



## Fishermoss School-Term 2 Newsletter December 2023

'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 active learning experiences. That's what life at Fishermoss is all about! It does seem 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.

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** this festive season. Well done to all involved, pupils, parents, school staff and extended family members. Great teamwork and a happy school community occasion with the usual spectacular Santa's Grotto. Your donations, support and attendance were greatly appreciated. It was a very successful event, where together we raised **£2054.41** which also includes the money raised by our fundraising Christmas cards! This is an incredible amount.

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. The money raised has been shared between the 3 schools and Portlethen Larder. Our PSC has been given **£1,100** as their share which is a significant sum of money. We were fortunate to have such a beautiful evening to enjoy hot chocolate at the front of school awaiting Santa's arrival! Thank you to our parents and staff involved in the organisation and implementation of it all and to all who contribute so generously!

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 & Primary 1/2 Nativity**. The children shared the Christmas Story in their performance of 'Twinkly Nativity'.



We had a super whole school outing with Primaries 1 to 7 off to see '**Wonka**' 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 5 carriages 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 to those who were able to join us at our **P4 to P7 Christmas Service** held at **Portlethen Parish Church**. Our P7 readers and P7 musicians impressed us all, as did the pupils selected for the impromptu drama sketch! Our thanks to Mr Hibbs, who accompanied **Ellie Gray & Elena Mitchell** on violin. **Layla Mitchell, Kyle Wemyss, Joe Thomson & Ethan Fromholc** were our readers.

'Season's Greetings' and 'Festive Cheer' were brought to the residents of **Portlethen Care Home** as **Primary 6/7 & Primary 7** entertained them all with a medley of Christmas songs. This act of **kindness** was greatly appreciated by residents and staff.

### **Fishermoss Eco Schools 7<sup>th</sup> Green Flag Award with Commendation!**

We are thrilled to share that Fishermoss School has been awarded its **7<sup>th</sup> Green Flag Award!** We have also been awarded a **Learning for Sustainability Commendation** which is presented to applications that demonstrate exceptional accomplishments. Our whole school approach to climate action and environmental awareness aligns perfectly with the Learning for Sustainability Commendation. In addition to the commendation, we have been highly recommended to nominate our school for an annual Eco Schools Award....nominations for these open after Easter!

The assessor shared how inspired he was by our application and the outstanding achievements of our school. We have it 'in writing' that we provided undoubtedly one of the most extensive Green Flag applications they have ever seen. The assessor shared the following in his feedback.....

*'I have been truly inspired while reading about your journey and looking through your extensive supporting evidence. It is absolutely amazing that you have successfully engaged every year group, and quite possibly every pupil, in your Eco-Schools principles - recognised by the fact that you have completed an action plan for every stage! It is clear that you took the time right back at the start of your journey to really think about each of the ten topics and develop a fantastic Environmental Review. I like how you utilised your Global Warriors champions to form a whole-school Eco-Committee, which created a pupil-led approach to understanding climate action at Fishermoss. All this work has culminated in submitting a range of action plans which, along with all your amazing supporting evidence, demonstrate all the fantastic activities the pupils have taken part in during this journey. Overall, you have done a fantastic job and are highly deserving of this Green Flag Award, so congratulations once again to everyone at Fishermoss Primary. I am so impressed with all the amazing things the school has achieved through a fantastic range of a fun engaging activities which will clearly have positive lifelong impacts on your pupils and community.'*

### **Participatory Budgeting-Success Story for Fishermoss Primary 6 and Primary 7 Pupils!**

Aberdeenshire Council commissioned Young Scot to manage an online vote for a participatory budgeting exercise which took place over recent weeks. This was branded as the 'We Decide... Children and Young People Voting for Change event'. Schools were asked to consider the participatory budget theme of **Climate Change & Sustainability**.

Primary Schools were encouraged to involve their Primary 6 & Primary 7 pupils to come up with exciting project ideas and apply for funding. Our Senior Pupils' project was to secure funding to equip our school with **bikes and helmets and supporting tools and equipment** to maintain them. These would be available for use during school time but also beyond the school day to encourage family bike rides, peer bike rides and build on skills from previous bikeability sessions. Having bikes will allow us to build on our Eco Schools journey and the vision of a safer, more carbon friendly environment by promoting using bikes. We believe that every child should have access to a bike, not just for the obvious physical and environmental benefits but also the impact it can have on improving mental health. Cycling allows us to enjoy our beautiful surroundings and to encourage carbon reduction.

Our senior pupils have successfully secured **£2000** for their project! We are so very proud of their efforts to secure these funds for their school.

### **Fishermoss teaming up with Banchory Devenick Book Project!**

**Primary 1, Primary 1/2 & Primary 2** have teamed up with Banchory Devenick School to have stories read to them by their senior pupils. The school emails a short video of a story on a monthly basis and our classes send comments back. As Banchory Devenick is a small school, this gives their pupils the opportunity to target a much wider audience. **Primary 6 & Primary 6/7** have also teamed up with the school and are involved in sharing termly book recommendations.

## Portlethen Extra Special Library Visits

**Primary 6** attended a **Space Workshop** which was an exclusive event to our school. The class were involved in writing postcards which are actually going to be sent up into space. These will be returned to pupils with a space postmark! Awesome!

**Primary 4** were special guests at a live Author Event where author Rachel Louisa May shared her book, 'Aunty Planty and the Eco Warriors'...which is right up our street!

## November In-Service Days-Fishermoss School Improvement Plan

Teachers and PSAs participated in professional learning on Inclusive Classrooms which will further be progressed in our February In-service days. Teaching staff undertook self-evaluation activities in relation to Digital Technologies and Learning for Sustainability and we engaged with the updated 'Keep Scotland Beautiful Eco Schools' platform. All our PSAs received training to update their First Aid skills.

## Acts of Kindness!

In November pupils were given the opportunity to create enterprising fundraising stalls and to dress up for **Children in Need**. A fantastic **£803.22** was raised!



**Poppy Appeal**..... Thank you for your contributions to this appeal to support our Heroes. A total of **£85.56** was raised.



**Rotary Shoe Box Appeal**.....Thank you to everyone who donated items and for showing such kindness. An amazing **96 boxes** were sent from Fishermoss School along with monetary donations received to help cover the transport costs of delivering the boxes. As previously shared, **Primary 3/4** and **Primary 4** were the **Global Warriors** responsible for organising this charity event for us at school.

## Assemblies

The term started with some of our **Primary 6 Junior Road Safety Officers** sharing their power point presentations on being 'Safe and Seen', amongst other road safety tips such as not crossing the road whilst on your mobile phone.

Some pupils from **Primary 6/7 & Primary 7** highlighted various clubs and activities they enjoy outside school as we look to encourage pupils to share their **Wider Achievements** beyond the classroom and try to encourage pupils to try new things.



On **Children in Need Day** we shared some stories of where the charity funds go and the difference this money makes to so many young lives.

**Primary 5** presented our first class assembly of this academic year where we welcomed in their parents & family members to join us. The focus of their assembly was Farming and they confidently showcased their extensive learning on the topic. They had been entirely responsible for the planning of this performance, and they demonstrated great creativity, teamwork and initiative.

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 P4-P7 Christmas Church Service and our P1-P3 Christmas Assembly. Our **Primary 1 & Primary 1/2** 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 shared with staff this past school term and especially at Christmas time. We wish you all a lovely Christmas and our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2024.

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 2024**

Mon 8<sup>th</sup>- Pupils and Staff return to school.

Wk beginning Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Pupil Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments emailed to parents.

Wk beginning Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> - Interim Pupil Report.

#### **February**

Thu 8<sup>th</sup> - Mon 12<sup>th</sup> - Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff.

Tues 13<sup>th</sup> & Wed 14<sup>th</sup>-Staff In-Service Days-School closed to pupils.

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Curriculum Show & Tell Parent & Pupil Event 4-6:30pm-details to follow.

#### **March**

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> - School Photographer - Class Photographs

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> to Fri 8<sup>th</sup> - Primary 7 Residential week-Abernethy Outdoor Centre

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> - Comic Relief Red Nose Day 'Dress as you Please'

Wk beginning Mon 25<sup>th</sup> - Pupil Effort/Attitude/Behaviour comments emailed to parents.

Thu 28<sup>th</sup> - Last day of Term 3

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> March - Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holidays-School closed to pupils and staff.

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> **April** - Pupils & staff return to school.