



Fishermoss School-Term 1 Newsletter-October 2020

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

As previously shared, it has been a joy to see children back in our school this term. It has been a term like no other, but it has been great to see how quickly all our children have settled back at school and adjusted. The horrendous weather conditions we experienced on the morning of August 12th seems a lifetime ago. Sadly, this will not be the case for families who experienced the tragic loss of loved ones that day.

Primary 1 pupils, new pupils and Nursery children have settled in so well this term despite having missed out on the usual transition events before the summer. I think it's safe to say we are all just thrilled to be back safely at school and that we remained fully open throughout this term. It has been good to be able to undertake the usual events for Parents this term, albeit in a very different manner. Our Primary 1 Curriculum Event was conducted through Microsoft Teams and Parent/Teacher Consultations by telephone. These were **opportunities to support you to be involved in your child's learning**.

Classes & Staffing

This term saw us welcome new members of staff to the Fishermoss Family, in both our Primary School and Nursery. Miss Kevan and Miss Mellis have joined our teaching staff team with Miss Adele Kevan teaching Primary 3 and Miss Shona Mellis teaching a range of classes in the school. We have two new posts in our Nursery, Miss Natalie Munro, who following interview just before lockdown, was appointed to the position of Early Years Senior Practitioner. Also joining the Nursery Team is Miss Paula Sherratt as an Apprentice Early Years Practitioner. They are already feeling very much at home and are welcome additions to our staff team.



Parent Staff Council

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who attended our Microsoft Teams Parent Staff Council (PSC) AGM and to those who put in their apologies but are very keen to be involved. The meeting was a great success! We are very grateful to those who are willing to serve as Office Bearers which has enabled a Council to be formed. Our new Chairperson is Morag Kennedy, Treasurer Amanda Stephen, Secretary Louise Burnett, Uniform Co-ordinator Hazel Willox, and Purchaser Claire Alexander. Thank you all for putting yourselves forward.

Thank you to our Parent Council for supporting us with the recent consultation exercise regarding the rezoning of Hillside School. Hazel Willox and Anne Wilkins attended an online meeting with representatives from Education Scotland.

Thank you to all Parents who previously served on our PSC. We are extremely grateful for all they did for the Pupils and Staff at Fishermoss. They made a significant contribution to the life and work of the school over many years. As I say so often, you will always be a part of the Fishermoss Family!



Portlethen Pumpkin Parade-Community Event

Our Parent Staff Council are creating some fun for the children and bringing the village together for Halloween! Families from Fishermoss School, Portlethen Primary and Hillside School have been invited to display a decorated pumpkin or to decorate the outside of their house for Halloween. There are great prizes for the best decorated pumpkin and best decorated house. Pumpkins and House Decorations are to be displayed between Friday 30th October 2020 - Sunday 1st November 2020 to allow everyone the chance to see each one.

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 have been presented with their badges. Congratulations to **Aaron McPake P7, Gregor Murray P7, Keir Duignan P7, Jessica Thompson P6/7, Aiden Zanre P6/7, Bailey Cran P6, Katy Forbes P6, Ruby Watson P5, Maya Robertson P4/5, Layla Mitchell P4, Ellie Gray P3/4 and Alivia Lawrie P3**. Pupil Council is made up of representatives from P3 to P7. Additional pupils are appointed from P6 and P7 to represent Nursery, P1 and P2. Thank you to our **PSC** for providing their badges. P6 & P7 Pupil Council Members were set to work immediately as they took part in an online meeting with representatives from Education Scotland regarding the rezoning consultation for Hillside School.

Children in Need

As part of our work as '**Global Warriors**', we will be supporting the Children in Need charity on **Friday 13th Nov**. All pupils and staff are invited to '**Dress As They Please**' and to make a donation. This can range from pyjamas to sports gear to frocks to fancy dress to casual. Due to the current pandemic we will not be organising the usual enterprising stalls but we shall look forward to a fun filled fundraising Friday at Fishermoss!



Curriculum News this Term!

Primary 4 are responsible for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year. They have since been busy preparing and delivering presentations 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 are now available from school. Pupils just need to let their teacher know they are interested in obtaining one. The deadline for returning these is Friday 6th November. Information about suitable contents was emailed to parents.

We have also been pleased to welcome back our **Piano** and **Violin** instrumentalist tutors this term. Lovely to hear and see our Piano and Violin pupils getting to enjoy these lessons again!



Assemblies

Due to the current pandemic we are unable to gather for school assemblies. Assemblies are however held every Monday afternoon live online. Technology allows for the Head Teacher to appear in eleven classes at the same time! Perish the thought of 11 Mrs Fergusons! 'Class Assemblies' are still planned to go ahead where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of an assembly. Details will appear in class newsletters of how you can access these remotely, as and when appropriate. We are unfortunately not anticipating being able to invite parents into school any time soon!

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 have included 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 and also an assembly about **Bouncing Back!** We've shared the role of all pupils as **Global Warriors** and it being their **responsibility** to be the best they can be. We will continue to embed key messages in relation to *Global Warriors* going forward.

David Young, Children's Pastor from Aberdeen Christian Fellowship, created an assembly on the **Genesis Creation Story** and the health benefits of spending lots of time outside. **Rev Rodolphe Kowal**, Portlethen Parish Church Minister, created a video of **Prayers for Portlethen** as we began the new school year. **Graeme McCall** our **Active Schools** coordinator also created a video to introduce himself, keep in touch and had lots of suggestions for our pupils to keep healthy and active! It has been lovely to keep in touch with familiar faces at school by technology.



Poppy Scotland

As always, we are supporting this important appeal. Poppies will be available to children in school week beginning Monday 2nd November. Pupils can request a poppy from their teacher and put a donation in a pot in their classroom. Poppies will have been quarantined for 72 hours!

Christmas Card Art Project

This is another fundraising event the Parent Staff Council are organising. Always super to see the children's own artwork turned into professional cards. Please refer to the e mail sent earlier this week. A nice activity to get involved in during the October Holidays! **Artwork must be back to school for the 12th of November. All orders to be placed online by the 10th of November.**



Health Matters!

Norovirus, sometimes referred to as the **winter vomiting bug**, is the most common cause of gastrointestinal outbreaks and can occur in the community-schools and nurseries in particular, especially at this time of year.

What are the symptoms?

The symptoms caused by noroviruses are usually a sudden onset of non-bloody, watery **diarrhoea and/or vomiting** which can be projectile, usually lasting 1-2 days. Other symptoms may include abdominal cramps, muscle aches, headache, a feeling of weakness and a slightly raised temperature. Staff/pupils can become symptom free then relapse with more symptoms a few days later.

Norovirus infection can occur throughout the year but is **most common from mid-October to April**. The virus is highly contagious; therefore, isolation is key in stopping the spread of infection by limiting the contact between sick staff/pupils and those who could contract the illness. Staff/pupils who are sick should stay home from school until they have recovered.

Further information regarding preventing the spread of infection can be found on our website under the tab Information→Healthcare & Medical with a link to:

<https://fishermoss.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Norovirus-Managing-Gastrointestinal-Infection-in-Schools.docx>

Head Lice

Advice to Schools is that the Education of Parents and Carers on how to prevent and deal with head lice should be an integral part of the school's programme of information to parents. Apologies as this is an area we could and should do better! I have dropped my guard, and have fallen short of the mark, in reminders about health matters other than COVID. Challenging not to in the middle of a Pandemic!

The following are statements taken from the most up to date policy from the NHS. The Health Protection Team, who deal with everything relating to infection control, immunisations and currently Covid, have advised our School Nurse that the policy remains as the 2007 one as no advice or information has changed relating to it.

'Transmission of lice within the classroom is relatively rare. When it does occur, it is usually from a "best friend". The majority of head lice infestations come from the community via a member of the household or extended family. At any one time, most schools will have up to 5% of children who have active head lice infestation'. We are hopeful with the current restrictions in place that numbers of cases will reduce!

Parents are responsible for:

- Making sure that all family members know about good hair care, including regular thorough combing.
- Being vigilant for the signs of early infestation (e.g. louse casts and faeces on the pillow)
- Regular (weekly) detection combing, on wet hair with a head louse detector comb, and additional detection combing if informed that a member of the family or household has been in contact with someone with head lice.

- Using lotions according to instructions - but **ONLY** if live lice are found. Nits are **NOT** live lice, they are empty egg cases and will remain after the lice are dead. They can be manually removed or will grow out with the hair.
- Contact tracing - telling all close contacts of infected members of the household/family.
- Informing the school/nursery/childminder when a child is found to have head lice.

A copy of the [Headlice 2007 NHS Policy](#) is available on our website by following this link or the link under the tab Information→Healthcare & Medical. The following link may also prove useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

The Larder-Coronavirus Community Care Group

The Larder are still helping local families who may find themselves in the position of losing jobs, reduced salaries, awaiting new universal credit claims or anybody who may find some weeks a bit of a struggle. They are not a Food Bank and have choice and variety of foods, toiletries and cleaning supplies. No referral is needed, and no details are recorded. Just pop in by and grab what you need. **Contact Details: The Larder - Porty Cabin, Cookston Road, Portlethen (across from Portlethen primary school) tele 07376 133870**

Best Start Grant-£250 to help with their next big step!

If your child was born between 1 March 2015 and 29th February 2016 and you get benefits or tax credits, you could be eligible for School Age Payment. People are encouraged to apply online at mygov.scot/beststart or call 0800 182 2222.

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!

Finally, as we go our separate ways for the October Holidays, we are all being asked to remember, at all times, when we are out and interacting with other people, the **FACTS** rules:

- face coverings
- avoid crowded areas
- clean hands and surfaces
- two metre distancing
- and self-isolate and book a test if you have symptoms of the virus

We are aware several families are heading overseas during the October Break. Please be sure to regularly refer to the Scottish Government website regarding **quarantine requirements** as these are changing daily.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/self-isolation/>

Wishing our Fishermoss Family a lovely October break! Stay Safe!

Please see below for dates for next term!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher



Dates for your diary-Term 2 2020

October

Mon 12th- Fri 23rd- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff
Mon 26th-Term 2 begins
Fri 30th- Sun 1st Nov- **PSC** Halloween Pumpkin Parade

November

Fri 6th Nov-Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school
Tue 10th - Pupil Show & Tell Curriculum Event on-line. Learning Celebration Books go home!
Fri 13th- Children in Need Dress as You Please Day!
Fri 20th - Staff In-Service Day-School closed to pupils
Wed 25th- Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm

December

Wed 2nd -Flu vaccinations
Fri 18th - Last day of term 2
Mon 21st Dec to Mon 4th Jan-Christmas Holidays!
Tue 5th January 2021-Term 3 begins!