teaching children about mindfulness and how to feel calm, focused and relaxed. With the rise in child anxiety and mental health issues Relax Kids classes offers children a chance to learn lots of easy and fun ways to manage their mental health and well-being. The sessions teach children relaxation techniques and tools to help them cope with stress and anxiety whilst building their confidence and self-esteem. Our plan is to have a block of 5 sessions delivered to each class next term, as part of our Health & Wellbeing curriculum, and there will also be an invitation to parents to attend a taster session. These sessions are being funded through the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund.

Great Achievements!

Congratulations to **Maya Johnston** in **Primary 7** who was the national winner of a 'Design a Team Crest' competition. Her creative skills won £1000 for Fishermoss and she won a £50 voucher and football shirt of her choice. Well done Maya!

Congratulations to **Keir Duignan P6** for coming up with one of the winning entries for Aberdeenshire's 'Name the Gritter' competition. Look out for a gritter with 'The Grittest Snowman' on the side! That's Fishermoss School's winning entry! Well done Keir!

Congratulations to nearly all our **Primary 7** pupils for achieving their **Play Leaders Award** this term. Many of the pupils involved in the Play Leader Training have been extremely enthusiastic and keen to learn. Pupils develop leadership skills such as organisation, communication, cooperation and a sense of responsibility. This award is assessed by our Active School's coordinator.



Adverse Weather Arrangements

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

Support from Local Businesses

We are most grateful to three neighbouring local businesses for their support of Fishermoss School. We recently received **£400** from '**McColls**' as part of their 'Making a Difference Locally' Charity. The money was used to purchase replacement Art Materials and Christmas Craft Resources. '**Portlethen's Place to Eat**' has also made a number of contributions to our Parent Staff Council funds over recent years through customer donations. The '**Sitting Room**' have written to advise us of their intention to have Fishermoss School as their chosen charity and they will donate any funds raised during 2020 towards our school. The Sitting Room has previously supported charities such as Befriend a Child, Cornerstone and UCAN (Urological Cancer Charity). We are most grateful, and encouraged, by the support provided by all these local businesses.

Fishermoss School has also received **£114** from the **Evening Express** through their '**Pounds for Primaries**'. Thank you to all who handed in tokens. This money will be used to replace PE equipment.

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 **£1118** 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.



As part of the curriculum pupils learn about the natural environment, signs of seasons and learn to take care for and enjoy nature. All **Primary 1 to Primary 3** pupils were given two daffodil bulbs and a plant pot to take home and their homework was to plant and look after the bulbs until they flower in the Spring. Kirktown Garden Centre in Stonehaven have teamed up with Taylors Bulbs and their '**Little Daffodils Campaign**' to get children planting bulbs this Autumn. As part of their Centenary Year celebrations, Taylors Bulbs set up the Little Daffodils initiative to get more children interested in gardening. The campaign also supports Green Fingers Charity who create beautiful, outdoor spaces for children in hospices to enjoy.

Our **Nursery** children are enjoying having **Football Sessions** once a month. This supports the children with turn taking, developing listening skills and their gross and fine motor skills. They have also been showcasing to parents their learning experiences through Nursery '**Stay and Play**' sessions. Rev Kowal, from Portlethen Church has also been in visiting **Nursery classes** to share the **Christmas Story**.

Pupils in **Primary 1 to Primary 3** attended a **Road Safety Magic Show** at school. This event was organised by Aberdeenshire Council. **Primary 4 to 7 classes** attended a production of **Pinocchio** at school earlier this term. Our thanks to the **PSC** for funding this event.



Primary 2/3 took part in a school-based research project in conjunction with **Aberdeen University**. The **Enterprise Project** involved the children designing and creating a house suitable for flood plain areas. They worked in cooperative groups and further developed their skills in creativity, problem solving, resilience, collaboration and evaluation. The class had a visit from a Flood Prevention Officer as an additional stimulus to the project.

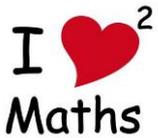


As part of their Social Studies work, **Primary 4/5** took a **Fishing Trip** to Lochter Activity Centre. The class have been reading the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, which is set on a desert island, and the main characters need to catch fish to eat. When planning their learning at the start of the term, some of the class suggested they learn to fish, and that they did! It is not often that pupils return from a trip having caught their evening meal! We like 'to push the boat out' with our learning experiences at Fishermoss!

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 our Primary 7 pupils. We think we may see some of our pupils on 'The Apprentice' or 'Dragon's Den' one day!



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** 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**. An amazing **117 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School which is a fantastic response and £139 of monetary donations were received to help cover the transport costs of delivering the boxes. It was touching to hear from our pupils what they had included in their boxes and their thoughts about the recipients. The Fishermoss Family reaching out to help others yet again!



All **Primary 4** 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.

Aberdeen University Business School delivered various workshops to several classes this term to support our **Developing the Young Workforce** agenda. **Primary 4/5** participated in a '**Phone Box Exercise**'. Recent news indicates that BT are to be getting rid of phone boxes in the North East. This workshop allowed pupils to think what else could be done with phone boxes and how their new idea could be marketed. **Primary 4/5 & Primary 5** experienced a '**Marketing Workshop**' which looked at slogans, branding, USPs and target audiences before a hands-on exercise for selling products and adapting products to different audiences. **Primary 6 & Primary 6/7** had a '**Money Matters**' workshop. After talking about the purpose of money and budgeting, pupils were invited to examine income and expenditure, ways of saving money and needs vs wants.



Primary 6 and Primary 6/7 pupils were involved in the **planting of trees** in Portlethen Community Woodland. 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.

Primary 6/7 took a trip to the **Maritime Museum** as part of their class project on the Highland Clearances. This provided hands on experience of some artefacts from this period.

Primary 7 pupils attended a musical concert at Portlethen Academy as one of their transition events. This gave them the opportunity to meet up with other Primary 7 pupils in our school's network as well as the opportunity to experience the musical talents of former Fishermoss pupils.



All our **Primary 7** pupils attended an exciting event organised by the **Society for Underwater Technology (SUT)** at the **Aberdeen Music Hall**. The event was specifically aimed at P7 school children to learn more about the career opportunities that our oceans have to offer. The event included a structured mix of audio-visual presentations by leading industry experts from a range of underwater science and technology backgrounds. The presentations included **Seashore to Sea Floor** presented by Macduff Marine Aquarium, **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV's)** presented by ROVOP and one on **Saturation Diving**.

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 also recognised pupils who are making the effort to participate in our **well-being weeks**. Hopefully in the New Year we will see more pupils bringing in one of their 5 a day as part of their daily 'play-piece'.



All classes were involved in a **Bounce-Back 'Show and Tell' Assembly** where they all shared what they had been learning and focusing on through our whole school Resilience Programme, known as 'Bounce Back.' Classes shared books they had read with inspirational key messages such as, 'Bad times don't last', 'Life doesn't get easier, but you get stronger', 'Treasure each day', 'Keep calm and bounce back' and 'Love always'. They spoke about the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and strategies they can use for solving life's problems such as talking to friends, not catastrophising things and the power of yet! We continue to focus on putting all these into practice!

David Young, Children's Pastor, delivered an assembly on **Equality**. We also have our regular **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. Our **Primary 1/2 classes** also left us suitably impressed and ready for Christmas as they shared their **Nativity** with all classes in their dress rehearsal.

New Build Nursery and School Building Improvements

Many of you will have already seen in the press recently that Fishermoss School is having a new purpose-built Nursery. Copies of the plans are available for viewing in our Nursery cloakroom and preparatory works are expected to begin in earnest the New Year. This will mean certain areas of our playground will have restricted access. As previously shared, our staff carpark will be affected by preparatory works and will now be out of action from Monday 6th January for two weeks. This means that staff will be required to use Bourtree carpark which will mean fewer available spaces for parents. To put it into the words of our Pupil Council, parents and pupils are being encouraged to 'skate, cycle or walk to school instead of travelling by car!' Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

All open areas and corridor spaces outside our classrooms in our school building are also being refurbished. These internal works will also begin at the end of January and will happen in a phased programme of works. We have been involved in the planning of this with the contractors to ensure business as usual! There will be an element of short-term pain for long term gain and some classes will be decanted for a week or so to spare classrooms while the works are being undertaken. We do have the luxury of 3 empty classrooms that we can move classes to, as and when necessary, and learning and teaching will continue as usual.

Thank you for your acts of kindness and words of encouragement this past school term. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2020.

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 2020

Mon 6th- Pupils and Staff return to school

Wk beginning Mon 27th - Interim Pupil Report being issued by the end of this week & Learning Celebration Books go home.

Wed 29th & Thu 30th- Senior Pupils' Burns Event for Senior Citizens-by invitation only!

February

Wed 5th- Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm-All welcome!

Thu 13th, Fri 14th & Mon 17th - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 18th & Wed 19th-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Fri 21st - School Photographer- Sibling Photographs

Mon 24th Feb-8th March-Fair Trade Fortnight

March

Fri 13th - Sports Relief 'Dress as you Please'

Wk beginning Mon 30th - Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments homework diaries.

April

Fri 3rd April - Last day of Term

Mon 6th - Fri 17th April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 20th April - Pupils & staff return to school