



Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter

April 2022

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a challenging term for us all with significant pupil and staff absences, however daffodils and crocuses appearing in our school grounds are a welcome sign of Spring and hopefully better days to come! Lots of fabulous playground improvements this past term to smile about too.....

We were delighted to finally have our much-anticipated playground markings go down this term after unavoidable delays due to the construction of our wonderful new Nursery building, and the demolition of our old Nursery and temporary classrooms. Our pupils past and present had been actively involved in choosing markings and where best to locate them. Our new markings not only make provision for games such as basketball, multiple hopscotch games, snakes and ladders and knots & crosses but also support learning opportunities in relation to the solar system, the 8-point compass rose and numeracy activities. Not forgetting the much-used Daily Mile in Bourtree Park which was one set of markings that could be installed pre-construction work as located outside school grounds!

Our most sincere thanks to former and current members of our **Parent Staff Council (PSC)** for their efforts to secure and raise funds for our playground markings ...in addition to our current Primary 7 pupils who were successful in their bid to secure funding from Aberdeenshire Council for the running track markings and a solar clock! Mr Pearson, our Janitor, will be erecting the playground solar clock during the holidays so something else for all to look forward to on our return, and hopefully plenty sunshine to go with it! Please do make use of our great playground space over the holidays...super for practising on those roller blades and balance bikes or re-live your youth with a game of hopscotch or a flat race and bring a picnic! All were installed with the intention that our Fishermoss Family and the wider community could share in the enjoyment beyond the school day!



Portlethen Paths Development Group have sourced funding from the Meikle Carewe Windfarm Fund to provide a bench & planters to each of the Portlethen Schools. Another great example of community at its best! Classes had been deciding where best to locate our new piece of playground furniture and it is now in situ! We look forward to filling the planters after the holidays, in addition to lots of other exciting plans to improve our school grounds and support biodiversity!

Apple trees available to Aberdeenshire schools.....

The Greenspace Project team offered schools in Aberdeenshire one heritage apple tree to plant in their school grounds, or in the community, as part of the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund. Fishermoss pushed the boat out and asked for two so both our Primary 1 classes could be involved in planting an apple tree for their class to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, in addition to us doing our bit for biodiversity and the climate crisis! It was quite a spectacular scene outside the front of the school with Spidermen and Princesses amongst others helping plant the trees! It was no ordinary day as this coincided with Dress as you please day! We look forward to the children being involved in caring for their trees in the years to come, in addition to the joy their blossoms and fruit will bring. A special thank you to Craig Murdoch, Portlethen Handyman who is one of our Parents, who freely gave up his precious time to help us out with the hard digging!





As one of the UK's biggest fundraising events, Comic Relief Day brings the entire nation together to raise cash and change lives. Fishermoss School played its part with a 'Dress as you please Day' raising **£353.75**. Fishermoss families also supported the Larder,

Portlethen by taking in items of food. Your **kindness** was much appreciated and your support of others less fortunate is always humbling. Well done Primary 3 and Miss Mellis for all your work organising this event and sorting the food for The Larder! Thank you to all who were able to contribute.



Some Curriculum News from this Term!



Learning for Sustainability-Eco Schools Green Flag Award-Keep Scotland Beautiful!

Eco-Schools is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world with 19.5 million children, young people and educators engaged worldwide in 67 different countries. Completing a Green Flag Application is recognised by the Green Flag Award as a visible indication of your school's commitment to Learning for Sustainability and an internationally recognised accreditation for excellence in sustainable education. We are incredibly proud to have

achieved 6 Green Flags over the years for our school and are excited to be back on our Green Flag journey to achieve flag number 7!

Eco schools is a whole school pupil-led approach to Learning for Sustainability. At Fishermoss all pupils are members of the Eco-Committee and are known as **Global Warriors!** Committee Meetings have been held through TEAMS and the wonder of technology facilitates our whole school attending these and sharing together. All classes, **Primary 1 to Primary 7**, have this term been involved in undertaking formal **Environmental Reviews** on the following ten topics: **Litter & Waste, Biodiversity, Climate Action, Energy, Food and the Environment, Global Citizenship, Health & Wellbeing, Schools Grounds, Transport & Water**. From these reviews we agreed as a school that we wanted to focus on **School Grounds, Biodiversity, Food and the Environment**, in addition to the non-optional Eco Schools topic of **Litter & Waste**.

Classes then went on to create **Action Plans** for these topics identifying aims, actions, who was going to do what & when and how we were going to measure the impact of our actions. We are currently pulling together our action plans and very much looking forward to all that we have planned! As part of the Litter & Waste Topic we will be organising a **Fishermoss Family Community Clean Up on Thursday 9th June**. Please save the date and pop along anytime between 4:30-7:30pm to join us. Further information will be issued next term! Perhaps when you are out for walks over the Easter Holidays you can look out for any litter hot spots and make a mental note!

Primary 7 took part in an Eco-Schools Scotland Live Lesson on **Litter and Waste**. This included workshops and associated activities on **Litter and Wildlife: Becoming Animal Wise** with speaker Chris Adams, **Scottish SPCA**, Looking Back in History: Litter and Waste are a Fairly New Problem, with speaker Karen Baird, Auchindrain Museum and finally a session by Catriona Rae, **Keep Scotland Beautiful!** The class were asked to participate during the session by answering questions and taking part in polls. They had some follow up activities to try and joined in a few days later for an assembly. They also took part in a quiz to win a virtual trip to Edinburgh Zoo and emailed their work to be displayed for the virtual assembly.



We have been delighted this term to see the arrival of our new school iPads! Thank you for supporting events organised by our **PSC** and for supporting our School Sponsored Walk in Term 1 as funds raised have facilitated this great resource! They have already been a great support for everything from class assemblies, Easter story movie making, Book Creator, cloud spotting and phonics stations to name but a few! They are in high demand!



Primary 5 have enjoyed using the new school iPads for some outdoor learning this Term. They equipped themselves with bug viewers, magnifying glasses, binoculars, wildlife and plant checklists and of course iPads! They spent time exploring our playground looking for and trying to identify insects, birds, animal tracks and plants. They used an app to help them identify different living things.



Primary 6/7 have been learning more about **democracy** as part of their Social Studies topic, learning more about how they could contribute to society and be responsible citizens. During this topic, they had a digital learning session from the **Scottish Parliament**, finding out more about how parliament works and how decisions are made. The class also met virtually with local **MSPs** from various parties for a Q&A session to learn more about their jobs!

Primary 5 took part in a workshop with **Aberdeen University Business School** focussing on creating a **Fairtrade** event. The class learned about key marketing skills including branding and promotions. During the second session Primary 5 worked in their cooperative groups to present their ideas in a Dragon's Den style activity. A great opportunity for 'Developing the Young Workforce', full of rich learning! Please follow the links below as Fishermoss flies the flag in Aberdeen University's communications.
https://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/documents/EDI_Newsletter_March_2022.pdf
[University of Aberdeen Civic News - Issue 11 \(abdn-online.ac.uk\)](http://University of Aberdeen Civic News - Issue 11 (abdn-online.ac.uk))

Primary 5 also enjoyed an in-school **Chocolate factory experience**. They planned and created their own chocolate treats, followed by using their marketing knowledge to create wrappers for their chocolate bars. They also included information about the nutritional value on the wrappers, not forgetting the **rainforest alliance** badge!

All pupils received a **£1 World Book Day** token this term which entitled them to a free **£1 World Book Day** book from participating stores and various bookshops. Pupils enjoyed all sorts of fun literacy activities to mark World Book Day! In addition, to further support our pupils with developing their reading skills and to encourage reading for enjoyment, we held a **Portlethen Reading Bletcher** to which all parents of Primary Pupils within the Portlethen cluster were invited to join. The aim was to share information about how parents can support their child's reading at home and the benefits of sharing stories through discussion.



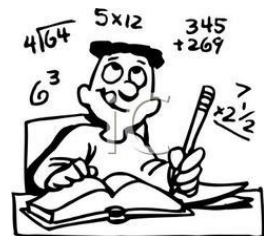
Primary 1 & Primary 2 classes took part in the 2020 **Big Schools' Birdwatch**, the world's biggest wildlife survey! Many of our pupils continued to engage with it at home too, bringing in lots of extra work from home. All the numbers are now being crunched by scientists and we will hear in due course which bird came out on top!

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils had **Cyberbullying & Internet Safety** workshops delivered by our School's Police Liaison Officer where they focused on the benefits and the risks of using the internet. As previously shared, the following link may be of interest to Parents & Carers as it provides information about online wellbeing, and talking to your child about online safety, in addition to information on parental controls. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Earlier this term our school received a 4-day visit from the **Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre (ALEC)**. ALEC works in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and is a delivery partner of Coram Life Education, the leading provider of health and wellbeing education across the UK. ALEC's interventions include challenging social norms - misperceptions of peers' engagement with risky behaviour - to engender more positive behaviours. All children from Nursery to Primary 7 attended workshops where topics included Nursery 'Taking Care of Myself', Primary 1 'All About Me', Primary 2 'My Wonderful Body', Primary 3 'Feelings', Primary 4 & 4/5 'Meet the Brain', Primary 5 'It's Great to Be Me', Primary 6 & 6/7 'Friends' and Primary 7 'Decisions'. These workshops complement our school's Health and Wellbeing Programme. Under normal circumstances ALEC would invite parents and carers to an information session in school. However, for the time being ALEC have put together information, including a short video presentation, for parents and carers on their website...<http://alec.org.uk/parents/>

Recent Achievements!

Primary 7 Scottish Maths Challenge-Gold stars to our senior pupils who participated in the Scottish Maths Challenge and successfully gained awards. Congratulations to **Blair Cameron** on achieving a Gold Award and to **Ritchie Horne** on achieving Bronze! Well done also to **Cal Rowe, Hiro Wanchoo, Ryan Lawrie and Wen Jun Xie** on being commended for their efforts and participation. We are extremely proud of our mathematicians and well done to them for all the **hard work** put in to prepare.



Primary 6/7 entered a **Flash Fiction Writing Competition**. The competition was organised by **Aberdeen University** as part of World Book Day with the theme 'An Unusual Party'. The pupils had to write a piece of text no longer than 100 words based on the theme. Great creativity with vocabulary was required which is harder than it seems! We are delighted to congratulate **Klaudia Hagyariova** on her placing as runner up in the Aberdeen University Children and Young People's section with her story 'Death Day Party'.

February In-Service Days-Improvement Planning

Nursery, teaching and support staff were involved in a range of Professional Learning Activities linked with our School Improvement Plan during the Feb In-Set days. Nursery staff attended an 'Intensive Interaction' course as part of their Improvement Plan. Some of our Pupil Support Assistants and teachers joined colleagues across Aberdeenshire for a 'Can I go and Play Now?' training event. We also had a significant focus on Learning for Sustainability & Eco Schools. In addition, we looked at resources to support our Numeracy Progression Frameworks as well as joining cluster primary and secondary colleagues for a writing moderation exercise. All In-service activities were held online through TEAMS.

School Assemblies

We have enjoyed seeing many of our pupils take the lead in class, and other, assemblies over the past few weeks and we hope parents of the pupils involved have enjoyed being able to watch the class assembly recordings over and over via Google Classroom! Great also for sharing later with any family members who are perhaps away with work. We have certainly seen the benefits of technology this term for assemblies as I was able to deliver assemblies over two consecutive weeks from my home whilst isolating, in addition to pupils who were isolating recording pieces to include in their class assembly. The wonders of technology! The new iPads funded by the PSC have been invaluable for class assemblies. Our pupils have done us proud as they confidently showcased their **hard work** and learning!

All our School Assemblies have had a focus that refers to the wellbeing indicators and us wanting to feel, **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included!** Some of our assemblies this term specifically focused on the indicators as we continue to ensure they form a common language for pupils. Primary 4 to Primary 7 pupils had an assembly delivered on the subject of '**Respect and Relationships Online**' and '**Our Digital Footprint**'. Every one of us has a digital footprint that stays with us for life. All classes have also been part of assembly presentations in relation to **Eco Schools** and us all being **Global Warriors** at Fishermoss with reference being made to the **Learning for Sustainability Global Goals**.



All classes from Nursery to Primary 7 took part in **Fairtrade Fortnight**. **Primary 1 to 7 classes** were involved in an online school assembly where representatives from each class shared what they had learned about Fairtrade and what it means to the global community. We know many of our pupils have been spreading the Fair-Trade message at home too!

Primary 7 & Primary 6/7 shared a Burns Celebration where we experienced everything from the Address to the Haggis, toasts to the lassies and laddies, Scottish song, poetry recitations, musical pieces played on piano, violins, harmonica and the recorder and some splendid Scottish Dancing demonstrations.... they are well prepared for ceilidhs and weddings in years to come! It was everything a Burns Celebration should be and so much more! They took responsibility for the content and preparation showing creativity and organisation skills. With this being the last class assembly for most of them at Fishermoss, they showcased a wide range of skills and talent developed over the years.

Primary 2B/C showcased their learning and skills developed across the curriculum this term in their class assembly. They opened with a Scottish flavour sharing Scots poetry, a Canadian Barn dance demonstration and even their own tartan designs! We enjoyed a working with clay demonstration, Numeracy, French, their Big School's Bird Watch drawings, and associated writing, information on food chainsand the list goes on! They did a fantastic job of sharing their rich learning experiences.

Primary 5 also showcased their learning across the curriculum including links with their class novel Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with amazing pieces of writing with fabulous character descriptions, learning goals were shared, details of their design and marketing skills from their Fair-Trade activities in addition to showcasing science experiments. They demonstrated a broad range of skills including problem solving, creativity, team work not to mention great enthusiasm and confidence! They worked incredibly hard and were very proud of themselves for sharing their learning.

We held our **Golden Assembly** which recognises pupils who have not lost Golden Time. We have also enjoyed **Learning Celebration Assemblies** and of course our weekly **Golden Book**. In our most recent Learning Celebration Assembly, we shared a fabulous film of our Nursery children learning through play! It was special for all classes to see great learning being celebrated right across the school from Nursery to Primary 7! We finished off our assemblies for this term by sharing the Easter story, in addition to an online Easter message from Rev Rodolphe Kowal from Portlethen Parish Church. Please do follow the link to hear his short message <https://youtu.be/x1fOmuOiXVo>

Staffing News

Rachael McBride, Portlethen Cluster School Nurse, is moving on from her post to that of Specialist Nurse Child Protection. We are most grateful for all her support over the past 9 ½ years where she has made such a positive difference to so many of our pupils and families! A loss for us as a cluster! Congratulations are also in order for Bekah Parker, one of our Early Years Practitioners who has been appointed as an Early Years Senior Practitioner in Aberdeen City. Miss Parker has been with us for 3 years and will be greatly missed especially by our little ones! We wish them both every success in their new roles.

Finally, these have and continue to be exceptional and very challenging circumstances we find ourselves in that test us all.....the ongoing challenges of COVID, concerns in relation to the increased cost of living and the heart wrenching scenes of war. Amongst it all we have much to be thankful for. Two years ago, I shared in my April newsletter a list of things that would not be able to take place in Term 4, some that would happen in a different way and others that we were still working out! I referred to it being akin to flying the plane while still designing it! We still feel we are doing a bit of flying the plane whilst responding to required changes to the design along the way and no doubt when we return after Easter there will be more changes for us to accommodate. That said, some things are clear...COVID has not gone away but we are better equipped to live with it as we start to move from restrictions that are legal requirements to ones that will become guidance. We will continue to be the best we can be and follow guidance. Our First Minister's message this week has been that the best ways for us and our communities to stay safe is through vaccines, treatment, and sensible personal public health choices. We will be the best we can be in making sensible choices going forward!

Some things for us to look forward to and experiences we feel are sensible public health choices and can be managed well, some of which are included in our dates for your diary...Sports Day, Family Picnic, Community Clean up, Primary 7's Activities Week, transition events, Bike ability.....to name but a few!

I strongly feel the Fishermoss Family has been the best it could be in these past two years and together we will continue to be a shining light in our community! Like many of you, I continue to pray hard for all that is happening in our World!

Wishing you all a lovely Easter Holiday!

Yours most sincerely
Mrs Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher



Dates for your diary-Term 4 Session 2021-2022

April

Mon 4th - Fri 15th April - Easter Holidays
Mon 18th - Term 4 begins for pupils and staff
Tue 26th - Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm via TEAMS

May

Thu 12th - Electronic copies of Pupil Reports issued to Parents **from** this date
Wed 18th- Primary 1 Induction for Parents via TEAMS 2pm & 6:30pm (August 2022 Primary 1 intake)-
Details to follow
Wed 25th- Parent Consultations via TEAMS 6-8:30pm-Details to follow
Thu 26th- Parent Consultations via TEAMS 4:15-6:45pm-Details to follow
Fri 27th - Primary 7 Pupils Academy Visit

June

Thu 2nd & Fri 3rd - School Closed to Pupils & Staff **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Mon 6th - Fri 10th Primary 7 pupils Activities Week-Details to follow

Thu 9th - Fishermoss Family Community Clean Up! Pop along anytime between 4:30-7:30pm to join us.
Meet at school-Details to follow

Wed 15th to Fri 17th - P7 Pupils' Induction Days @ Portlethen Academy

Wed 15th to Fri 17th 2-3pm Playground Picnics New Primary 1 Pupils Induction event-Details to follow

Thu 16th- Current P1 to P6 Pupils meet their teacher for session 2022/23

Thu 23rd - Primary 1 to Primary 7 Whole School Sports Event 10:30am Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds→All Weather Permitting!

Fri 24th- 9:30 & 2:15pm New Fishermoss Primary 1 entrants for session 22/23 meet their teacher-Details to follow

Thu 30th - End of School Year Assembly

July

Fri 1st -Last day of term. Pupils return Tuesday 22nd August