



## Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2020

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and coping with these challenging and uncertain days that we find ourselves in. We are genuinely touched by the support of our Parents and Families, not just through the Parent Staff Council but in so many different ways. Your **kindness** and **hard work** put in to support our school, and others, is second to none.



The start of this term saw our New Nursery Building open. The building and the landscaped outside space are wonderful! The free flow our children have to the outdoors is what we have wanted for a very long time. Never in our wildest dreams did we think it would be so fantastic! If you haven't done so already then do visit the Nursery tab → New Nursery Building 2020 on our website to see more amazing professional photographs like this one.

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! This time of year, especially, brings an exciting buzz to our school! **Only an 8-week term and all of this happened.....**

Santa made an 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. An incredible total of **£4,400** was raised. The money is to be shared between the 3 schools and the **Archie Foundation**. Thank you to parents, members of the community and local businesses involved in the organisation and implementation of it all!



Our **Primary 1** pupils were stars in their **Nativity!** The children confidently shared the Christmas Story in their production of '**Old Uncle Sam**'. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing their performance at our online assembly and hope their parents did too!

We had a super whole school **Christmas Cinema/Panto** morning! All classes enjoyed a movie in their classrooms and some classes chose to join the Aberdeen Arts Centre & TaleGate Theatre Productions for their magical pantomime stream for schools of Aladdin! A great time was had by all! A huge thank you to the **PSC** for providing the videos and funding the purchase of USB DVD Drives so all could enjoy the virtual cinema experience at the same time.

Our **School Christmas Lunch** was another special school occasion. Well done and thank you to our School Cook and all our kitchen staff. **Class Christmas Parties** were also a great success. A big thank you again to the **PSC** for supplying **party bags** and **reindeer candy canes**, in addition to giving Santa some pennies for gifts for our Nursery and Primary 1 Classes. **Snacks** for his reindeer will be going home with pupils this week!

Our **Christmas Church Service** was held online at school and we are very grateful to Rev Rodolphe Cowal for his recording. Our readers and musicians also impressed us all. Please follow the link if you wish to see the minister's message <https://youtu.be/FQ5XXI3VmRE>.





**Poppy Appeal**-Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £118.66 was raised in School. This is more than double last year's total. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

### Children in Need

Kindness Day UK is celebrated nationwide annually, **13th November**. It is a day to celebrate and promote kindness in all its forms. The Fishermoss Family have certainly been showing acts of kindness in many ways. Money donated for our **Children in Need** Dress as You Please Day came to £467 which is an amazing result! There were significant acts of kindness shown with piggy banks being emptied. Fabulous to see superheroes, princesses, Pudsey Bears, Mermaids, Harry Potters and a Fireman, to name but a few, arriving at school!



### Great Achievements!

Congratulations to all our **Primary 6** 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.

**Primary 3/4, Primary 4, Primary 4/5, Primary 5, Primary 6** and **Primary 7** all took part in the **UK Brebas Computing Challenge!** This **Computational Thinking Competition** is run internationally by **Oxford University** which involves problem solving questions and logical thinking. The children work together, or individually, and have 40 minutes timed to complete as many questions as they can in that time. A big congratulations and well done to the following pupils: **Benjamin Corrigan P3/4, Matthew Harrison P3/4** and **Logan Purves P3/4** won best in school for the Kits age group; **Jack Thompson P5** and **Laurana Starr P5** won best in school for Castors age group and **Keir Duignan P7** won best in school for Juniors and he also won a Gold award! A fantastic result!

### Some Curriculum News from this Term!

Our online '**Curriculum Show and Tell**' event held earlier this term was a great success! There was lots of positive feedback about rich conversations going on at home with children talking about their learning. It provided flexibility in terms of when these conversations took place and allowed parents who work away to be involved, including other family members who wouldn't normally be able to attend at school. I know many of you appreciated the videos and photographs to showcase the learning in your child's classroom.

**Virtual Author Visit**-The Scottish Friendly Children's Book Tour teamed up with Book Week Scotland and Robin Stevens, writer of the *Murder Most Unladylike* series to create an interactive digital event! This was beamed into Mrs Morrison's **Primary 6** classroom to delight and inspire pupils to read and write for pleasure! The event included an exclusive film, with insights into Robin Stevens' bestselling series and how and why she writes, as well as a live video call where pupils were able to ask Robin all their burning questions!



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 **100 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School which is a fantastic response and **£136** 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!

**Primary 7 National Museum of Scotland visit**-Mrs Middleton's **Primary 7** class had the pleasure of meeting a real-life World War II pilot by attending a Digital Schools Session with the National Museum of Scotland. The pupils experienced a talk from the pilot who presented and explained various artefacts from the war. The session was interactive, and pupils were able to ask questions. A fantastic, unique learning experience for our senior pupils. **Primary 7** also welcomed Josh Gill into their classroom via technology for a virtual WW II workshop! He was beamed into their classroom and covered topics such as Dunkirk, St Valery and the Homefront, enhancing what the class had already learned! Josh is Mrs Gill's son!

**Miss Blacklaws Primary 5** class have just embarked on "**Mistakes Are Cool**" which is an **Aberdeenshire Jazz Learning Programme** delivered by Richard Michael online! This will comprise three, three-day sessions of rhythm games, songs and simple pentatonic tunes designed to allow pupils to explore basic techniques in improvisation, delivered in each of the three terms in the school year. At the conclusion of the programme, each pupil will have the skill to walk in time to a groove in a Swing, Rock, Latin and Funk feel; improvise a non-pitched solo using hands, legs and feet and desk top (that is a "real" desktop); play a simple pentatonic tune and improvise a short solo! Quite a skill set being developed!



**Primary 5 to 7** pupils are being invited to participate in **Children's University**.

Children's University encourages children and families to get involved in learning and skills development beyond the classroom, helping to widen achievements and family engagement. It supports children to develop practical and personal skills - including building confidence and discovering new interests and talents beyond the classroom.

Children use the ASPIRE website to search for enjoyable learning activities that take place outside lesson time. <https://childrensuniversity.scot/> COVID may hinder a few of these however the opportunities are endless. It could be a sports or arts club after school, a youth group in the evenings, or a visit to a library, museum, or historic venue at the weekend. It could also be a self-led activity at home like baking, writing a book, creating a dance, or designing and making a board game. Children's University believe that learning outside school plays a vital role in helping children's development as young learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens - as well as being vital to their wider well-being.

### **Assemblies**

All our assemblies continue to be delivered using technology. The term started with our **Golden Assembly**, where we acknowledged and congratulated pupils who had not lost any Golden Time in Term 1. They should be very proud of this achievement and we look forward to other names being added in January at our next Golden Assembly. Mrs Morrison's **Primary 6** pupils also delivered important messages on Road Safety in relation to **Be Safe, Be Seen**.

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 about the following topics: Kindness; Feelings and emotions; Everyone is different; Being responsible; Facing our Fears; What makes a good friend?; Values of our Bounceback Programme and linking it to the well-being indicators; Having a Growth mindset and things that help us to feel better and cheer us up! Never have we needed to focus on these key topics more than now!

**Rev Rodolphe Cowal** shared an assembly on **faith** and what that means, in addition to his Christmas message. **David Young**, Children's Pastor, has created interactive online assemblies on **Must Know Bible Stories**. We have heard **The Creation Story, The Ten Commandments and Noah and the Ark!** These also support delivery of our **RME Curriculum**. We also had an Assembly with a focus on **Children in Need** where we saw the impact the charity has made on young people's lives.

We held 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 individual pupils in recognition of their success.

**Primary 4/5** delivered an assembly on their **Vikings** project and left us suitably impressed with their technology skills as it was all delivered via their very own website. The website had links to lots of little videos they had created! They shared a wealth of information in a very creative and confident manner. Our **Primary 1 Classes** brought us some festive cheer and got us ready for Christmas as they shared their **Nativity** production. It was as if they had their very own Christmas movie released to share with us at Assembly!

### November In-Service Day-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan

Teaching staff were involved in reviewing and revising our Health & Wellbeing and PE Progression Frameworks. This included making links to our whole school Bounceback Resilience Programme and Relationships and Sexual Health resources. We also engaged in discussion and professional learning in relation to the new guidelines for facilitating indoor PE safely and Children's University.

### Support from Businesses

We are always touched by the efforts and lengths our Fishermoss Family go to in order to support our school and also to source funds for us. We are delighted, and extremely grateful, that the following funds have recently been secured.

A group of our parents who work for **Wood Group** made an application to the **Wood Community Investment Challenge** for funding for outdoor storage for our outdoor learning/loose parts equipment that we have at school. Their application was successful!

A member of our **PSC** made an application to the **Asda Foundation Getting Schools Back on Track Grant** and school received **£1000** to support with resources for pupils.

Our cluster Principle teacher made an application for Fishermoss for a **Learning Through Landscapes Grant** and secured **£500**. This is being used to purchase Den Making kits!

**Devenick Designs** treated all the staff at school to hot rolls from **Portlethen's Place to Eat** as a thank you for everyone's **hardwork!** We are always overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness!

Thank you all for your many, many acts of kindness and words of encouragement and appreciation this past school term. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2021.

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**

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> - Pupils and Staff return to school

Wk beginning Mon 25<sup>th</sup> - Learning Celebration Books go home.

Tue 26<sup>th</sup> - Parent Staff Council Online Meeting 7pm-All welcome!

### **February**

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> & Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> & Wed 17<sup>th</sup>-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> - School Photographer-Class Photographs-TBC!

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb-7<sup>th</sup> March-Fair Trade Fortnight

### **March**

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> - Comic Relief 'Dress as you Please'

Wk beginning Mon 29<sup>th</sup> - Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments homework diaries.

### **April**

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> - Last day of Term

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April - Pupils & staff return to school