



## Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2021

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this newsletter finds you coping with these challenging and uncertain days that we find ourselves in. Amongst it all, 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 greatly appreciated.

As you all know, we've experienced it all this term, early school closure, full closure and delayed opening, as well as significant staff and pupil absences! Despite it all, it has been 'all go' over the past 7 weeks! Lots of interesting and active learning experiences. That's what life at Fishermoss is all about!

Fishermoss **Christmas Fayre** held in Portlethen Church Hall was a great success! A total of **£2,356.33** was raised. A fantastic result following a lot of hard work! Thank you to all who supported this event. We are always touched by the efforts and lengths our Fishermoss Family go to in order to support our school.



Santa made an appearance in the community with a merry bunch of elves. This event is organised and run by Portlethen Town Association in conjunction with Fishermoss School, Portlethen Primary and Hillside School. The '**Santa Runs**' are always a great success and a special community event. The chocolate coins provided to pupils in school were very much enjoyed. The money raised is to be shared between the 3 schools and this year's chosen charity which is The Larder & Covid Support Portlethen & Surrounding areas. 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 '**A Bundle of Joy**'. They have been very busy learning the songs and the lines for each of their parts but with lots of fun and laughter along the way.

We had a super whole school **Christmas Cinema movie** morning! All classes enjoyed a movie of their choice in their classrooms. The USB DVD Drives purchased by the PSC last year for classes have been so useful and allow us all to be able to 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 items for **party bags**. Mrs Gill did an amazing job of making up all the bags for the parties!

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 impressed us all. Thank you to Freya Alexander P6/Z and Ivy Matthew in Primary 7 for doing the bible readings.

Thank you also to Sophie Middleton P6/Z, Blair Cameron P7, Klaudia Hagyarova P6/7, Elena Mitchell P5 and Megan Marshall P7 on violins and Polina Starinska P6 and Fara Mitchell P6 on piano.

Please follow the link if you wish to see the minister's message <https://youtu.be/fj5445qM1PU>





**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**

Money donated for our **Children in Need** Dress as You Please Day came to £400 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!



### **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.



**Primary 4** have been working with the **University of Aberdeen Business School** on a **marketing project** promoting the North-east of Scotland to tourists. The class were given an introduction to marketing and some common industry terminology as part of the session, before they were asked to think about the various tourist attractions in the region. Pupils were tasked with creating a poster highlighting some of the unique selling points of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to specific audiences visiting the area. The groups

produced a range of exciting itineraries for different visitors, ranging from exchange pupils and families to the elderly, people visiting with dogs and young groups of friends, all designed to showcase a number of different venues/activities from Aberdeen city and Aberdeenshire. The class demonstrated their research into tourist attractions by producing amazing posters and pitching their ideas, Dragons Den-style!

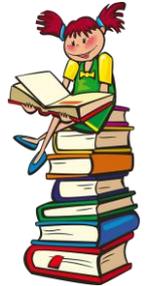
**Primary 4/5** took part in a BBC bite size live lesson during **COP26**. As part of their technology, the class also joined a live coding session run by Education Scotland called 'Catch a Reindeer!' The class also have a kindness Advent Calendar and used their creative skills and made Christmas cards which they delivered to **Lethan Park Care home**. The class sang songs outside to the residents which really made their day. A real act of **kindness!**

**Primary 5** welcomed the museum into their classroom during their virtual trip to the **National Museum of Scotland**. They learnt about **biodiversity**, focussing on different **ecosystems** found in Scotland. The class enjoyed playing games, answering questions, and exploring Scottish ecosystems through objects and microscopic imagery from the museum's archives.

**Primary 5** also enjoyed taking part in a '**code along**' with over 2000 other pupils across Scotland with Code Club Scotland. During this session they explored the importance of **pollinators in our planet**. They created their own pollinator animations using coding on the **coding website** Scratch. The class also had a virtual visit from **Money Advice Scotland**. They enjoyed using their money knowledge during their '**Are deals in shops actually value for money?**' talk. They had lots of interesting discussions about different deals in shops and shared the strategies they used to work out which deals were best. This made pupils think about the cost shopping at home and how we could possibly save some money by shopping around, finding the best deals and trying different brands.

**Primary 6/7 Climate Conference.....**The children were responsible for researching, planning presenting and evaluating the 5-day conference. They had the opportunity to develop skills as effective contributors, responsible citizens, successful learners and confident individuals. They took responsibility for a whole day's learning for the rest of the class and found imaginative, creative ways to get the climate message across including art, drama, quiz, comprehension, stem challenge, sewing and debating. The class also enjoyed a virtual trip to the Old Vic Theatre to watch 'The Lorax' by Dr Seuss..... a musical with life size puppets! This extended and gave a different perspective on deforestation and what they can do to look after the environment.

**Primary 6/7** also joined a virtual story time to celebrate Scottish Book Week. The story was about a child with autism and how everyone's brain works in a different way. There was a question-and-answer session after the story telling which gave the class the opportunity to ask questions about autism and living with autism.



**Primary 6 & Primary 7** enjoyed taking part in a **Financial Capability** workshop this term - pupils learned about budgeting and how to save money. The main activity was looking at how much families pay for essential items such as mortgage/rent, utilities and food. Pupils took part in activities to consider the difference between the things we want and the things we need.

**Reading for Enjoyment.....** As part of Scottish Book Week, all pupils in **Primary 1 to 7** were actively involved in choosing new titles to enhance their Class Library and to further encourage reading for enjoyment. Pupils right across the school embraced this with such enthusiasm and are really enjoying the new books they chose! It has had the desired effect!



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 **73 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School which is a fantastic response and **£134** 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!

Pupils in **Primary 3 to Primary 7** enjoyed some **Rugby Taster Sessions** organised through Active Schools. The coach said he had 'an absolutely fantastic time' working with our pupils, a lot of happy faces (and muddy) and some real interest in joining the club. All pupils who participated received an electronic certificate of achievement.

### **Primary 7 Transition Event**

We were delighted to welcome to Mr Barry Drennan, Head Teacher at Portlethen Academy and Depute Head Teacher Ms Jennifer Law. They met with our Primary 7 pupils to begin dialogue regarding transition to the Academy and to answer any initial burning questions. The plan is that an actual 3-day visit to the Academy will take place in Term 4 where our pupils would have the opportunity to trial their S1 timetable. We live in hope! We were immensely proud of how our Primary 7 pupils conducted themselves during the transition meeting, how confidently they answered questions and the respectful and mature manner in which they asked questions.

## Great Achievements!

Congratulations to Saul Brown in Primary 6 who is our Team Fishermoss Snowboarding star! Saul had asked if he could compete under the name of Fishermoss School which we are all delighted about. This term saw Saul compete in his first snowboarding competition - the Scottish Slopestyle Champs and he came first in his category U12's Snowboarders boys. What a fantastic achievement for Saul! He has also managed to recently win a bronze medal! We are thrilled to have him represent our school.

## Children's University

A wee reminder about **Children's University** for Pupils in **Primary 5 to 7**. 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.

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; Honesty; Feelings and emotions; Everyone is different; Being responsible; Facing our Fears; What makes a good friend; Stereotypes & Equality and How to achieve goals; 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!

Mrs Middleton and Mrs McRae's **Primary 6** pupils led an assembly and delivered important messages on Road Safety in relation to **Be Safe, Be Seen**. We also had an Assembly with a focus on **Children in Need** where we saw the impact the charity has had on young people's lives. **Book Week Scotland** saw us consider the world's best-selling book...the Bible!

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.

We were all impressed with our **Primary 1** pupils and their nativity performance, '**A Bundle of Joy**'. The children worked very hard to put the virtual performance together. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing their performance at our online assembly and hope their parents did too!

As previously shared, **Rev Rodolphe Cowal** shared the true meaning of Christmas in our final assembly of 2021 with the help of our readers and musicians.

## **November In-Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan**

All staff attended a Big Writing training day along with cluster colleagues. In addition, teaching staff were involved in reviewing and revising our Literacy Progression Framework and our Reading Policy. Our Pupil Support Assistants did a refresher Food Hygiene course and passed their exam with flying colours. Congratulations to them all! Our Additional Support for Learning staff attended a Sensory Processing event. All In-Service events were held online. Busy and productive in-set days!

## **Staffing News**

Congratulations to Miss Adam who has been appointed to the Cluster as an 'Additional Support for Learning' Teacher. Miss Adam has undertaken this role in a temporary capacity at Fishermoss for the past two years and we are delighted this is now her permanent post. She will continue to provide Additional Support for Learning (ASL) at Fishermoss for 4 days and Miss Anderson will continue providing a half day ASL.

We are also delighted that Miss Blacklaws has secured a permanent post at Fishermoss school and Mrs Morrison has secured a permanent additional day. These permanent posts will not impact on the pupils in P4 and P7. Business as usual!

## **Support from Businesses**

**Devenick Designs** treated all the staff at school to hot rolls at the end of term from **Portlethen's Place to Eat** as a thank you for everyone's **hard work!** We are always overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and thoughtfulness! **Asda** donated 11 Christmas Eve boxes to school, one for each class. Names were pulled from a hat so someone will come home with an extra big smile!

## **Registration week for Primary 1**

Aberdeenshire's Registration Week for Primary 1 admission is **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. All children who reach their fifth birthday by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 are invited to register for Primary 1 for admission in August 2022. Parents/Carers of those children due to commence attendance at school in August 2022 should now register their children for the appropriate local primary school.

To register for a primary school place, for a school within your catchment area, please complete the online application which can be found at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForSchoolPlace>.

It is usual practice for children to attend their local catchment primary school, however, you have the right to apply to place your child in a school other than your local school. Please complete an out of zone placing request. (You should still register your child in a school in the area you live in until you know the outcome of your application) Out of Zone Request form can be found at: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/out-of-zone-school/>

With COVID 19 restrictions in place please email the school a copy of the below or alternatively bring these with you when your child starts school:

- the child's birth certificate as this is required as evidence of their date of birth and;
- evidence of the parent/carer's home address (for example a recent utility bill or recent bank statement).

All schools in Aberdeenshire have the same start date, in the middle of August each year. You will be informed of this year's start date at the time of registration at school. Aberdeenshire Education & Children's Services makes no provision to admit any children who are five after the end of February, unless that child has previously been registered and has commenced full-time attendance (excluding induction) in a state supported or Forces school and is transferring into Aberdeenshire. In this case, the local authority can exercise discretion. Registration for a nursery or playgroup does not count for the purposes of this exception.

Thank you for your many acts of kindness and words of encouragement and appreciation this past school term.

Whatever your faith, may you be touched by the spirit of Christmas. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2022.

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 2022**

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

Wk begin Mon 24<sup>th</sup> - Interim Pupil Reports Homework Diaries & Learning Celebration Books go home.

**February**

Thu 10<sup>th</sup>, Fri 11<sup>th</sup> & Mon 14<sup>th</sup> - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> & Wed 16<sup>th</sup>-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils

Mon 21<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March-Fair Trade Fortnight

**March**

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> - Red Nose Day 'Dress as you Please'

Wk begin Mon 28<sup>th</sup> - Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments Homework Diaries.

**April**

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

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> - Fri 15<sup>th</sup> - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> - Pupils & staff return to school