

Dear Fishermoss Family

A week ago, today, we paused as a school to remember Her Majesty our late Queen and I shared a prayer of thanksgiving for her lifetime of faithful service. We held a minute silence and the respect shown by pupils was both moving and significant. Please find attached photographs of the floral tribute I laid at Balmoral Castle on behalf of our Fishermoss Family.

Jubilee Commemorative Gift Book.....so very sad to recall that just last term we celebrated our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where we planted trees at school to mark this memorable occasion, in addition to holding our Fishermoss Family Jubilee Picnic after our Sports Day. We also presented our most senior pupils with a special Jubilee copy of the Bible, and we had hoped to present all pupils with their own copy of a book to commemorate her Majesty's life, times, and the unique, unshakeable bond she shared with the people she served. Given these books were being printed and provided to schools across the United Kingdom, printing press issues meant that delivery was unfortunately delayed until the month of September. It is particularly poignant that we have just taken delivery of these books after Her Majesty's death. We hope this will make the books even more special to our pupils. Pupils in Primaries 2 to 7 will take home **today** a copy. Given these books were requested by schools last academic year, they are only available for pupils who attended Fishermoss School during the Jubilee Celebrations. For former pupils who have now moved on to Portlethen Academy, we will make arrangements for them to collect their books from Fishermoss. If for any reason you do not wish your child to have a copy of the book, then please return it to school as we know of others who would welcome a copy.

Her Majesty's Food Bank Drive Wednesday 28th September.....In light of Her Majesty's passing, our Parent Staff Council is organising a food drive with all donations going to 'The Larder', which is our local food bank. Pupils can bring items to school, on Wednesday 28th September or parents can drop off donations at school pick up @3:20pm as there will be a car in the playground for you to put your donations in. The larder indicated they would be delighted to accept any donations, but they always have a short supply of:

- Shampoo
- Washing up liquid
- Toilet roll

Parent Staff Council.....Once again, thank you to all who attended Fishermoss Parent Staff Council (PSC) Annual General Meeting last Thursday! It was great to see new faces and we are most grateful to have been able to form a committee. Our sincere thanks to all who have put themselves forward for specific roles, in addition to outgoing committee members for their support. Please do remember that all parents of children currently attending Fishermoss School are members of the PSC!

One of the events discussed as a PSC was our **Fishermoss Sponsored Walk** which has always been a great fundraiser! Last year this event raised an amazing £1, 591. Our Annual Sponsored Walk will be held this year on the afternoon of **Friday 30th September**. This has always been such a happy occasion and a great whole school event, involving pupils, parents and staff.

No special equipment is required for the sponsored walk other than your **child being dressed for the weather**.... a waterproof jacket, cosy layers and wellies or sensible walking shoes. If there has been rain, some of the local woodland paths can become a little muddy. The walk will still take place in wet weather! Who knows, it may be shorts and shades! The route will be on paths and pavements, including the Community Woodland, heading up to the church and a return via Bruntland Road. Please see the attached route map for your information. Marshalls will be in place at the two crossing points. If you are unable to join us for the event you can see the route we will follow and still do the walk together as a family at a more convenient time.

Pupils in **Primary 1 to Primary 3** will do the route once, departing school at **2:15pm**. **Primary 4 to Primary 7** pupils will show their stamina and cover the route twice departing at **2pm**! Pupils in **Nursery** will also leave at **2:15pm** and will do part of the route that takes in the Community Woodland loop. Nursery children who would not normally be attending Nursery on a Friday afternoon are invited to join Nursery for the walk, but they **must** be accompanied by an adult as Nursery staff will be supervising children attending Nursery that afternoon on the walk.

Parents and younger children are most welcome to join us but unfortunately for safety reasons pushchairs and pets are not permitted. Parents wishing to walk with their child's class should meet them at their normal entry door for your child's class at the appropriate departure time. Fishermoss Family weekend homework could be having your child show you where they line up in the morning! If you do plan to join your child's class, could you please write a note in your child's homework diary, so their teacher is aware. Unfortunately, you need to choose which of your children you walk with as pupils must remain with their class for the duration of the walk. Nursery parents who wish to join in with the walk should meet with Nursery at the usual spot for drop off/pick up!

Upon completion of the walk, tea and coffee will be available in our school hall for parents whilst pupils return to their classes & Nursery for a treat! Please do come in for a cuppa!

As we prepare for our sponsored walk it would be great if all remaining local area field trips permission forms for 2022/23, sent out by the school office, could be completed please. This permission slip is for local off-site activities only, which includes our **School Sponsored Walk**.

Rather than the traditional sponsor form, we would like to allow for some creativity and individuality and have our pupils and families more involved in how they wish to record donations/sponsorship. Suggestions from pupils have included the following:

- Drawing a picture including all who made donations with the amount next to each person.
- Drawing or making a tree collage/flower and giving each sponsor a leaf/petal.
- Drawing a fish and each sponsor is included on a scale.
- Creating their own table/form and decorating it.
- Buzzing bees/medals and each bee/medal has the sponsor details.
- A form created online to enhance their IT skills.
- A word document to enhance their typing skills.
- Choose a picture from a colouring book at home, colour it in and add sponsor details to it.

.....these are a few ideas to help but we will leave it with you as individual families to decide and choose how best to record donations/sponsors. Pupils are welcome to take their creations into school after the walk for inclusion in 'Learning Celebration Books-Wider Achievements' or to display in school.

For getting donations/sponsorship to the Parent Staff Council, please use the following Just Giving link.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fishermosspsc?utm_term=WzvgEdPby

Parent/Teacher Consultations..... will be held at school Wednesday 5th October 6-8:30pm and Thursday 6th October 3:45-6:15pm. Further information will be sent out at the beginning of next week!

Please be aware we are open on Monday! We do not have this as a holiday!

Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children's Services



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