



Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-2022

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

We have made it to the end of our first full Academic School Year since session 2018-2019! This is indeed cause for celebration and much to be thankful for. That said, almost all of us as at school, pupils, and staff, have experienced time away from school due to COVID. We are so very grateful to have remained open as a school for a full year and to have been able to have so many more opportunities and great experiences this term.....



We were delighted to be able to hold our **School Sports** and our **Jubilee Family Picnic** this year and what an amazing day that was. The family picnic was a wonderful, happy '**Fishermoss Family**' occasion with not a cloud in the sky. We really appreciated the fantastic support from our Fishermoss Family. Many thanks also to the wonderful volunteers who helped put up the bunting to further add to the sense of occasion and thank you to the fourteen S3 Sports Development

pupils from Portlethen Academy who were such a great help with our potted sports. Thank you to all who were able to join us for both these events and for cheering our pupils on. Well done to all our medallists from Sports Day and to all our pupils who showed great team spirit. Thank you for all your positive feedback about these events!



Our **Nursery** children also enjoyed a beautiful day for their **Sports**. Thank you to parents and family members who were able to come along to support them all. They really appreciated your time. We have lots of little keen athletes in our Nursery. Our **Nursery** children also had a great time at **Duthie Park** and once again a beautiful day! Special thanks to one of our Grandparents for funding this event! A special time was also had by all at our **Nursery Garden Party Graduation**. Thank you to all who were able to come and join in and thank you to the **PSC** for funding items for the graduation. The children were asked to share what they wanted to be when they grow up.....the majority want to be vets and we have some aspiring Knights, teachers and fire fighters and a chef!

Great excitement at school this week with the **PSC Shorts & Shades Discos**! Thank you to all who were involved in organising this event for pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 6! They had a super time! Making this event free was such a lovely gesture!

This past term has seen numerous events for our Primary 7 pupils as they reach the end of their Primary school years. In addition, we have enjoyed welcoming new children to our school in preparation for our Nursery and Primary 1 classes in August. This term also brought **Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations and the re-organisation of classes** for next term alongside the usual list of challenges and excitements that face a school in the final term. This newsletter makes mention of just some of the rich learning experiences our pupils have had this term.



Primary 7 Activities Week & Transition Events

Our **Primary 7 pupils** have had an action-packed term with their **Activities Week** and their **3-and-a-half-day Academy Induction**. They enjoyed 3 days off site during their activities week and 2 days in the local area! Offsite activities included **Tubing & Games at Aberdeen Snowsport Centre, Duthie Park, Absafe, Lochter Activity Centre-Kayaking, Buggy Driving, Rifle Shooting, Archery & Water Zorbing**. Local Area activities included a **Scavenger Hunt, Global Goals-Biodiversity/Den Building/Hedgehog Houses/Kelly Kettles/Hot Chocolate, Bike skills & Swimming!** Their action-packed activities week concluded with a **PJ Party & Movie** in our school hall! Thank you to the **PSC** for paying for the **Domino's Pizzas** for their **PJ Party**. Our thanks also to Debbie Dobinson, one of our parents, for making and providing **cupcakes** for the party for pupils and staff from her business...'Rising to the Occasion Custom Cakes'.....check her out on Facebook. Her cakes are fabulous!



Thank you to our Parents who arranged a Prom at the *Golf Club* this year for our Primary 7 pupils. Historically we have arranged a *Leavers Ceilidh* at school, but we are always open to parents and pupils wanting something different. Thank you to all who gave up their precious time to arrange this special, memorable event. Our Senior Pupils looked the part. Plenty smiles and poses for the paparazzi!

Great Achievements in Term 4!



John Muir Award-Well-done to our **Primary 7** pupils for their hard work on achieving their John Muir awards. This meant completing four sections; Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share. The pupils planned and carried out each section of the award. The creativity demonstrated, the responsibility taken and the enthusiasm for the natural world was great to see. We trust that this has enhanced their awareness of wild places and that they enjoyed taking responsibility for them and sharing their experience. The John Muir Award is a progressive scheme and we hope that our pupils will continue to create positive connections with nature.

Fishermoss Snowboarding Champion-Congratulations to **Saul Brown Primary 6** for winning a gold medal for the under 12s category and also winning best overall rider of the day! A massive achievement! We are thrilled for Saul and his continued success and delighted that he competes under the name of Fishermoss School!

Play Leaders Award-Well done to our **Primary 6** pupils who worked hard to complete the Active Schools Play Leaders Award! Mrs McRae's Primary 6 pupils took responsibility for planning, teaching and evaluating playground games with Mrs McDonald's Primary 1 and Mrs Middleton's class worked with Primary 3. This was excellent experience for them all and great to be able to have classes mixing and buddying up again. We look forward to them putting their skills to the test in August with our new Primary 1s.

Fishermoss Family Community Clean Up-Thank you to all who were able to join us for our **Community Clean Up** as part of our **Eco Schools Journey**! It was great to see so many come along. A total of 93 enthusiastic and jolly litter pickers turned up, 36 adults and 57 children! It was so special to have families join us at school and lots of lovely chat on our front grass area over refreshments! A significant amount of rubbish was collected around the community, **32 large black bags altogether, weighing 79kg**. We were encouraged by the response to this event, but all in attendance were disappointed at the amount of litter found in the community. Great teamwork from our Fishermoss Family!



Talented Musicians-Congratulations to **Sophie Middleton P6/7** and **Blair Cameron P7** who have passed their **Trinity College Exam in Grade 2 Scottish Fiddle**. Sophie passed with Merit. We are extremely proud of them both and do hope they continue to keep up their musical talent as they move to the Academy!

Euro Quiz 2022.....Congratulations to **Primary 6** pupils **Jack Thompson, Lauranna Starr, Fara Mitchell & Saul Brown** and, **Primary 6/7** **Maya Robertson, Maisie Stewart, Anne Williams & Klaudia Hagyariova** who were all selected to represent our school in the Aberdeenshire South Euro Quiz heats held online. Both our teams are to be commended for their enthusiasm and efforts to prepare. The Euroquiz Organiser for Aberdeenshire was impressed with the tremendous learning, commitment, participation, fantastic manners, and general good humour of all the representatives from schools across Aberdeenshire. The scores were incredible, but with 48 points, Kemnay School were the clear winners of Euroquiz 2022 who went on to represent Aberdeenshire at the Euroquiz Final in the Scottish Parliament in June! Well done to them all!

Curriculum News this Term!

Primary 7 pupils attended 'The Safe' based in The Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen as part of their Activities Week! A visit to 'The Safe' is like no other field trip. The facility is a one-stop safety shop that takes visitors on an **unforgettable safety adventure** that gives real-life context to the learning experience. An interactive facility, where the Absafe team deliver engaging, fun and informative sessions that teach young people about everyday hazards and how to deal with them, including Road safety, Railway safety, Home Safety, Fire Safety, Solvent Misuse, Anti-social behaviour, Cyberbullying and Security. Thank you to the **PSC** for funding the buses and entry fee to this venue.

Primary 6 & Primary 6/7 pupils had a presentation delivered about **Kooth**. Kooth is a free, personalised, **digital mental health support service** available for all 10 - 18-year-olds across Aberdeenshire. This is an invaluable resource for our young people.

Primary 4, Primary 4/5, Primary 5, Primary 6/7 & Primary 7 enjoyed a visit to the **Local History Exhibition** in **Portlethen Parish Church**. Fred Stewart, local historian, put on display many photographs of Portlethen, Downies and Findon from the 19th century to the 1950s. There were different categories, such as fishing, farming, school, church, people, etc. They had great fun learning lots about the surrounding areas, taking part in the quiz and hearing stories. Fred had many stories to tell!

Primary 6 & 7 pupils have completed some Basic Bike Skills activities at school. This was supported by Sustrans. Unfortunately, due to a low uptake the face-to-face parents' session had to be cancelled. Information however was shared with parents to support them to support their children.

Primary 5 have enjoyed **Paired Outdoor Learning** with **Miss Sang's Primary 1 class**. They have explored numeracy, literacy, art, STEM, history and health and wellbeing in nature. They have developed their team building, communication design and problem-solving skills whilst building new friendships.

Primary 6/7 took part in a **Biodiversity Live Lesson** which took them on a **virtual trip to the Highland Wildlife Park** to look at some of the **conservation projects**. They also had the chance to enjoy a story about the rainforest and meet a biologist who worked on conservation projects around the world. The lesson gave the children an opportunity to raise their awareness of careers in conservation and how the decisions they make can affect the wider world.

Pupils in **Primary 2S** attended several fantastic virtual workshops run by the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** where they got to meet professional musicians and hear them play. They attended 2 different musical performances which were modern narrated stories brought alive by the orchestra. They learned about different sections of the orchestra and their instrument 'families'. They explored how music can be made, sound, feel and affect us. Pupils impressed with their enthusiasm and their personal interpretation of the music to which they were listening. They experienced how to compose and follow their own simple musical score, as well as making their own basic musical instruments. They were also given the opportunity to conduct. In addition, they had a super in school music session with a professional violinist who is an aunt of a pupil in class.

Primary 3 took part in a singing workshop provided by the **National Youth Choir of Scotland**. The pupils learned a variety of fun songs and rhymes to help with rhythm and diction. Lots of fun was had by all and we are certain the children have been singing the songs non-stop at home just as they have been in class!

Primary 6 had a face-to-face **Botany and Inheritance session** from Dr McFadyen from **Robert Gordon's University** Biochemistry Dept where the class had several experiments to do themselves, staining and identifying xylem vessels and then extracting DNA using a variety of techniques and chemicals. Comments from the class included.....'was great to do some real science' and 'we got to use chemicals you wouldn't usually get at school' and 'it was so fun to do experiments with the fruit' and 'when can she come back'!

Primary 6 held a rather splendid '**Titanic**' **Afternoon Tea** with all dressed appropriately for the occasion. We had everyone from First Class to Third in attendance and they shared tales of their plans to find a new life in New York. It was a very happy occasion, with the pupils involved in preparing sandwiches and baking for the event! They were fabulous company!

River Dee Trust.. All classes benefitted from an **outdoor learning experience** delivered by The River Dee Trust. They offer free visits to school playgrounds and sessions are focussed on fun and teamwork to promote health and wellbeing. Their education program aims to increase awareness of, enthusiasm for, and understanding of, our rivers in Deeside and Aberdeen City. Working with schools and community groups, they enable children to undertake outdoor learning in a safe and fun manner and introduce them to the river on their doorstep. In our playground pupils played games, identified invertebrates and had their passion for nature nurtured.



Eco Schools...all classes have actively been involved this term in planting to encourage wildlife and bees. They have been incredibly enthusiastic. We have also had **Primary 4 & Primary 4/5** busy doing extra planting, clearing and painting garden furniture in one of our courtyards. In addition, Mrs Storey has rallied the troops in our **Primary 2 and 3 classes** to tidy up the infant courtyard, plating herbs and flowers to attract bees!



Assemblies

This term we have enjoyed a number of Class Assemblies in the mix! We love seeing these and our pupils have developed a completely different skill set recording them. To make it fair and consistent for all classes, and their parents, this term we continued to have assemblies shared through Google Classroom. We do however very much look forward to inviting Parents back into school next session for live Class Assemblies!

All classes showcased their '**Learning for Sustainability**' work. It was encouraging to hear from every class the range of experiences across the school from John Muir, Play Leaders, Junior Road Safety Officers, Fair Trade Focus, Shoe Box Appeal, outdoor learning experiences and our Eco Schools Adventure! So many rich learning opportunities developing a broad skill set! Impressive!

Eco Schools has been a regular feature at assemblies as we meet to discuss the outcomes of our **Environmental Reviews** and finalise our **Action Plans**, in addition to sharing progress already made. Pupils' enthusiasm for taking this forward has been significant! **Air Bee n Bees** are all the rage at Fishermoss in addition to **Bug Hotels**!

Primary 3 took us '**under water**' for their class assembly! They had some very catchy songs with actions that has us wanting to join in! The class shared their lovely artwork and fact files associated with their project and we all learned something new! Another confident performance with hints and tips to keep the ocean beautiful as they marked **World Ocean Day**!

Primary 4/5 confidently shared their learning from their **Jacobite Project**. Lots of examples of great teamwork creating models and researching areas of interest. Always special to be hearing children singing and they created a fabulous re-enactment of a battle on Bourtree Park!

Primary 4 shared all they had learned about the Human Body! We had everything from singing in French, egg experiments to demonstrate the importance of wearing a helmet and lots of hints and tips to look after our bodies! They were so professional; they could have had their very own television show!

Primary 2S enthusiastically brought to life their Weather Assembly and the rich learning across a range of subject areas. They shared fabulous ice patterns in Art, functional writing, maths links, French, experiments with shadows, singing and more. A very high standard from our younger ones!

Primary 6 gave a mature and confident performance with their **Titanic** themed assembly. They sang beautifully and looked the part. We even had a solo piano performance! They shared their impressive displays of work linked to their topic and their enthusiasm for this context for learning. They impressed us all!

We have as always enjoyed our **Learning Celebration Assemblies**, where pupils achieve certificates and share their learning with other classes, in addition to our **Golden Book**. We held our termly **Golden Assembly** and we also had an end of term **Golden Assembly** to recognise pupils who have not lost any golden time all year. They were presented with special certificates for this significant achievement. Their names will go up on our **Roll of Honour** displayed at the front of the school. We also had our **Sports Day** presentations where we celebrated with those who won medals in the flat races and certificates were presented to all class teams for their efforts with our Potted Sports.

Our **Primary 7s** created a wonderful **Leavers Assembly** for us all and their families. It is always special to hear pupils share memories of their time at Fishermoss and they sang beautifully for us. All our Primary 7 pupils, violinists and individual instrumentalists are to be commended for their preparation and performances for this significant event in our School Calendar. Presentations made included specially commissioned autograph books and pens provided by our **PSC**, John Muir Certificates, and a special Commemorative Edition of the Bible to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We also shared at our Leavers Assembly a special message from Rev Rodolphe Kowal from Portlethen Parish Church...please find the link to his short message below

https://youtu.be/BGqbnu3_BTo

Staff News

This time of year can sadly see us saying farewell to staff. Mrs Jane Davidson our violin instructor is retiring after 24 years in post! We wish her many happy days in her retirement and thank her for all she has done to develop the musical talents of our pupils over the years. We look forward to welcoming her replacement in the new term.

Dawn Smith our piano teacher is also sadly moving on. We also thank her for all she has done to help our pupils develop their musical talents. We look forward to welcoming Blair Cargill as our new piano tutor after the summer holidays!



Aberdeenshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge!

Aberdeenshire Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge is a fun and accessible activity for children of all ages and aims to promote reading, encourage progression, support curricular outcomes and involve children in cultural activity. The organisers design the challenge to ensure that children of all abilities take part and encourage participants to read their own choice of books, listen to talking books or download and read e-books over the school summer holiday period. The Challenge will run until **Saturday 27th August 2022**. Participant(s) taking part will download a collector's card from the Live Life Aberdeenshire website <https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/>



Alongside the reading challenge is a photography and picture competition for children to enter. There are many prizes to be won. Do go along to **Portlethen Library** and get involved. A great opportunity to help motivate pupils to read during the summer holidays.



Parental Involvement

Parents are genuine partners at Fishermoss. Special thanks to parents who have children moving on to the Academy and who have played such a big part in the life of our school over the years. Activities parents have helped with over the years include library duty, bikeability training, class trips, football coaching, serving on committees, organising fund-raising events, donating items and organising school uniform. The list goes on and on! Not forgetting parents

who make the effort to come and say, 'thank you', and show acts of kindness. It means a great deal to all of us at Fishermoss. Thank you to all who are involved with our **Parent Staff Council (PSC)** as together we strive to make Fishermoss School the best it can be. You will have noted many references throughout this newsletter to things that have been funded by the **PSC**. Details of our **Annual General Meeting** will follow in the new term. We would be delighted to see more parents involved so you can find out what you can do to enhance your child's learning experiences at school. The first event to be organised will be our **Sponsored Walk** and next session we look forward to Parents joining us!

Finally, the **Jubilee commemorative gift book**..... The original plan was that these would be delivered to all schools in the UK by the end of the academic year. They are currently distributing books to schools in England and Northern Ireland but had to re-book the scheduled print windows for Scotland and Wales. The books will be printed over the summer and delivery is expected in September. We will make arrangements to have copies dropped off at the academy for our Primary 7 leavers or put home with younger siblings.

We wish Pupils and Parents who are leaving Fishermoss every success for the future! We will miss you but will not forget you. You will always remain part of the Fishermoss Family!



We are so proud of all our pupils and all they have achieved this session. Learning & Teaching is our core business, and our attainment statistics speak for themselves. We look forward to sharing these with you at the start of the new session!

We also look forward to hearing all the holiday adventure stories when our pupils return on **Tuesday 23rd August**. Please see below for term/holiday dates for next session.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and safe travels wherever you go!

Kindest regards

Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher



Term and Holiday Dates Session 2022-2023

Monday 22nd August 2022-Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 23rd August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Friday 14th October-Last day of Term 1

Monday 17th - Friday 28th October-October Holiday

Term 2

Monday 31st October -Start of Term 2

Thursday 17th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Friday 18th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils

Friday 23rd December-Last day of Term 2

Monday 26th - Friday 6th January-Winter Holiday

Term 3 - 2023

Monday 9th January 2023-Start of Term 3

Wednesday 8th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Thursday 9th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Friday 10th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Monday 13th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff

Tuesday 14th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Wednesday 15th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils

Friday 31st March- Last day of Term 3

Monday 3rd April-Friday 14th April-Spring Holiday

Term 4

Monday 17th April- Start of Term 4

Monday 1st May-May Day Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff

Friday 7th July-Last day of Term 4

Monday 21st August- Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 22nd August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Please visit [Aberdeenshire Council website](#) for dates beyond Session 22/23.