



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. It seems a lifetime since they all started! Super to see them all growing in confidence as they settle into their Fishermoss Family! It has been lovely to welcome parents, albeit still virtually, this term for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening and Parent/Teacher Consultations. These were **opportunities to support you to be involved in your child's learning.**

## Parent Staff Council

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who attended our Parent Staff Council (PSC) AGM. We are always grateful for the support of parents, and staff, willing to give up precious time for the benefit of all Fishermoss pupils. We currently have an Acting Chair and Acting Vice Chair but are extremely optimistic that these positions will be formally filled at the EGM planned for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7:30pm. Thank you to all Parents who serve on our PSC. We are extremely grateful for all you do for the Pupils and Staff at Fishermoss. As meetings continue to be held via TEAMS, we hope this makes it easier for Parents to attend. I know many on the PSC are excited at the prospect of a possible **Christmas Fayre** this year....so do come along to the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> to find out more!

## Annual School Sponsored Walk



The highlight of this term must be our **School Sponsored Walk!** What a wonderful, happy occasion it was, and we were blessed with the most glorious weather. It truly was a special day! Our pupils all enjoyed their well-deserved treat at the end. Thank you to pupils and parents for their efforts to get sponsorship! Every penny raised makes a real difference to our **PSC** funds and ultimately to our pupils' experiences at school. If you haven't done so already, hopefully you will manage to make use of the route notes and accompanying map so you can enjoy a nice Autumn family walk at your leisure. These were attached to the Fishermoss Family Friday update dated 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## Pupil Council

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



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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. 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. Thank you to our **PSC** for providing the badges. Congratulations to **Owen Scorgie P7, Madison Villalon P6/7, Brody Thompson P6, Ainhoa Antonelli Marin P5, Kyle Wemyss P4/5, Chloe Hunt P4 & Jessica Souter P3.**

Pupil Council is made up of representatives from P3 to P7 and has evolved into something much more inclusive given we can have meetings through the use of TEAMS which means not just class reps but whole classes can be part of these meetings. Class reps often take on the role of the spokesperson to share class discussions and views through TEAMS. This term we have had a particular focus on our playground as we returned to being able to have pupils mixing outdoors again. Decisions were made by pupils regarding playground rotas and the use of playground equipment. Pupils in P4-P7 have also been out measuring and planning where best to place new playground markings. We greatly value and respect the views of our pupils and the vital part they play in making decisions at school.

### **We Decide...Children and Young People Voting for change-Participatory Budgeting-Success story for Fishermoss Primary 7 Pupils!**

Aberdeenshire Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online vote for a participatory budgeting exercise which took place over recent weeks. This was branded as the 'We Decide... Children and Young People Voting for Change event'. Schools were asked to consider the participatory budget theme of **Health and Wellbeing** as part of COVID recovery within their school community.

Primary Schools were encouraged to involve their Primary 7 pupils to come up with exciting project ideas and apply for funding....and all Primary 7 pupils at Fishermoss were involved. We went through an exercise with pupils to shortleat the suggestions made and submitted our application. £5,000 had been ring fenced per school cluster area. The most voted for projects per cluster area (1 Academy and 2 Primary Schools) would be successful in securing funding for their project. We are delighted to say that our Primary 7 pupils' application was successful. Our Pupils had applied for funding for items for our playground which they felt could be enjoyed by pupils during the school day but would also benefit the health and well-being of the wider school community beyond the school day. They have successfully secured **£1912** for a large outdoor solar powered stopwatch, picnic table and playground markings to create a running track!

'Children and Young People Voting for Change' vote was a success with a total of 1104 voting young people in Aberdeenshire. Sixteen projects across seven school areas will receive a total of £24,630.54 to carry out exciting projects that young people have generated, examined, and democratically decided upon. This represents a great achievement from our young people, particularly during the time of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Fishermoss School valued the opportunity to be involved in this project and are of course delighted with the outcome.



### **Children in Need**

As part of our work as '**Global Warriors**', we will be supporting the Children in Need charity on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.** All pupils and staff are invited to '**Dress as they please**' and to donate if they so wish for the privilege. Dress can range from pyjamas to sports gear to frocks to fancy dress to casual.

## Christmas Card Art Project

The PSC is kindly running a Christmas Fundraiser with IQ Cards. Your child will have brought home a leaflet and a design form. If you would like to participate, please follow the instructions on the design form and return it to school no later than **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. Always super to see the children's own artwork turned into professional cards. A nice activity to get involved in during the October Holidays!



## Some Curriculum News this Term!

All Pupils in **Primary 3 to 7** have enjoyed **Rugby Taster** sessions this term. This has been arranged and provided through **Active Schools**.

**Primary 3** had a live online visit to **The National Museum of Scotland** for their class project where they saw a range of Egyptian artefacts. The workshop was recorded so pupils who were absent on the day of the virtual trip didn't miss out. There are some benefits to things being done in a different way just now!

**Primary 4** are responsible for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year. They have 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! Pupils 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

The **Kodaly Singing and Musicianship programme** is offered to all Aberdeenshire Primary Schools, and we were delighted to have Mrs Okumu, Mrs 'O' as she is affectionately known by the children, deliver music sessions at school to Pupils in **Primary 1 to 5** this term. She loves coming to Fishermoss School and we love having her!

**Primary 6** took part in a live Techfest workshop with the **Rowett Institute** which included activities to embrace a journey of discovery about the Nobel Prize for the discovery of insulin awarded to Scottish Scientist John MacLeod, to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of this important medical treatment. The class also participated in a workshop with **Aberdeen University Business School** where they were designing an app... a real-life example of coding with an emphasis on the '**Developing the Young Workforce**' agenda!

**Primary 7 and Primary 6/7** pupils took part in our '**Making a Difference**' project at school, arranged in partnership with **Community Learning & Development**, with a focus on **Friendships, Resilience** and **Choices**. This is to support them as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. We greatly value this partnership and the support to our Young People from our colleagues in CLD, especially Evelyn Hart who delivered the workshops.

## School Assemblies



School Assemblies are held every Monday afternoon live online and are a special time for us all to join together. 'Class Assemblies' are still planned to go ahead where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of an assembly. For children in our Primary 1 classes, this will take the form of a Nativity during Term 2-details to follow! 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.

As a school we recognise and celebrate all sorts of achievements in assemblies and are continually looking for ways to support our pupils to identify successful learning experiences and **wider achievements**, both in and out of school, and to build on them. Pupils are encouraged to record these in their Learning Celebration Books and pupils in Primaries 5 to 7 have been encouraged to participate in Children's University. We also regularly refer to **Skills for Learning, Life and Work** as we play our part in **developing our young workforce**, emphasising the importance of skills as well as knowledge.

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 started the term with a particular focus on our values of **Kindness, Respect & Responsibility**. 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.

Pupils use assemblies as opportunities to remind us of Global Warrior activities and we had representatives from both our **Primary 2 classes** remind us about the **Eco Rag Bag Collection Bin**, its relocation to the Bike Shelter area and to perhaps consider adding to it following any holiday clear outs! **Primary 4** delivered a presentation on the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** which they are taking responsibility for organising as class project.

**David Young**, Children's Pastor from Aberdeen Christian Fellowship, created an assembly on the **Parable of the Prodigal Son** with the focus on restorative conversations of being willing to say sorry and being willing to forgive, and the big difference this can make.

## 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>

Finally, I am hearing rumours of a **COP26 Conference** being organised by **Primary 6/7!** It's all happening at Fishermoss School!

Wishing our Fishermoss Family a lovely October break!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson  
Head Teacher



## Dates for your diary-Term 2 2021

### October

Mon 18<sup>th</sup>- Fri 29<sup>th</sup>- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff.

### November

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> -Term 2 begins-PSC Christmas Card Art Project Deadline

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Nov-Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school

Mon 8<sup>th</sup>- Parent Staff Council EGM 7:30pm

Fri 12<sup>th</sup>- Children in Need Dress as You Please Day

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Show & Tell Virtual Curriculum Event available from this evening!

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> & Fri 19<sup>th</sup> - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils.

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> -Flu Immunisation Programme

### December

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> - PSC Christmas Fayre-Portlethen Parish Church-details to follow

Wk beginning 13<sup>th</sup> - Primary 1 Nativity-details to follow

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> -School Christmas Lunch-details to follow

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - End of term Christmas Church Service Virtual-Portlethen Parish Church PM

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of term 2

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec to Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Jan-Christmas Holidays!

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022-Term 3 begins!