



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to see how quickly our Primary 1 pupils, new pupils and Nursery children have settled in this term. Special thanks to our Primary 7 Play Leaders for supporting Primary 1 in the playground. It has been a joy to welcome parents back into our school building for our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening, Parent/Teacher Consultations and for our Senior Pupils' Abernethy Residential Trip meeting. These were **opportunities to support you to be involved in your child's learning**. We have also welcomed, and enjoyed having, a number of students attend for teaching experience from Aberdeen University, in addition to Work Experience and foundation apprenticeship students from Portlethen Academy.



Sadly, this term also saw us pause 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. A floral tribute was placed at Balmoral Castle on behalf of our Fishermoss Family.

Global Warriors & Pupil Council

'Fishermoss pupils are listened to, valued and respected and feel they are involved in making decisions in the school'



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At Fishermoss School all pupils are **'Global Warriors'**. Being a Global Warrior is about knowing and understanding our world and having the right values, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. It is about positive relationships and building safe, happy and healthy communities. At class circle time meetings, our pupils share and discuss ideas for ways to improve our school, which includes ways to improve the way we learn, global and environmental issues and what we can do for others. e.g. Eco Schools, Fair-Trade, playground improvements, charities to support etc. Global Warrior meetings are now held online through TEAMS which means all pupils can attend and not just Pupil Council class representatives. These meetings allow for on/offline breakout discussion and bring together class ideas to decide on the most effective ways to bring about change and improvements to our school, our environment, our community and beyond. Class representatives often take on the role of the spokesperson to share class discussions and views through TEAMS. We greatly value and respect the views of our pupils and the vital part they play in making decisions at school.

As usual this term, following pupil presentations and class votes, our new **Pupil Council** members i.e., class representatives, have been appointed and were presented with their badges at assembly. Thank you to our PSC for providing the badges. Congratulations and well done to **Emily Watt (P3)**, **Finlay Purves (P2/3)**, **Sophia-Leigh Taylor (P3/4)**, **Aila MacDonald (P4/5)**, **Ross Morrison (P5)**, **Isla Davis (P6)**, **Lewis Hay (P6)**, **Ruby Watson (P6/7)**, **Josh Milnes (P6/7)**, **Saul Brown (P7)**, **Carlisle Robertson (P7)** and **Klaudia Hagyarova (P7)**. Pupil Council is made up of representatives from Primary 3 to Primary 7. Additional pupils are appointed from P6 and P7 to represent Nursery, P1 and P2.

We Decide...Children and Young People Voting for change-Participatory Budgeting-Success story for Fishermoss Primary 6 and Primary 7 Pupils!

Aberdeenshire Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online vote for a participatory budgeting exercise which took place over recent weeks. This was branded as the 'We Decide... Children and Young People Voting for Change event'. Schools were asked to consider the participatory budget theme of **Climate Change & Carbon Reduction**.

Primary Schools were encouraged to involve their Primary 6 & Primary 7 pupils to come up with exciting project ideas and apply for funding....and all Primary 6 & Primary 7 pupils at Fishermoss were involved. We went through an exercise with pupils to shortleat the suggestions made and they submitted their application. The most voted for projects per cluster area (1 Academy and 2 Primary Schools) would be successful in securing funding for their project. We are delighted to say that our pupils' application was successful!

Our Senior Pupils had applied for funding for items which they felt would help pupils understand climate change and fight it. Their project was to secure funding for equipment but also to develop an understanding of the topics of climate change and the reduction of carbon through books and educating classes. Our Senior pupils felt that helping people to understand these topics, as well as taking direct action with planting and growing, will strengthen the school's commitment to them and make sure that all pupils coming through the school know how important interacting with the natural world is. The project will help our school become even more eco-friendly, and pupils aim to have a practical part (growing and planting) as well as an educational aspect through the creation of an Eco library which will help all our learners understand why interacting with the natural world and preventing climate change is so important. They believed this 'two pronged' approach would be more impactful than just action alone.

They have successfully secured **£2000** for a composter, small greenhouse, garden equipment, planters, storage and an Eco Library. We are so very proud of their efforts to secure these funds.

'Children and Young People Voting for Change' vote was a success with a total of 696 voting young people in Aberdeenshire. A total of 18 exciting projects from across the area will be awarded funds to the collective value of £32,890 to support their work around climate change. Great to have this support for our young people to carry out exciting projects that young people have generated, examined, and democratically decided upon. This represents a great achievement from our young people. Fishermoss School valued the opportunity to be involved in this project and are of course delighted with the outcome.

Parent Staff Council

A heartfelt and sincere thank you to all who attended our Parent Staff Council (**PSC**) AGM. There was a great energy in the room with very enthusiastic and supportive parents, and staff, willing to give up precious time for the benefit of all Fishermoss pupils. We are very grateful to those who were willing to serve as Office Bearers which enabled a Council to be formed. We are aware that not all parents are able to attend PSC meetings but do not fear, there will be lots of different opportunities for you to help throughout the course of the year. You will notice several references to the **PSC** throughout this newsletter.



Annual School Sponsored Walk

It was super to see parents join us on our annual Sponsored Walk and a great time was had by all from Nursery through to Primary 7. We enjoyed near perfect weather given the storm the previous Friday! We certainly made sure we were noticed in the community with our 'Crazy Hair'. The ice lollies provided by the PSC were a welcome treat for pupils, and parents enjoyed refreshments and a chat in the hall afterwards. Thank you to all who came to help and joined in. Thank you to pupils and parents for their efforts to get sponsorship! Every penny raised makes a real difference to our PSC funds and all pupils' benefit. Thank you also for donations to the PSC Bottle and Chocolate Tombola stalls for this year's **Christmas Fayre**, which will be held **Friday 2nd December at Fishermoss School!**

Curriculum News this Term!



Bike Skills at Fishermoss!.....Anna Bailey from Sustrans supported our **Primary 1 and 2** pupils develop their bike skills and being safe on their bikes. It was lovely to see so many parents join in with these sessions. Anna also supported some pupils in P4-7 to gain confidence when cycling. The week was full of celebrations and great achievements - Comments from pupils included, "I can ride a pedal bike!" "It was great fun!"

We look forward to welcoming Anna back next term to work with all P6 and P7 pupils on planning a safe journey on their bikes in the local area.

Primary 4/5 are responsible for organising our participation in the **Rotary Shoe Box Appeal** this year, as part of their work as **Global Warriors**. They have been busy preparing PowerPoint presentations in the hope that they will encourage as many pupils as possible to share the message at home to help those less fortunate to have a special **Christmas Day!** Sanvithi Shastry, Elliott Stewart, Michal Hagyarai & Sienna Milne did a super job sharing their presentation at assembly and ensured we had all the information we needed to know about the Shoe Box Appeal. The class have clearly been developing their skills for the '**World of Work**' such as planning, organising, communicating, working with others and taking **responsibility** as they take the lead on the Shoe Box Appeal at Fishermoss. If your child/children would like to fill a shoe box then please fill in the form using the link;https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTkWnKmtL8RPEQwGviCt-9LqAddlef7SU9U-A2BwlsP19V8Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

The shoe boxes will then be given to the pupils on either **Monday 31st October/Tuesday 1st November**. Once filled, shoeboxes should be brought back to school by your child, and they will be collected from their classrooms. The deadline for returning Shoe Boxes is **Wednesday 9th November**.

Primary 2/3 visited the local **library**. They enjoyed finding out more about how to access a variety of different types of books, picture books/chapter books, fiction and nonfiction. They were amazed to hear that the library has over 3000 books. They were also delighted to participate in library bingo where they had to locate information within the library honing their observational skills.

Primary 3/4 took part in a **STEM workshop** as part of **Scottish Maths Week**. They had a workshop with Anne who is a Construction Manager and a STEM ambassador who shared the different areas of maths used in her role including estimation, patterns, measuring and probability. Anne set the class a STEM challenge to use only eight sheets of A4 paper and a small amount of Sellotape to build the strongest pillars to hold the most books. The class created triangular prisms, but quickly learned these had a weak point which caused the pillars to crumple. They reported cylindrical shaped pillars worked best and could hold over **forty** books! They had great fun working together to problem solve and enjoyed finding out how Maths is used every day in the role of a **Construction Manager**. A great opportunity to support our work on Developing the Young Workforce

Fishermoss Book Illustration Winners!



Well done to all pupils who were in Miss Blacklaws' P4 class and Miss Mellis' P3 class before the summer for taking part in a competition to create illustrations for the book 'Archie and Amanda's Amazing Adventure' by Alec Franks, in aid of The Archie Foundation.

Congratulations to **Wumi Mtika** and **Angelina Panait**, both currently P4/5, who had their illustrations selected to be part of the book. All entries to the competition from these classes were on display last weekend in the Main Atrium of Union Square, Aberdeen. Very exciting for them all to have their illustrations on display and for Wumi and Angelina to have their illustrations included in the book.



Assemblies

Assemblies are held every Tuesday afternoon this term for P1 to P3/4 & P4/5 to P7. As parents, you will be invited to attend your child's/children's 'Class Assembly' where the class will be involved in the creation and delivery of the assembly. Details will appear in class newsletters as appropriate. For children in our Primary 1 classes, this will take the form of a Nativity next term - details to follow!

Our assemblies very much focus on our school's vision, values and aims. The emphasis being on supporting our pupils to become **successful learners** with enthusiasm and motivation for learning; **confident individuals** with physical, mental & emotional wellbeing and self-respect and ambition; **responsible citizens** with respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in their community and the wider world and also **effective contributors**, who can communicate, work together, be creative and enterprising.



Regular features at assembly include us focusing on '**Good News about Me**' where pupils share wider achievements and the '**Golden Book**' where individual pupils are given a special mention for significant effort in work, and also in relation to the golden rules. '**Learning Celebration**' assemblies focus on curriculum subject areas where pupils have been **hardworking**, have done particularly well and certificates are presented.

Assemblies this term also included our new **Pupil Council Representatives** being introduced and information on their role was shared. We also had a focus on the School's **motto, values** and the **Golden Rules** and what the expectations are for all in the playground, classroom and in the wider community. We have shared the role of all pupils as **Global Warriors** and it being their **responsibility** to be the best they can be and Primary 4/5 shared a presentation about the Shoe Box Appeal.

Rev Rodolphe Kowal, Portlethen Parish Church Minister, delivered an assembly on the Creation of the World as told in the book of Genesis in the Bible. It gave us an opportunity to consider how we can show respect for, and care for, planet earth. We also welcomed **Nicole Hepburn** from Portlethen Library who shared all on offer at the library and a bit about her role there.

PSC HALLOWEEN DISCOS

The PSC Halloween Discos are back! So, get dressed up and ready to party. Games & Prizes to be won!

When: Wednesday 2nd of November

Primary 1 to 3: 6-7 pm

Primary 4 to 7: 7:15 -8:30 pm

Where: School Hall

Cost: £2 per ticket

Please complete this short form to book your tickets:

[Halloween Disco Tickets](#).



Then **transfer £2 per ticket** to:

Fishermoss PSC

Sort Code: 83-15-31

Account Nr: 00121380

or transfer via **Paypal** to fishermosspsc@outlook.com

Reference: 'Disco Child Name and Class'

Please make sure payment has been made by **Sunday 30th October!**

Wristbands will be issued in class in the week beginning Monday 31st of October and will be used as a ticket for the disco. Please write **contact name and phone number (of parent/carer)** on the wristband before putting it on your child's wrist. This will make it easy for us to contact you if needed. Children without a completed wristband will not be allowed to attend the disco. Something to look forward to after the holidays!

Children in Need

As part of our work as '**Global Warriors**', we will be supporting the Children in Need charity on **Wednesday 16th Nov**. All pupils and staff are invited to '**Dress as they please**' and to donate some money at school for the charity if they can afford to do so. Dressing as you please outfits can range from pyjamas to sports gear to frocks to fancy dress to casual... whatever you please!



Poppy Scotland

As always, we are supporting this important appeal. Collection tins and poppies will be circulating in classes after the holidays.

Portlethen Cluster Wellbeing Evening

Our Portlethen Local GIRFEC Group (LGG) organised a wellbeing evening which was held this week to support parents of children in P6-S6 with the many wellbeing issues facing our young people. Primary 6 & Primary 7 Parents from Fishermoss were included in the invitation. The LGG is made up of local representatives from Secondary and Primary Education, Social Work, Police, Health, Educational Psychology and Community Learning and Development (CLD). The purpose of the evening was to signpost parents and carers, to useful resources and to provide useful information to increase knowledge in certain wellbeing areas, as well as dispel any myths that surround some wellbeing concerns such as self-harm and drug use.

There were six workshops including Anxiety and Mental Health; Online safety and wellbeing; Self-harm; Motivating your young person - how to get them to engage with learning; Drugs - what we need to know about in our area and Sleep and its importance to our young people's day at school.

Finally, we are aware there are several references being made to charities and upcoming fundraising events in this newsletter. Do as you feel led and able. There is no expectation that our Fishermoss Families are involved in them all. Every little helps!

Wishing our Fishermoss Family a lovely October break!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary-Term 2 2022



October

Mon 17th- Fri 28th- October Holidays! School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 31st -Term 2 begins

November

Wed 2nd - **PSC** Halloween Discos P1-P3 6-7pm & P4-P7 7:15-8:30pm

Wed 2nd - **PSC** Card Design Deadline

Wed 9th- Rotary Shoe Box Appeal-last day to return boxes to school

Fri 11th - **PSC** Shopping Night - details to follow

Wed 16th- Children in Need - Dress as You Please Day

Thu 17th & Fri 18th - Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils & parents.

Thu 24th - **PSC** Meeting 7pm

Tue 29th - Community Santa Run!

Wed 30th - Community Santa Run!

December

Thu 1st - Community Santa Run!

Friday 2nd - **PSC** Christmas Fayre- details to follow

Fri 16th - Primary 1 Classes- Nativity to P1 Parents-10am-details to follow

Wed 21st - Primary 1 to 7 Christmas outing to the Cinema-details to follow

Thu 22nd - End of term Christmas Church Service 9:30am-Portlethen Parish Church

Thu 22nd -School Christmas Lunch-details to follow

Fri 23rd - Last day of term 2

Mon 26th Dec to Fri 6th Jan - Christmas Holidays!

Mon 9th January 2023-Term 3 begins!