



Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-2023

'Being the best we can be'

Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking



Dear Parents/Carers

In the school calendar, term 4 is always bursting with activities for pupils, staff, and parents. This year we had the excitement of a Royal Celebration as we marked the Coronation of His Majesty The King with a Royal outfit day and a School Coronation Big Lunch 'Street Party' style! We do hope the Coronation bookmarks gifted by our PSC will be something special to cherish for years to come.



The term ended with more dressing up and celebrating in the form of our PSC Shorts & Shades end of term Summer Discos.



This term also brought Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations, Spring Fayre, Fishermoss Has Talent, Primary 1 Parents Induction event, Community Clean-up, trips galore, the re-organisation of classes and transition events for new Primary 1 pupils & our Primary 7 pupils. Unfortunately, the weather didn't allow for our Sports Day & Family Picnic to happen, but we have lots of other things to be thankful for and lots of other special memories were made.

Just this week we had a whole school **Jazzercise** with Nursery to Primary 7 pupils & staff enjoying a fitness and dance session outside to music. Our thanks to Suzanne Rankin, our Jazzercise instructor, who is also one of our fabulous school kitchen staff who quickly changed out of her overalls into lycra to lead the session!

This newsletter makes mention of just some of the rich experiences our pupils have had this term. There are too many to mention them all.....

Primary 7 Leavers.....



This past term has seen numerous events for our Primary 7 pupils as they reach the end of their Primary school years. They have had an action-packed term with their **3-day Academy Induction** and other associated workshops to support their transition from Primary to Secondary. They also reeled and jiggled the night away, to a live ceilidh band at school, at their **Leavers Ceilidh**. We were thrilled to have this event back at school after COVID! We were also delighted to welcome back former Fishermoss pupils Tyler Martin and Rosie Laundon who played the violin for us for our ceilidh dances, and to Mr Hibbs our cluster violin tutor who accompanied on piano. Our pupils also enjoyed dancing to their own playlist of favourites hits!

Thank you to our **PSC** for providing funding for the Domino's Pizzas, refreshments and gifts for our band for this special event. Our thanks also to Debbie Dobinson, one of our Primary 7 mums for making and providing **cupcakes** for pupils and staff from her business...'**Rising to the Occasion Custom Cakes**'.....check her out on Facebook. Her cakes are fabulous!

Our thanks to Primary 7 mums Zarina Dogra and Amanda Pirie for helping decorate the hall and arranging balloon decorations, photo props and glitzy lights and banners and to all of our Primary 7 parents who contributed towards the cost of these. The hall did look fabulous! Thank you also to the many staff who turned up on the night to help with this event and to celebrate with our Senior Pupils. Our Pupils certainly looked the part with lots of posh frocks, kilts, smart suits and shirts. Plenty smiles and poses for the paparazzi at the front of Fishermoss School and the sun did indeed shine for this occasion! Memories are made of moments like these!

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.

Young Volunteers Awards-As a school we actively encourage our Senior Pupils to become involved in the iVolunteer Awards Scheme. Several of our Primary 7 pupils have been doing a fantastic job volunteering both at school and in the community. Pupils can achieve Bronze award for a minimum of 10hrs volunteering, Silver for 25hrs, Gold for 50hrs & Platinum for 100 hrs and over. Pupils who took part were presented with their certificates and trophies at their Leavers' Assembly. Congratulations to the following pupils for their achievements..... **Grace Whitfield, Lilly Robertson & Klaudia Hagyarova** for achieving Bronze, **Fara Mitchell** achieved Silver, **Aiden Taylor, Aiden Robertson & Laurana Starr** achieved Gold and **Ruby Watson** achieved Platinum. Our Fishermoss School 'Young Volunteer of the Year' shield has gone to **Ruby Watson** for her **118 hours volunteering**. Congratulations to them all for their efforts and for showing **kindness, responsibility** and **hard work**.... something for them to add to their CVs going forward! Our thanks to Fishermoss PSC for funding the trophies.

Primary 6 Art Competition Winners-Links with local Businesses-Earlier this term 'Amazon' ran a competition for local schools to get involved with and potentially win money for their school. As April was Earth Month, the competition looked for schools to create some 'treasure' /artwork out of rubbish that would otherwise be binned. The school with the best entry would win **£3000** and guess what **Fishermoss Primary 6 won!** Mrs McRae's Primary 6 class decided to spend the money on literacy resources for senior classes and to fund all Primary 6 pupils attending ABSAFE and a well-deserved Health & Wellbeing swimming session at Portlethen Pool for their own class as a reward. Pupil voice and pupil choice being heard and listened to at Fishermoss School! Amazon's Sustainability Ambassador at Portlethen's Delivery Station came to school to present the prize and we also benefited from a donation of various seeds from them as they have heard about our Eco Schools journey as Global Warriors!

Fishermoss Snowboarding Champion....Our school snowboarding sensation has claimed a freestyle title for the second year running! Congratulations to **Saul Brown Primary 7** for winning a gold medal for the under 12s category! A massive achievement! Saul dedicates around 10 hours per week to snowboarding at Aberdeen Snowsports Centre every evening after school and at the weekends. Saul said: "I like being able to go high off jumps, it makes me feel like I'm flying. It is lots of fun, you come along and get accepted and then learn some new tricks. Everyone is hyped up and builds each other up. Most of my school friends play football so it's cool that I have a different hobby and I've made loads of friends through snowboarding." We are thrilled for Saul and his continued success and delighted that he has competed under the name of Fishermoss School! We hope there are pupils who will be inspired by Saul and will follow in his footsteps. We wish him continued success as he moves on to his secondary education!

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 our Nursery children and Mrs Middleton's Primary 6/7 class worked with Primary 3/4. This was excellent experience for them all and great to be able to have classes mixing and buddying up.

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 67 enthusiastic and jolly litter pickers turned up! A significant amount of rubbish was collected around the community, **28 large black bags altogether, weighing 40kg**, along with 2 heavy metal poles and an ASDA trolley! We were encouraged by the response to this event, but many in attendance were disappointed at the amount of litter found in the community. There was lots of lovely chat on our front grass area over refreshments in the sunshine....a reward for all their hard work! Great teamwork from our Fishermoss Family.



Primary 7 Scottish Maths Challenge—Gold stars to our senior pupils who participated in the Scottish Maths Challenge and successfully gained awards. Congratulations to **Laurana Starr** on achieving a Silver Award and to **Ruby Watson & Aaron Brown** on achieving Bronze! Well done also to **Daniel Tadjiev & Aiden Taylor** for their efforts and participation. We are extremely proud of our mathematicians and well done to them for all their **hard work** put in to prepare.



Curriculum News this Term!

Primary 6 and 7 pupils attended 'The Safe' based in the Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen! 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 for Primary 7 pupils and our thanks to Mrs McRae's Primary 6 class for funding this event for all Primary 6 pupils with their competition prize money.

Primary 7 pupils attended **Lectures for Schools** held at **Aberdeen University** run by **The Hydrographic Society** - Scotland Branch. In their 8th annual Schools Lectures they presented Surveying for the Energy Industry with talks about what surveying is, new technology and gadgets used in surveying and talks from people who have worked offshore. The aim was to inspire young people from Primary 7 upwards to consider science subjects when they make their choices for Nat5 and beyond, and also to have fun while learning. Our Primary 7 pupils were super ambassadors for Fishermoss School at this event and stood out from the crowd for all the right reasons.

As part of the event, there was the opportunity for schools to participate in a range of poster competitions. Our Primary 7 pupils entered and did us proud by **Winning** the following challenging briefs.....

'An oil company needs a new subsea map of their oil field to help them plan how to dismantle it. The oil field contains two platforms that are anchored to the seabed and lots of pipelines that run between the seabed well, the platforms and the shore. You have an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) plus a ship, but YOU have to decide the kind of equipment you would put on your ROV to produce the new map and why you would need this equipment.'

'Your school needs an updated plan of the school grounds. Your group has been asked to produce a scale map showing one part of the school buildings and surrounding areas. You will also need to describe how you created your plan, the equipment you used, the problems you found and how you solved them.'

All pupils in Primary 5 to 7 have successfully completed their **Young Emergency Aider Award Scheme First Aid Training at First Level** delivered by Grampian Training services. Our current Primary 5 and 6 pupils will build on this training going forward to the next level. We strongly believe at Fishermoss that first-aid training is a basic life skill everyone should learn. We are so very grateful once again to our **PSC** for funding this training.

We continue to benefit from online workshops and this term **Primary 7** participated in an **Eco Schools Live Lesson** and **Primary 6 & Primary 6/7** had a live lesson with the **Scottish Parliament on devolution, elections, and decision-making processes in Scotland**.

All classes enjoyed **Silent Discos** in the local area as part of our Health & Wellbeing! Our pupils certainly turned some heads! A great time was had by all!

Primary 5 took part in a workshop with **Aberdeen University Business School** focussing on **Employability** as part of our **Developing the Young workforce** agenda!

Primary 2/3, Primary 3 & Primary 3/4 experienced 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. These workshops are run in the hope of finding new recruits for the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Aberdeen Choir.



Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and Aboot'

This term has been particularly active with outings to all sorts of interesting places for all our classes. These educational excursions further enhance our delivery of the curriculum. Thanks yet again to the **PSC** for funding our School Trips.

Here is a whistle stop tour and all experienced lovely weather.....

Our **Primary 1** pupils kept it eco and local as they walked to **Farm Stop** for an interactive day with the animals!

Primary 2 took a trip to **Stonehaven Beach** as a Social Studies focus on **Global Citizenship** to increase pupils' awareness of biodiversity, their awareness of the significance of sea and marine life and why it needs protection and to enhance their awareness of human impact on the environment in relation to pollution and conservation.

Primary 2/3, Primary 3 & Primary 3/4 enjoyed a day at **St Cyrus Beach** to give pupils a more in-depth knowledge of the topics 'In the Water' and 'Living Things'.

Primary 4/5 & Primary 5 visited **St Machar Cathedral**, in old Aberdeen, to further develop their knowledge of the Scottish Wars of Independence and to investigate how local area fits with national history. They also enjoyed the splendour of neighbouring Seaton Park!

Primary 6, Primary 6/7 & Primary 7, as previously shared, were all off to **Absafe!**

Assemblies

It is hard to believe, and we would prefer to forget, but just this time last year we shared the following.... *'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 continue 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!'*



It has indeed been great to welcome back family members in person to our class assemblies this year at school. For many of our classes this term, their class assembly was the first time they had parents attend school to see a performance since COVID. We did unfortunately have to postpone our Primary 3 class assembly due to a vomiting outbreak at school but this certainly didn't affect their ability to perform.

Primary 4/5 shared all they had learned about **Scottish Inventors and Inventions**. They also shared their growth mindset poems and reminded us about marvellous mistakes and all we can learn from them. We were also reminded by this super positive class about the power of yet!

Primary 3 delivered a very confident performance showcasing their learning from their Egyptian project! We just about coped with the mummification process having not long eaten our lunch! The class had super stage presence and were incredibly enthusiastic.

Primary 2/3 shared all they had been finding out about **Early Man** through poetry, song and art. They even provided singing in French! A very professional and polished performance.

Primary 2 delivered an assembly on the weather and the seasons. They impressed us with their reading ability which included some very big words about the weather! They made us all smile with their amazing singing voices and actions to their songs.

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!

Nicole Hepburn from **Portlethen Library** came to share news of the Library's **Summer Reading Challenge**. We also welcomed **Rev Kowal** from Portlethen Parish Church sadly for the last time. He spoke fondly of his visits to Fishermoss School and we presented him with a gift to remember us all by. We wish him and his family many happy days in their next adventure in London!

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** which recognises pupils who have not lost Golden Time this past term. We also had an end of term **Golden Assembly** to recognise pupils who have not lost any golden time all year and they were presented with special certificates for this significant achievement. Their names will go up on our **Roll of Honour** at the front of the school.

Our **Primary 7s** created a special **Leavers Assembly** for us all and their families. It is always special to hear pupils share memories of their time at Fishermoss. All our Primary 7 pupils are to be commended for their preparation for this significant event in our School Calendar. Presentations made included specially commissioned autograph books funded by our **PSC**, John Muir Certificates, Young Volunteer awards and gift bags funded by Primary 7 parents and assembled by our P7 mums Zarina Dogra and Daria Starinska.

Staff News

We are sadly saying farewell to Mrs Gillian Stewart who is retiring after 35 years at Fishermoss School. She very much leaves with mixed emotions as she loves teaching and could not imagine doing anything else but, mainly, because of recent serious family illness the time is right for her to stop so she has the time and flexibility to spend it with family. We wish her many happy days in her retirement and thank her for the difference she has made to so many lives over the years at Fishermoss school! Here is Mrs Stewart knocking out the moves at Jazzercise at school...she is still full of beans!



Just recently this term we welcomed Mr Paul Matthews, our new school Janitor, who also serves as the cluster Facilities Operations Coordinator. It was lovely to introduce Mr Mathews to our pupils recently at assembly. We wish him many happy days at Fishermoss and in the Portlethen Cluster! We also recently welcomed back Miss Airlie and her baby girl Sunday who was the centre of attention. In August we look forward to welcoming Miss Watson who will be class teacher to Primary 3/4.

We also see at the end of this academic year some of our staff sharing their expertise in other cluster schools. Miss Adam our Additional Support for Learning teacher and Mrs Shirley Tylor, one of our PSAs, will share their expertise at Portlethen Academy. This will be lovely for our Primary 7 pupils moving on as they will have some familiar faces around. Mrs Robertson, another of our PSAs, will share her expertise at Hillside School. Miss Adam, Mrs Taylor & Mrs Robertson will still be part of our Fishermoss Staff team for part of their working week!

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, sorting our new reading books, 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.

Arthur our Hare.....

Mrs Stewart, her Primary 3 class and Mrs Taylor took a lead role in getting 'Arthur' painted up for **The Big Hop Trail!** Our sculpture is called 'Arthur' in memory of our school Janitor Arthur Pearson who died suddenly in February. He was due to retire this term at the end of May. As we didn't get to say goodbye, give him



cards or celebrate with him, our sculpture design is our way of remembering him and every pupil and staff member left their fingerprint mark on Arthur. This was our way of saying goodbye!

<https://www.thebighop.co.uk/sculptures/arthur/>

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 also look forward to hearing all the holiday adventure stories when our pupils return on **Tuesday 22nd 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 2023-2024

Monday 21st August 2023-Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 22nd August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Friday 13th October-Last day of Term 1
Monday 16th - Friday 27th October-Autumn Holiday

Term 2

Monday 30th October -Start of Term 2
Thursday 16th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Friday 17th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Friday 22nd December-Last day of Term 2
Monday 25th - Friday 5th January-Winter Holiday

Term 3 - 2024

Monday 8th January 2024-Start of Term 3
Thursday 8th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 9th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Monday 12th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 13th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Wednesday 14th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Thursday 28th March- Last day of Term 3
Friday 29th March- Friday 12th April-Spring Holiday

Term 4

Monday 15th April- Start of Term 4
Monday 6th May-May Day Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff
Friday 5th July-Last day of Term 4
Monday 19th August- Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils
Tuesday 20th August Start of Term 1 for Pupils

Please visit [Aberdeenshire Council website](#) for dates beyond Session 23/24.