



Fishermoss School - Term 2 Newsletter December 2022

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

It's been 'all go' over the past two months with lots of interesting and active learning experiences. That's what life at Fishermoss is all about! It seems such a long time since the October break and the Halloween Discos at school!

This time of year, especially, brings an exciting buzz to our school. It has been such a joy to be able to have so many great events happening at school again after the restrictions of the last few years! We are genuinely touched by parents' and pupils' generosity at fundraising and charity events this term. Your **kindness** and **hard work** put in to support our school, and others, is second to none.



Thanks to everyone who supported our **PSC Christmas Fayre and Shopping Night** this festive season. Your donations, support and attendance were greatly appreciated. It was a very successful evening, where together we raised **£3017.44**! This is an incredible amount. Well done to all involved, pupils, parents, school staff and extended family members. Great teamwork and a super night with the usual spectacular Santa's Grotto.

Santa made another appearance with a merry bunch of elves from Hillside, Portlethen and Fishermoss School. The '**Santa Runs**' were once again a great success and such a special community event. A total of **£4180** was raised. The money is to be shared between the 3 schools and Portlethen Larder. It was an extra special event this year as we enjoyed hot chocolate at the front of school awaiting his arrival! Thank you to our parents and staff involved in the organisation and implementation of it all! Santa made yet another appearance at Fishermoss to deliver gifts to our Nursery children. Thank you to our **PSC** for helping Santa with pennies for all the gifts.

We know it's that time of year when you come across sheep at school! It was lovely to see so many of you attend our **Primary 1 Nativity**. The children shared the Christmas Story in their performance of '**Baarmy Bethlehem**'. It was wonderful to be having an audience for our Nativity back in school!



We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**Strange World**' at the **Cinema**. A great time was had by all! We always feel special having a big screen all to ourselves and our pupils are to be commended for their behaviour. Thank you to all our helpers! A huge thank you again to the **PSC** for covering the cost of the tickets and the 6 coaches required to get us there.

Our **School Christmas Lunch** was another special whole school occasion. Well done and thank you to our School Cook and all our kitchen staff. Thank you again to the **PSC** for supplying the crackers. There was lots of hilarity in the dining hall sharing **Christmas jokes**!



Thank you for joining us at our **Christmas Church Service**. Our readers and musicians impressed us all. Our church collection will go to '**Aberdeen Cyrenians**' in support of Portlethen Church's chosen Charity for the Tree Festival. Once again, a Fishermoss tree was on display at the festival which was decorated by Senior Pupil Council Representatives, accompanied by Miss Anderson.



'Season's Greetings' and 'Festive Cheer' were brought to the residents of Portlethen Care Home as **Primary 4/5 & Primary 5** entertained them all with a medley of Christmas songs.

November In-Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan

We had a packed programme for Teaching and Support staff with a combination of face-to-face sessions and online. All staff participated in workshops on Trauma Informed Practice, and we joined with cluster colleagues for a focus on Nurturing classrooms. PSAs across the cluster met together for a session on Anxiety and the Effects on Learning and teaching staff across the cluster met for Writing Moderation. All our staff attended an Aberdeenshire wide event on Learning, Teaching and Assessment delivered by inspirational speaker Mark Burns over ZOOM! Over the last fourteen years, Mark Burns has developed a proven track record in developing teaching and leadership in education and has co-authored three best-selling books in this field.

Acts of kindness!



In November pupils were given the opportunity to dress up for **Children in Need** and a fantastic £417 was raised.

Poppy Appeal..... Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of £50.47 was raised.



Rotary Shoe Box Appeal..... Thank you to everyone who donated items and for showing such kindness. An amazing **63 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School and £126 of monetary donations were received to help cover the transport costs of delivering the boxes. As previously shared, **Primary 4/5** were, as **Global Warriors**, responsible for organising this charity event for us at school. Here they are pictured receiving their certificate from Carolyn McGhee, one of our local Rotarians.

Some Curriculum News from this Term!

Primary 6, Primary 6/7 & Primary 7 pupils were out on their bikes again this term! Great to see a busy bike shelter at school despite the chills of November! I-Bike was held over three days this term. Pupils were given the opportunity to learn about planning a safe route for cycling, bike skills, bike maintenance and bike safety checks. This was all rounded off with a group cycle around Portlethen. **Primary 6** also started the term with the responsibility of being **Junior Road Safety Officers**. Working in small groups, they taught or presented an age-appropriate lesson to every class in the school.



Aberdeen University Business School delivered workshops to two classes this term to support our **Developing the Young Workforce** agenda. **Primary 6** participated in a '**Design an App**' workshop at school. Pupils spent the morning investigating research, designing and marketing their apps which included some impressive ideas with very practical uses. Skills developed included communication, creativity, empathy, teamwork and decision-making. **Primary 6/7** benefitted from a workshop on **Marketing Skills**.



Primary 5, Primary 6, Primary 6/7 & Primary 7 pupils were involved in the **planting of crocus bulbs** in our playground with one of our Aberdeenshire Rangers, Helen Young. The bulbs were provided by the Rotary as part of their '**Purple4Polio**' activities. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to play their part in creating something quite special for us to enjoy for many years to come. We look forward to a purple carpet in the spring! **Primary 2 & Primary 6** also planted some additional bulbs throughout the playground so we look forward to the flowers peeping through one day soon!

Primary 6/7 took a trip to the **Science Centre** where they participated in a coding workshop and had an opportunity to experience all the exhibits. The class are also participating in the **Carbon Capture & Storage Project** organised by **Scottish Council for Development and Industry**. This will culminate in the class building and powering a hydrogen fuelled vehicle. They also took part in a **Code-a-Long Christmas Candle** session as part of their **technology skills**.

Primary 7 met virtually with a **World War II pilot** as part of their class project. **Primary 7** also attended an **Eco Schools Biodiversity** live lesson.

Primary 6 & Primary 6/7 participated in an online demonstration of the **Kooth website**, a site where pupils can go to for a range of mental health support in a safe, free and confidential environment.

Primary 2 & Primary 2/3 had a hands-on experience with a Fire Engine at school linking with their class projects on **Communities and Keeping Safe**.

Primary 4 & 4/5 had an on-line **pollution and conservation workshop** as part of their class project.

Assemblies

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.

We welcomed two **Rotarians**, Moira Hogg and David McGhee, to share a presentation with us about the work the Rotary does to raise awareness of Polio and the Rotary's efforts to rid the world of this disease. Their presentation tied in with our purple crocus bulb planting and they shared the significance of the purple coming from a purple pen mark being put on children after their vaccination.

Primary 3/4 created presentations about **Children in Need Day** and how the funds we collect helps many children across the country.

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. They spoke about the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and strategies they can use for solving life's problems such as talking to friends, not catastrophising things and the power of yet! We continue to focus on putting all these into practice!

We also have 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 pupils at these. All our pupils **worked hard** at our hymn practices to prepare songs for our Christmas Church Service. Our **Primary 1 classes** also left us suitably impressed and ready for Christmas as they shared their **Nativity** with all classes in their dress rehearsals.

Thank you for your acts of kindness and words of encouragement this past school term. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

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 2023

- Mon 9th- Pupils and Staff return to school
- Tue 10th -School closed due to teachers strike action
- Wk beginning Mon 23rd - Interim Pupil Report.

February

- Wed 8th - Mon 13th - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.
- Tues 14th & Wed 15th-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils
- Thu 16th- Parent Staff Council Meeting 7pm-All welcome!
- Mon 20th- Fri 24th - Primary 7 Residential week-Abernethy Outdoor Centre
- Mon 20th Feb-5th March-Fair Trade Fortnight

March

- Fri 10th - School Photographer - Sibling or individual Photographs
- Fri 17th - Comic Relief Red Nose Day 'Dress as you Please'
- Wk beginning Mon 27th - Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments homework diaries.
- Fri 31st - Last day of Term 3

April

- Mon 3rd - Fri 14th April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.
- Mon 17th April - Pupils & staff return to school