



# Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter-April 2020

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



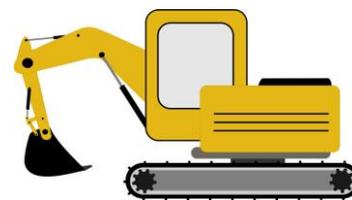
Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope this newsletter finds you all well and coping with the challenging circumstances we find ourselves in. Thank you all for being so supportive over the past few weeks as we adjust to a very different way of life and a very different way of trying to be your children's School! To members of our Fishermoss Family who are frontline keyworkers and NHS staff we applaud you all and we know we will never be able to thank you enough. Sincere thanks also to Fishermoss School Staff who have supported cluster colleagues to provide childcare at the Portlethen Hub based at Hillside School.

Hopefully the following news from Fishermoss School will be a welcome distraction from COVID-19!

## Building Improvements

This past term has seen a flurry of activity at Fishermoss with internal and external building work taking place. Our new build Nursery has been going up at an incredible rate which has added much excitement to playtimes and lunchtimes as our pupils enjoy seeing the progress being made. Our Nursery children have had visits to the site office and the construction team have certainly welcomed them as the children have appeared with home bakes including banana loaf and pancakes! Our Nursery children have been rewarded for the tasty treats by way of exciting learning experiences inside the diggers! The construction work going on has provided rich learning opportunities.



Internal building work saw several of our classes being relocated to spare classrooms to avoid any impact on Learning & Teaching. We are delighted with the results and look forward to the other break out spaces throughout the school having the same make over, in addition to a sensory room being created. All works have however been stopped for now.

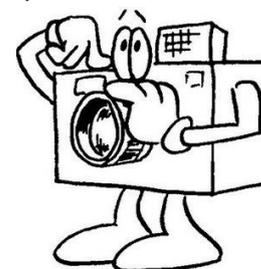
Thank you all for being so supportive of the ongoing building work. You have been very accepting of the fact that our playground has looked like a bomb site alongside the fact that Fishermoss staff and construction workers have been using up your parking spaces in Bourtree Carpark! Our pupils have coped extremely well with any changes to routine and the lack of space in our playground!

## School Funds

Our Parent Staff Council **Christmas Card Art Project** raised £230.50. Thank you to all who were involved and ordered cards designed by our budding artists at Fishermoss!

Thank you also to Papa Bob Anderson, our Depute Head's dad, for his most generous donation of £350. We are touched by his kindness in choosing Fishermoss School to benefit from the money he raised by selling his handicrafts through '**Papa Bob's Woodcraft**'. This is greatly appreciated and will make a difference to us as we rely heavily on additional funds raised through our Parent Staff Council. We are setting this money aside until we think of a specific item that we need. It is likely, following the internal building works being completed, we will have things we wish to purchase to further enhance our breakout spaces in the school.

Pupil photographs organised by school with **Tempest Photographers**, and purchased by parents, raised £154.40 for school funds.



## Sports Relief Day

As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Sports 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 **£226**. Fishermoss families also supported the Cyrenians 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 3 and Miss Sang for all your work organising this event! Given the current situation we know many families will desperately need the support of food banks so thank you to all who were able to contribute.



## 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, dancing, instrumental musical pieces, our very own ventriloquist.....a first for Fishermoss, 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. Calum Shepherd and Calum Graham, two of our former pupils, also attended and performed and there was a wonderful atmosphere at school as pupils shared some quality time with more 'worldly wise' 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** have continued to enjoy 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.



**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. A member of staff from **Portlethen Library** also visited **Primary 2** and **Primary 3** pupils to promote the use of the local Library.

The **Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** were invited to deliver a number of workshops from their 'Prevention through Education Programme'. '**Happy Hamsters**' was delivered to **Primary 1 to Primary 3** pupils by class teachers and it encouraged them to think about an animal's needs and feelings. **Primary 4 to 7** experienced '**Animaltronics**' where they programmed a robotic animal's behaviour using an i-pad. The focus of the activities was very much about animal welfare!

Both our **Primary 1/2** classes took part in the 2020 **Big Schools' Birdwatch**, the world's biggest wildlife survey! Many of our pupils continued to engage with it at home too, bringing in lots of extra work from home. All the numbers are now being crunched by scientists and we will hear in due course which bird came out on top!



**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 1 to 7** pupils attended a '**Mindset Matters**' whole school presentation delivered by Live-N-Learn. Pupils in **Primary 4 to 7** then attended workshops on **Changing Mindsets and Building Resilience**. Thank you to all who attended our **Parent/Staff Workshop** delivered by '**Live-N-Learn**'. The workshop offered a flavour of the experiences our pupils had, including some of the important messages delivered. The session also provided some practical advice and useful tips on **building resilience, developing personal responsibility** and fostering a '**growth mindset**'.

**Live-N-Learn** have supported over 1000 schools across the UK & Europe providing on inspirational programmes & resources to build confidence, develop resilience & cultivate growth mindsets. As a motivational training provider, they focus on personal responsibility and believe that with determination, hard work, grit and the right method, our potential is unknown! The Live N Learn workshops for Pupils, Parents and Staff were funded by our allocation from the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund.

Pupils in **Primary 1 to 7** all received '**Relax Kids**' sessions delivered by a Relax Kids coach, with the key purpose of **promoting positive mental wellbeing**. Unfortunately, we were only able to deliver 3 out of the 5 planned sessions before the closure of schools came into effect and we also had to cancel our Parent session. The sessions delivered provided the children with a range of strategies to help them learn and use relaxation techniques. The plan had been that throughout the block of sessions, they would further develop resilience, build confidence and become more aware of their feelings. They were learning how to successfully manage their emotions and remain calm and focused. The lessons are based on a Monster Emotions theme and were both fun and interactive. In each lesson the children were taken through a 7-step process, taking them from high energy to complete relaxation. The 7 steps were: Moving, Playing, Stretching, Feeling, Breathing, Believing and Relaxing. Little did we know just how much our pupils would need these strategies over the coming weeks! These sessions were funded through our school allocation of the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund. Looking ahead, 'Relax Kids' would be something we would plan to pick up again and continue with.

**Portlethen Academy Youth Forum**, supported by Community Learning and Development, have been doing some valuable work with our **Primary 6 and 7 pupils** regarding internet safety. This would be something we would hope to continue when we are all back at school!

### **Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and Aboot'**

Our **Nursery Children** have been doing their bit in the community as they have made two visits to spend time with the residents at **Lethan Park Care Home** this past term. They played games with the residents including dominoes and picture match. Some children were drawing with the residents, talking about what they like doing and others sang songs. A lovely example of different generations coming together.



**Primary 4/5** have been to the **Portlethen Moss** to complete a **Wildlife/Habitat Survey** as part of their class project. They also invited a **Countryside Ranger** and a representative from the **RSPB** in to talk to them about their jobs, as we continue to look at ways of **Developing our Young Workforce**. The class also took a trip to the **Torry Battery** to undertake a **Dolphin Watch**. Unfortunately, the dolphins didn't come out to play that day but the class did enjoy seeing other wildlife.

**Primary 7** visited the **Gordon Highlanders Museum** to support their class topic on World War II and **Primary 6/7** attended the **Yo Sushi** restaurant in Aberdeen where they made their very own sushi and enjoyed some samples, as part of their Japan project.

## Recent Achievements!

Two **Primary 7** teams were put forward to the **Portlethen District Primary Schools Rotary Quiz**. Both our teams did extremely well, competing against Newtonhill, Hillside and Portlethen with the final score resulting in one of our Fishermoss Teams winning! A fantastic outcome! Congratulations to the winning team including Fynn Matthews, Arran Cameron, Amy Walker, Eilidh Mitchell and their reserve Corey Stephen. A big well done to our other team members, Aimee Thomson, Aiden Corr, Aaron Burns, Bailey Horne and reserve Alex Duncan. All are to be commended for their **hard work** and effort preparing for the quiz in their own time. Our winning team were due to compete at the Aberdeen final at Robert Gordon's College, with reserve Aiden Corr stepping in, but unfortunately this was cancelled! We are however delighted that they brought home the silver shield from the local district round and should be proud of their achievement there.

This term was also to see the **Aberdeenshire Euro Quiz** take place. Our two **Primary 6** teams being put forward were Team 1 Kaeden Mackay, Ryan Durham, Abbie Russell and Nairn Mathers and Team 2 Keir Duignan, Tobe Ikenwilo, Cameron Wright and Owen Geddes. Charlie McCombie was Fishermoss reserve. Well done to them all for being selected to represent Fishermoss School but unfortunately the Euro Quiz was another cancelled event this term. There's always the Rotary Quiz next year which Fishermoss School will be hosting, and the pressure will be on to keep the silver at home!

## 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 staff attended a two-day Makaton course. Makaton being a language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. Our Pupils Support Assistants joined cluster colleagues for Forest Schools Training to support outdoor learning, in addition to a refresh on Restorative Approaches to support Positive Behaviour and Relationships. Teaching staff were involved in a session led by 'Live N Learn' on changing Mindsets and Building Resilience and they also engaged with other Primary and Secondary colleagues in the cluster focusing on Assessment and Moderation.

## 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 & Primary 6/7** shared the entertainment our Senior citizens were going to experience at their **Burns Coffee Mornings**. 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 4/5** shared their learning and the skills they had developed through their project based around the novel **Kensuke's Kingdom** by Michael Morpurgo. They spoke of perseverance, resilience, respect, differing strengths we all have and the importance of teamwork, variables and hypothesis in relation to science experiments they had undertaken, keeping safe online, the importance of talking and the list goes on and on! They did a fantastic job of showcasing their rich learning experiences from their class project.

**Primary 2/3** looked and sounded wonderful for their **Early Man** assembly! They shared their cave paintings, costumes, jewellery and instruments they'd designed, including pots made with clay! Lots of creative activities through group work had been happening in class as part of this project. There were some scary mammoth hunters amongst them! A great performance from them all!

**Primary 4** finished off our class assemblies for the term with the theme of **Making a Difference**. The key messages were the positive impact we can have on someone's day, anyone can be kind and together we can change the world! They spoke of people who inspired them including family members, they spoke of having goals and persevering to achieve them with the importance of practise, practise, practise and not giving up! They were truly inspirational in every way. The perfect assembly given the circumstances we currently find ourselves in.

We have welcomed visiting speakers to assemblies this term including **David Young**, Children's Pastor and a representative from Live N Learn who delivered an assembly with the theme '**Mindset Matters**'. We also held our **Golden Assembly** and had new faces, and many faces remaining, on our **Fishermoss Tree** which recognises pupils who have not lost Golden Time. We also recognised pupils who are making the effort to participate in our **well-being weeks**. We have also enjoyed **Learning Celebration Assemblies**. Given our Easter Assembly planned for 30<sup>th</sup> March didn't happen there will be lots of online Easter Church Services sharing the significance of this time of year. Despite places of worship being closed, many are still delivering regular online opportunities for worship.

**Finally**, these are exceptional and very challenging and rapidly changing circumstances we find ourselves in and the weeks to come will test us all. Not meaning to add to existing disappointments, but I have included at the end of this newsletter events that would have normally taken place during Term 4. Some of the events will still happen but just in a different way, that we are yet to work out! For example, pupil reports will be issued at some point during term 4 but just not all at the same time. Support for transition for pupils at Primary 7 to S1 and Nursery to Primary 1, and also for children across the school, will still happen but again when and what that will look like remains to be seen. The expression being used frequently just now is flying the plane while still designing it! Some events sadly just can't happen. We have as many unanswered questions as you do.

As I said previously, our school motto of 'Being the best we can be' will certainly be put to the test over the coming days and weeks but the Fishermoss Family can do this! Like many of you, I continue to pray hard!

Please tell your children I miss them all so much and I have been super impressed with the work they have been doing! I saw some lovely pieces of poetry this week from some of our senior pupils! Sending them all a virtual hug!

Wishing you all a lovely Holiday and please stay safe!

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Margaret M Ferguson*

Head Teacher



(Please see following page for Term 4 & some dates)

## Term 4

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - start of Term 4 for Pupils and Staff-Remote Learning & Teaching resumes!

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May-Holiday! No remote Learning & Teaching today!

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May Dress as you please day-Eat lots of chocolate instead of bringing it to school!

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Last day of term!

Parent Staff Council Meetings

Pupil Reports issued to Parents

Fishermoss Football Trophy Night

Parent Consultations & Book Fayre

Spring Fayre

Primary 7 pupils' residential trip to Abernethy Outdoor Centre

Nursery Induction for Parents (Session 2020/21 Nursery intake)

Primary 1 Induction for Parents (August 2020 Primary 1 intake)

Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports & Family Picnic

Fishermoss Football AGM

P7 pupils' Induction Days at Portlethen Academy

Pupils meet their teacher for session 2020/21

New Fishermoss Primary 1 entrants for session 2020/21 meet their teacher

End of Year School Discos

New P1 Pupils & Parents School Lunch Invitation

Family Walk

Primary 7 Leavers Ceilidh

End of School Year Church Service Portlethen Parish Church