Dear Fishermoss Family

Our Annual Sponsored Walk will be held 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. 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!

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!  ‘Crazy Hair Day’ is planned for October 6th and not the day of the Sponsored walk…details to follow from the PSC.

The route will be on paths and pavements, including the Community Woodland, heading up to the church and a return via Bruntland Road. Please see the attached route map for your information. Marshalls will be in place at the two crossing points.  If you are unable to join us for the event you can see the route we will follow and still do the walk together as a family at a more convenient time.

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!

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 please follow this link…….

[**https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/fishermoss-school-sponsored-walk-2023#start**](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/fishermoss-school-sponsored-walk-2023#start)

**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! Your child/ren should by now have brought 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**!

**Parent/Teacher Consultations……** On Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th October there will be an opportunity for you to have a consultation with your child’s/children’s teacher(s).  Consultations will take place in your child’s/children’s classroom(s), and you should enter the school building by the door your child uses to line up at in the morning. There will be seating outside classrooms and teachers will call you in at the time of your appointment.  Consultations are to be booked via **Parentsportal**.  The booking system will open Monday 25th September from 5pm.  Information has already been shared in relation to signing up to Parentsportal.  If you have any problems linking to your child please contact the school office for help Tel 01224 472875.  The closing date for booking consultations is Monday 2nd October at midnight.  Options via Parentsportal will be ten-minute timeslots on Wednesday 4th October 6-8:30pm or Thursday 5th October 3:45-6:15pm.

**Fishermoss School & Nursery Strike Days……**UNISON Scotland union will be holding three days of strike action on Tuesday, September 26, Wednesday, September 27 and Thursday, September 28.  The strike action relates to a national dispute and is not against the school.  Members of the UNISON Scotland union include, for example, janitors, cleaners, caterers, pupil support assistants and administrative staff.  From the information provided to Aberdeenshire Council by the union, we have made the decision that our school will remain open to Primary 1 to Primary 4 pupils only on Tuesday 26th September.  On Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th school will be open to Primary 1 pupils only.  Information will follow next week regarding on-line learning provision via Google Classroom for classes not attending school. Our school Nursery will be closed on all 3 dates.

Whilst we understand this decision may cause inconvenience and frustration, we have to consider the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and mitigate for any unknown circumstances over the three days.

I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding during this time. If there are any changes to the forthcoming strike days, we will update you accordingly.

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**