



Fishermoss School-Term 3 Newsletter-March 2023

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

Daffodils and crocuses appearing in our school grounds, and lambs in the fields, are always a welcome sign of Spring and new life.

Our Fishermoss Family, and beyond, have been truly amazing with supporting our Parent Staff Council with fundraising for 'The Gift of a Good Book'. An incredible £7202.13 has been raised through their Crowdfunding page, raffle and car boot sale in one month. Thank you so much to all who have felt able to support this. This brings the total donation from the PSC to **£13,202.13**. This is truly amazing! School has ring fenced **£20 000** to add to this amount. We have therefore ordered reading books to the value of £33,202 for Primary 1 to Primary 7 across all stages which will significantly enhance our reading scheme at school.

We are delighted that after 3 years of COVID restrictions our **Spring Fayre** is back, and plans are under way! The date is set for **Saturday 20th May** for the 'society event of the year' at Fishermoss! This is a significant date in our fundraising calendar so we do hope you can make it along! Timings and further information will follow next term. The PSC are looking for ideas for stalls and volunteers to help so if you can spare some time, we would be most grateful. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer please email direct to FishermossPSC@outlook.com You do not need to be a member of our PSC to help and no PVG is required as you will not be responsible for supervising children.

Comic Relief Day

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 **£266.67** Fishermoss families also supported **The Larder**, Portlethen by taking in items of food. Your **kindness** was very much appreciated and your support of others less fortunate is always humbling. Well done Primary 2/3 and Primary 3 for all your work organising this event and sorting the food for The Larder! Thank you to all who were able to contribute. An amazing response!



**COMIC
RELIEF**



**COMIC
RELIEF**

Primary 7 Pupils Abernethy Outdoor Centre Adventure.....



We were thrilled, after 3 years of missing out due to COVID, to be back at the **Abernethy Outdoor Centre, Nethybridge** with our **Primary 7 pupils** for a week's residential experience at the end of February. Pre-COVID, this had been an annual event at Fishermoss and we were delighted to be back. All 33 of our Primary 7 Abernethy Adventurers were great ambassadors for their Fishermoss Family. They made the most of every opportunity and each one of them achieved great things! Zip-lining, adventure course, dry-slope skiing, climbing wall, daily swims, group challenges, forest adventure and orienteering just scratches the surface of what our Abernethy Adventure was all about! Accompanying them were Mrs Middleton Primary 6/7 class teacher, Mrs Shepherd Pupil Support Assistant, Mrs Adam Additional support for learners teacher and their Head Teacher. A small group of pupils chose not to attend Abernethy but enjoyed outdoor experiences here at school and did a great job at improving one of our courtyards by painting benches, planting bulbs and clearing away debris. We were all impressed by the way they all conducted themselves and how they looked out for each other. They should be proud of their achievements.

Staffing

It was with great sadness this term that we shared the sad news of the sudden death of our school janitor, Mr Arthur Pearson. Mr Pearson was our school Janitor for 10 years and also served as the Portlethen Cluster Facilities Operations Coordinator. Arthur died suddenly at his home on February 12th at the age of 65 from a heart attack. He was due to retire this May. A number of us attended a celebration of Arthur's life which took place in Stonehaven Scout Hall on March 6th. Arthur was a stalwart of the scouting movement in the north-east. He has been laid to rest beside his parents in Arbuthnott churchyard. A donation was made to the British Heart foundation from Fishermoss School. Our thoughts continue to be with parents, siblings, families, friends, and those immediately affected by bereavements this term.

Hare, there and everywhere!

Clan Cancer Support, the north-east's leading cancer support charity, has partnered with Wild in Art once again to bring an exciting new art trail to the north-east, Moray, Orkney and Shetland. The trail coincides with Clan's 40th anniversary, with the 40 hares being the focal point to celebrate the charity's commitment to supporting people affected by cancer. They chose the hare sculpture as they are an indigenous animal found in all parts of Clan's geography. Much like their clients during their cancer journey, hares must navigate rough and difficult terrain in order to survive. They are also adaptable, like their services team who deliver support to anyone affected by cancer. Most importantly, hares have incredible hearing.



The Big Hop Trail will take the public on another cultural tour of the north-east and the islands, with hare sculptures designed and created by some of the country's most talented artists. The trail coincides with Clan's 40th anniversary, with the 40 hares being the focal point to celebrate the charity's commitment to supporting people affected by cancer.

Fishermoss Parent Staff Council are supporting this event and have purchased a mini hare sculpture for the art trail. All pupils and staff will be involved in painting the sculpture and will get to make their own individual mark! We have decided to call our hare 'Arthur', in memory of the late Mr Arthur Pearson our Janitor. Once decorated, Arthur our hare will be part of the Big Hop but will return to school one day.

Some Curriculum News from this Term!

Our '**Show & Tell Curriculum Event**' held on 1st February was an opportunity for parents to visit their child's/children's classroom(s) to find out more about the experiences their child is having at school. Our pupils had a lead role in this event and were responsible for sharing their learning. We had a fantastic turnout with a total of 232 families attending out of 274!

Earlier this term our school welcomed **Aberdeenshire Life Education Centre (ALEC)**. ALEC is part of **Coram Life Education**, a charity providing a Health & Well-being Education Programme. **All children from Primary 1 to Primary 7** attended a workshop where topics included **My Wonderful Body, It's Great to Be Me, Feelings, Welcome to Utopia, All About Me and Friends**. These workshops complement our school's Health and Wellbeing Programme.



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 such as ASDA and various bookshops.

The **Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** were invited to deliver a number of workshops from their 'Prevention through Education Programme'. '**Rabbit Rescuers**' was delivered to **Primary 1, Primary 2, Primary 2/3 & Primary 3** pupils and encouraged them to think about an animal's needs and feelings. **Primary 3/4 to Primary 7** focused on '**Animals and Us**' where pupils experienced a mixture of digital resources and board activities. Pupils explored how animals can experience a range of emotions just like us; their essential needs to stay happy and healthy, linking into how animals have the same needs as us in slightly different ways and the responsibilities we have to all animals whether they are pets, farm or wildlife.

Primary 7 experienced a **Financial Education Workshop 'Money Sense'** with a focus on budgeting and how much bills are in a household!

As part of our Expressive Arts Curriculum, **all classes** enjoyed blocks of **Kodaly Music sessions**. The Kodály method is an approach to music education rooted in the idea that music should be a social and cultural experience. The Kodály approach to teaching music asserts that musical concepts, creativity, and collaboration are best taught in group music lessons. Mrs Okumu, or 'Mrs O' as she is affectionately known by pupils, loves coming to Fishermoss School to deliver Kodaly Music lessons and we love having her here!

Primary 7 experienced a face-to-face **Employability Workshop** led by Pam Cumming from the University of Aberdeen with a focus on careers and the skills required. **Primary 5** also experienced a workshop delivered by Pam on **Marketing** as part of their class project on Charlie & the Chocolate Factory where the class created their own chocolate bars and were keen to develop skills to help market them!

Primary 6 participated in an **Eco Schools** live lesson all about **Global Citizenship**. This gave the pupils an opportunity to explore empathy, inclusion and acceptance of others. They heard from an author who shared her children's books about **child refugees** and discussed where she got her inspiration from.

Primary 6 joined a **live interview** with the first **British astronaut Helen Sharmar** and a future astronaut based in the North of Scotland. They discussed what life was like in the International Space Station and what the future for space travel held. The pupils found out more about jobs related to the space industry both here on Earth and ones which involved space travel. Another great opportunity to Develop the Young Workforce!

Primary 3/4 enjoyed having an **Aberdeenshire farmer** visit them from the **Royal Northern Countryside Initiative (RNCI)** in collaboration with the **Royal Highland Educational Trust (RHET)**. She talked about different types of farms in Aberdeenshire and brought in props for the class to explore to help them understand more about the daily life on a mixed farm. The class were interested to meet a farmer and to be able to ask questions! Pupils often associate farmers with males so important to share that there are other farmers! Another great opportunity for Developing our Young Workforce!

Primary 3/4 and **P3** have experienced **Physical Education** sessions delivered by **Portlethen Academy** pupils this term. They focused on teamwork and endurance through different fitness exercises and games. We greatly value opportunities to work with Portlethen Academy pupils and to support their development of leadership skills.... many will be former pupils whom we champion!

Primary 7 pupils attended two **Health & Wellbeing** sessions on '**Coping with Change**'. Discussion and activities focused on change and perseverance. **Primary 6 & 7 pupils** attended a workshop led by Aberdeenshire Community Learning & Development Team on dealing with **Anxiety**.

Primary 6 & Primary 1 have been buddying up for a range of activities, one of which included a spot of **Bird Watching** in the Community Woodland. Our Primary 6 class were super role models to our younger pupils.

Active Schools provided **multi sports** and **badminton** opportunities at school for pupils in addition to **Hockey Tasters** for senior pupils.

All classes experienced **Bike Skills** sessions this term. These helped further develop confidence and the ability to travel safely and of course encouraged enjoyment of the great outdoors! We are delighted that some families will be making use of the bikes we currently have on loan to us over the Easter Holidays. Great to see them being put to good use. The **Bike Doctor** has also recently been at school supporting with bike maintenance for anyone who wanted to drop off a bike for a health check!

Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and Aboot'

Educational Excursions or 'school trips', as they are often referred to, are used to support delivery of all curriculum areas. The educational excursions experienced by some of our pupils this term have supported delivery of Expressive Arts, Social studies and Career Education. Our **Parent Staff Council** support significantly with the funding of these excursions.

Primary 6 featured in Aberdeen University's News!.....Pupils develop their political, environmental and employability skills during university visit.....



Primary six pupils from an Aberdeenshire school were on campus in Old Aberdeen this week discovering what student life could be like and how what is learned in the classroom relates to real life.

The youngsters from **Fishermoss Primary** heard from Dr Samantha May, lecturer in the department of Politics and International Relations at the School of Social Sciences, who helped them understand the basics of Scotland's political structure and how policies influence our everyday lives.

They visited the Zoology building and met with Dr Elizabeth Campbell, School Education and Outreach Officer for the School of Biological Sciences who spoke to them about science and the environment; and they heard about climate change from Dr William Harcourt from the School of Geosciences.

Pupils then got a chance to tour the fluids laboratory at the School of Engineering's Meston building with Dr Mark Stewart and then get up close to the TAU Racing car. They also heard from students about what campus life is like and took part in an employability workshop, encouraging them to think about some of the communication and interpersonal skills that are needed at college, university and in the world of work.

Pam Cumming, Schools Engagement Officer for the Business School, who organised the visit, said: "This is the latest event in a long-standing relationship we have with Fishermoss Primary through which we work with the next generation of young minds to enthuse and inspire them about both the

world around them and their future career choices. "They were a fantastic group and we were delighted to be able to give them a flavour of what we teach at the University and the breadth of opportunities available to them."

Fiona McRae, P6 teacher, said: "The pupils had a great visit to the University. It was so informative and included so many different areas, with a great emphasis on the relevance to everyday life and future careers. The insight into university life and studies has also given the children inspiration for the future and some have already decided what they would like to study. It was an enjoyable day with something for everyone."



Primary 6/7 went to see and hear the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** perform 'Once Upon A Tune' at the **Music Hall in Aberdeen**. The class experienced the excitement of hearing the orchestra play a selection of music including 'Flight of the Bumble Bee' and 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' while the **artist James Mayhew** painted along live to illustrate the stories. Pupils were introduced to different sections of the orchestra and learnt about themes and rhythms in music. Inspired by James, the class had a go at making art to music. They used oil pastels and listened to 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' from Grieg's Peer Gynt suite.

Recent Achievements!



Two **Primary 7** teams were put forward to the Portlethen District Primary Schools **Rotary Quiz**. Both teams did extremely well competing against Newtonhill, Hillside, Banchory Devenick and Portlethen. Well done to **Aaron Brown, Russ Thomson, Amar Dogra, Declan Murray and Saul Brown, Aiden Taylor, Laurana Starr & Brodie McPherson** and reserves **Caleb Petrie and Ruby Watson**. All are to be commended for their **hard work** and effort preparing for the quiz. This was another one of many transition events our Primary 7 pupils will experience as all

Primary 7 pupils from across the cluster joined together at Portlethen Academy. It was great to be able to gather again for our annual Rotary Quiz!



Euroquiz is an annual project open to all **Primary 6** pupils across Scotland, which sees teams working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe and the wider world. Subjects covered include languages, history, geography, culture and European affairs. Heats take place in local authorities from February to April, with the winning teams from all areas progressing to the National Euroquiz Final held in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament in June. **All Fishermoss Primary 6 pupils** participated in round 1 of the **Euro Quiz**. They cooperated in teams of 3 or 4 to complete 4 rounds of questions. The winning teams were **Cole Jamieson, Cameron McDonald and Sophia Riley** with runners up being **Ethan Fromholc, Jamie Middleton, William Miller and Zareesh Khan**. The competition was very high, with many teams being near misses for getting through to the finals. Everyone taking part must be congratulated for an excellent effort, their hard work and enthusiasm!

Assemblies

We have enjoyed seeing many of our pupils take the lead in class assemblies this term and it has been a joy for them to perform to an audience of parents and family members. We have all missed this so much and classes have been very excited about their assemblies!

Primary 7 & Primary 6/7 gave a very Scottish themed assembly giving a flavour of happens at a **Burns Supper**. We enjoyed singing, poetry, dance, a piano solo and their very amusing addresses to the lassies and laddies! With this being, for many of them, their last class assembly at Primary School they certainly showcased a wide range of skills and talent developed over the years.

Primary 3/4 shared all they had been learning in their class project on **The Romans**. We all got a real feel for what life was like living in Ancient Rome. They shared a fabulous range of writing including letters, menus and descriptions of homes for sale! An all-round confident performance with singing and drama in the mix!

Primary 5 performed a **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** themed class assembly. They confidently showcased their learning about the book, the history of chocolate and Fairtrade. The class also gave an enthusiastic rendition of their Fairtrade song. This all tied in well with work across the school during Fairtrade Fortnight!

Primary 6 finished off our class assemblies for the term with a high brow Environmental Themed assembly encouraging us to be Responsible Global Citizens. They shared fascinating facts about the planets and the impact of climate change, including great ideas they had for our government to combat climate change. There was a focus on Fairtrade, and we were reminded about all things Eco encouraging us to reduce, re-use and recycle! Amongst it all, there was a strong message about the importance of not just looking after planet earth but looking after each other!

We also held our **Golden Assembly** and have enjoyed **Learning Celebration Assemblies**. **Rev Rodolphe Kowal**, our school chaplain, led two assemblies for us at school one being a time for reflection and he finished off our assemblies for this term with a focus on the Easter Story!

Stem Funding Award

We were delighted to hear this term that an application we had made for funding from **Aberdeen Formation Evaluation Society (AFES)** has been accepted. They are a small local charity working in a branch of geology, who have funds available for local schools to support with STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths. One of our Primary 1 dads was instrumental in sharing with us about this funding opportunity. The funds will be used for Lego Coding education sets, including kits that have hubs to connect to our iPads which will mean pupils can build models that actually work! We are most grateful for this funding support.

February In-Service Days-Improvement Planning

Teaching and support staff were involved in a range of Professional Learning Activities linked with our School Improvement Plan. We had a significant focus on Learning, Teaching, Assessment, and Moderation. All staff joined with colleagues from across Aberdeenshire for a Learning, Teaching & Assessment event delivered by Shirley Clarke who is an international freelance consultant, running courses, researching and writing.

Support staff joined cluster colleagues for a question-and-answer session with our Cluster Intervention Prevention Teacher Mrs Prise. Teaching staff also focussed on Rights Respecting Schools, and we had a site visit to the proposed Portlethen Community Wildlife and Sensory Garden to support with their design consultation process.

School Meals Price Increase

There will be an increase of 15p on the cost of a school meal to be implemented from Monday April 17th 2023. This will mean that the cost of a meal for Primary 6 and 7 pupils will increase to £2.65. Aberdeenshire Catering Services are aware the cost-of-living crisis is affecting everyone and have therefore kept these rises to a minimum. This increase is due to the increased cost of raw materials, and production, as you are aware the cost of food has risen higher than most other products and Aberdeenshire Council have not been immune to this rising cost.

Aberdeenshire School Catering is committed to offering our pupils a quality, nutritious and value for money meal experience that the pupils have come to expect. They have looked at different products and recipes to minimise the price increase whilst never compromising quality or reducing the portion sizes. Primaries hold the 'Food For Life' Bronze award which is a testament to their use of local quality ingredients wherever possible.

Wishing you all a lovely Holiday!

Mrs Margaret M Ferguson

Head Teacher



Dates for your diary-Term 4 Session 2022-2023

April

Mon 3rd - Fri 14th - School Closed for the Easter Holidays

Mon 17th April - Term 4 begins for pupils and staff.

May

Mon 1st -Bank Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 8th - Bank Holiday to mark our King's Coronation- School closed to pupils and staff.

Wed 10th- Primary 1 Induction for Parents 6:30pm (August 2023 Primary 1 intake)-Details to follow.

Wed 10th to Fri 12th - Pupil Reports emailed to Parents.

Sat 20th- Spring Fayre -Save the date...details to follow!

Wed 24th- Parent Consultations 6-8:30pm-details to follow.

Thu 25th- Parent Consultations 3:45-6:15pm-details to follow.

June

Fri 2nd -PSC Fishermoss has Talent-Portlethen Academy-details to follow.

Wed 7th - Fishermoss Family Community Clean Up! Pop along anytime between 4:30-7:30pm to join us.

Meet at school-Details to follow.

Wed 14th to Fri 16th - P7 pupils' Induction Days at Portlethen Academy

Thu 22nd - Primary 7 Leavers Ceilidh 7-9:30pm at school-details to follow.

Wed 28th - 10:30am Primary 1 to Primary 7 whole School Sports Event Bourtree Park & Lunchtime Family Picnic Fishermoss School grounds-weather permitting.

July

Thu 6th - End of School Year Church Service 9:30am Portlethen Parish Church

Fri 7th - Last day of term. Pupils return Tuesday 22nd August.