Dear Fishermoss Family

Thank you to all who attended Fishermoss Parent Staff Council (**PSC**) Annual General Meeting on Wednesday!  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 our outgoing committee members for their support.

One of the events discussed was our **Fishermoss Sponsored Walk** which has always been a great fundraiser! Our Annual Sponsored Walk will be held this year on the afternoon of **Friday 29th 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. A copy of the route map will be shared in next week’s Friday update.

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 their 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 for a treat!  Please do come in for a cuppa!

As last year, 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/Folders-Wider Achievements’.  For getting donations/sponsorship to the Parent Staff Council a Crowd Funder link will be shared.

**PSC Christmas/Winter Card designs or anything else you fancy**…… To raise funds, our Parent Staff Council are giving families the opportunity to bring their child’s design to life by turning their artwork into print! Next week your child/ren will be bringing home a double-sided form, and on the blank reverse side is where your child creates their design. This can be a Christmas/Winter design or picture or pattern of their choice. The form contains design instructions and guidelines regarding materials which work well e.g. colour felt pens, coloured pencils and those which don’t work so well e.g. plain pencil, glitter. Once they have created their design, please return the form to their teacher and shortly after a proof of artwork and order form will come home with your child explaining the next steps. All profits go towards the school to help fund additional things such as classroom materials or trips! Last year's total raised from your designs was £275!  Completed forms should be returned to school and payments made no later than Friday 29th September!

**Great Western Out of School Club…….** are hoping to open their new Out of school Club and Breakfast Club after the October holidays but this will be confirmed as soon as they have their new registration with the Care Inspectorate. They do however feel they are able to start their waiting list and it will be on a first come first served basis, with priority given to current Great Western families. They are still in conversations with Taxi companies about Hillside and Fishermoss School.  Once they have this information, they will communicate the availability and cost. They are really excited about this new venture and feel it will really help support the families in the local area as they understand how hard it is to find after school care. Please find below a link to the waiting list…..

<https://greatwesternps.co.uk/portlethen-oosc-waiting-list>

Have a lovely weekend!

Kindest regards

**Margaret M. Ferguson**

**Head Teacher**

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services

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**‘Being the best we can be’**

**Respect-Honesty-Responsibility-Kindness-Hardworking**