Dear Fishermoss Family

The Fishermoss Family have certainly been showing acts of kindness in many ways over recent days.  An initial count of the money donated for **Children in Need** suggests nearly **£400** was raised today 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 , to name but a few, arriving at school this morning!

Thank you also for your contributions to the **Poppy Appeal** to support our Heroes.  A minute silence was held at school yesterday.  Your kindness is very much appreciated.

A total of **73** shoe boxes were filled by Fishermoss Families for the **Rotary Shoe Box** **Appeal**, which was organised by our amazing Primary 4 class.  In addition to this, families who filled the shoe boxes also donated a total of **£134** to help cover transportation costs.  The boxes were collected from school today to start their long journey overseas. The kindness shown by Fishermoss Families reaching out to others, far and near, is both heart-warming and encouraging in these challenging days.

One of our Fishermoss Family mums would like me to share how grateful she is to all those who helped her yesterday when she took a tumble on the grass area next to the school.  She said, *’From picking me up off the ground, taking my daughter back home, looking after the dog, helping me to the bench, getting an ice pack and waiting till my husband got there. Oh and politely lying to me that I didn’t humiliate myself by falling like a sack of tatties. Fishermoss family at its best’.*

We wish her a speedy recovery and would please ask families to take care on the grass area next to the school.  It may appear flat but there are some holes that have been appearing and when they are covered with longer grass they are difficult to spot.  These holes are being reported to Robertson’s who are responsible for the land there.  Our understanding is that they are going to do a thorough check of the grass area adjacent to our school but should you spot any further holes then please do not hesitate to make contact so I can pass the information on.

Could we also please remind parents to not park or drop off pupils at the front of the school on the **Zig-Zag lines**.  At this time of year especially, with darker days, it can be very difficult to spot pupils crossing the road to access school.  Thank you, in anticipation, for making use of Bourtree Carpark or other safe places to park.

Thank you to all who attended our remote **Parent Staff Council EGM** meeting on Monday.  We are most grateful to Chris Carter who has taken up the position of Chair and Lobke Starr-Vaanholt position of Vice Chair.  I shared on behalf of all at Fishermoss School how overwhelmed and grateful we were by the support we received from the wider parent forum to approve the use of PSC funds to replace our i-pads at school. We also received an update on the staggering amount the Sponsored Walk raised of £3,746.89.  This shows the incredible support of Fishermoss Families of their school.

Our **‘Show and Tell’ Curriculum Event** will be virtual again this year which means you can experience it from the comfort of your own home, and at a time of your choosing, from the evening of **Tuesday 16th November**.  This will be an opportunity to find out more about the experiences your child is having at school this session, having moved on to a new stage.  Our pupils have a lead role in this event as they will be responsible for sharing their learning with you.  This event very much takes the form of an informal ‘show and tell’.  Pupils will be supported to share their learning through the use of their Google Classroom.

Approaches to reporting to parents takes many different forms at school including written reports, children presenting their learning through class assemblies, parent/teacher consultation meetings and ongoing oral discussion. To ensure that learners make continuous progress in their learning, reporting opportunities need to be regular, meaningful, purposeful and on-going throughout the academic year. As much as possible our pupils should be involved in the reporting process through on-going reflection and dialogue about their learning.  It is also important that reporting fully involves and values the role of parents and carers, as we know that parental engagement has a significant impact on learners’ progress.  To further support you with finding out more about your child’s learning we created a few years ago the attached leaflet which contains useful question prompts for you to ask your child on Tuesday, and indeed on any day.  A copy is also available on our website.  As previously shared, a copy of our Reporting Calendar is available on our website under the tab EventsàReporting Calendar.

**As always……If your child is unwell but they are not displaying symptoms of coronavirus, please keep them at home until they are back in good health. Please do not send unwell children to school to see how they cope.  Do keep them at home until you are sure they are fit and well.** **Please continue to err on the side of caution.**

**Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to the school site,** whether entering the building or otherwise, **including parents at drop-off and pick-up.**

For vomiting and/or diarrhoea, as per normal circumstances, pupils should remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed. This now also relates to a fever or high temperature (alongside a negative coronavirus result) and they should not return to school for at least 48 hours after symptoms have passed.

**To help reduce the risk to your family and to help reduce the likelihood of spread of coronavirus in school and the community, please:**

* Undertake the recommended twice weekly lateral flow testing as this can catching infections early.
  + Free at-home LFD test kits are available for you and your primary-school aged children by collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. More information can be found at: [www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms).
  + Please ensure that all test results, whether positive, negative or void, are recorded on the online portal at: [www.covidtest.scot](http://www.covidtest.scot) OR by phoning 119.
  + Lateral flow tests should not be undertaken if an individual has tested positive for coronavirus in the last 90 days.
* Arrange vaccination as soon as possible, if you or anyone eligible in your family have not yet been vaccinated. Information can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine). Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell.
* Wear a face covering in line with guidance, keep your distance, keep rooms ventilated, and wash your hands with soap and water regularly.

**What to do if you or your child develop symptoms**

If you or your child develop a new continuous cough, or high temperature, or a loss of/ change in sense of taste or smell, your child must not come to school. The symptomatic person should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible, and the whole household should stay at home until the test result comes back.

PCR tests can be arranged at [**www.nhsinform.scot**](http://www.nhsinform.scot)at your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at [**Gov.Scot**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/covid-symptoms/) or go to [**COVID Testing (nhsgrampian.org)**](https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/covid-testing/)

Further information on testing and self-isolation can be found at [**www.nhsinform.scot**](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

Finally, just to make you aware that current staff absences are impacting on our school office.  Thank you again for your continued support, patience and kindness.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services

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**‘Being the best we can be’**

**Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking**

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