



Fishermoss School-Term 4 Newsletter-2024



'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 including, **Pupil Reports, Parent Consultations, Summer Fayre, Primary 1 Parents Induction event, Community Clean-up, Trips Galore, Family Picnic, Sports Day, the Re-organisation of Classes and Transition events** for new Primary 1 pupils & our Primary 7 pupils and our **PSC Shorts & Shades** end of term Summer Discos.....to name but a few! 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.....

Fishermoss School Eco Committee of the Year for Scotland!



Here you can see all our pupils who are our Fishermoss **Global Warriors**, receiving the Eco Committee of the year Award! We are the biggest Eco Committee ever heard of by Eco Schools!

We recently held two special assemblies at school so all could be involved in sharing our Eco Schools work with the Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, Barry Fisher, who travelled to Aberdeen to present us with our award.

Following our success, we were also invited to present at an online Eco Schools event open to all schools across Scotland. Some of our Primary 7 pupils **Brynn Murphy, Daria Beloiu, Cole Jamieson, Erin Barrowman & Kyle Wemyss** shared a presentation on the work of our *Global Warriors* and how our approach is about whole school involvement. They gave up a significant number of lunchtimes to pull together their presentation and did us proud in doing so! It was very exciting to be part of a live lesson broadcast going out across Scotland. They were great ambassadors for Fishermoss School.



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 jigged the night away, to a live ceilidh band at school, at their **Leavers' Ceilidh**. 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 favourite hits!

Thank you to our **PSC** for providing funding for the Domino's Pizzas, refreshments and gifts for our band for this special event and for support with decorating the hall. Thank you also to the many staff who turned up on the night to help and to celebrate with our Senior Pupils. Our Pupils certainly looked the part. 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 be 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..... **Daria Beloiu, Elena Mitchell, Layla Mitchell, Ainohoa Antonelli, Ellie Gray, Ola Janicka, Sienna Gray, Sophia Riley & Eve Tickell** for achieving Bronze, **Erin Barrowman, Isla Davis, Macey Stephen & Kyle Wemyss** achieved Silver and **Brynn Murphy & Riley Strachan** achieved Gold. Our Fishermoss School 'Young Volunteer of the Year' shield has gone to **Brynn Murphy** for having the highest number of volunteering hours. Congratulations to them all for their efforts and for showing **kindness, responsibility** and **hard work**.... something for them to add to their CV's!

Fishermoss School awarded £1000 from Tesco's Community Grant Scheme-We are delighted to have been successful in our bid for funding to purchase additional bikes for school which we can use to develop bike skills, but also to loan to families during holidays. Tesco's Community Grants scheme - previously Tesco Bags of Help - has already provided over £90 million to more than 40,000 projects across Britain. Tony McElroy, Tesco's Head of Communications in Scotland, said: "Tesco Community Grants help support local good causes but especially those projects supporting young people, those providing food, and local causes close to our colleagues' hearts." We have a small stock of bikes and helmets at school available for families to borrow for a short time. Please get in touch for more information.

Design a Logo Competition..... All Portlethen Cluster schools were offered the opportunity to invite pupils to be involved in a competition to design a logo for the new church which is called 'Kincardine Coastal Church'. We are delighted to share that the winning first prize entry was by **Isla Davis** in **Primary 7** with 2nd place going to a design by a Hillside school pupil and in third place was **Erin Barrowman** also in **Primary 7** at Fishermoss School. Well done to all who made the effort to enter this competition. All entries were very much appreciated. We will be looking out for Isla's design on the church noticeboard!

Fishermoss Sailing Club-Well done to Jodie Ferguson in Primary 6 for entering the Scottish Schools Sailing Championship event at Loch Earn, as the solo sailing representative for Fishermoss School. We are so proud of her sailing skills and all she achieved at this event.

Play Leaders Award-Well done to all our **Primary 6** pupils across both classes who worked hard to complete the Active Schools Play Leaders Award last term! They have taken responsibility for planning and teaching playground games with Pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 4 classes. This has been excellent experience for them in leadership skills and a great opportunity to have classes mixing and buddying up. This term they have continued to support our younger children play games during Monday lunchtimes. This will continue as they head into Primary 7.

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 59 enthusiastic and jolly litter pickers turned up! A significant amount of rubbish was collected around the community. We were encouraged by the response to this event, but many in attendance were, as always, disappointed at the amount of litter found in the community. There was lots of lovely chat on our front grass area over refreshments.....a reward for all their hard work! Great teamwork from our Fishermoss Family.





Scottish Maths Challenge-Gold stars to our **Primary 7** pupils who participated in the Scottish Maths Challenge and successfully gained awards. Congratulations to **William Miller** on achieving a Silver Award and to **Isla Davis & Layla Mitchell** on achieving Bronze! **William** attended a prizegiving ceremony at the University of Aberdeen. Well done also to **Rowyn Alexander, Kyle Weymss & Brynn Murphy** 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.

Basic Life Support Skills for Primary Schools with Kelly Forrest (Forrest Training) - Congratulations to all pupils in **Primary 5 to Primary 7** who successfully undertook this training. The pupils learned skills in Calling Emergency Services, Treatment for Life Threatening Conditions, CPR Practice & Assessment, and the use of a Defibrillator. We are very grateful once again to our **PSC** for funding this training.



Bike Skills - The whole school from **Nursery to Primary 7** took part in bike sessions in our school playground. Thank you to **Vicki Tait, Kelly Forrest (Parent Volunteers)** and **Fiona McRae (Class Teacher)** for organising and leading each session. Almost all pupils took part in the sessions, developing their ability to travel safely on a bike as well as having fun. It was fantastic to see our bike shelter at school packed with bikes! We now have a small stock of bikes and helmets at school available for families to borrow for a short time. Please get in touch for more information.

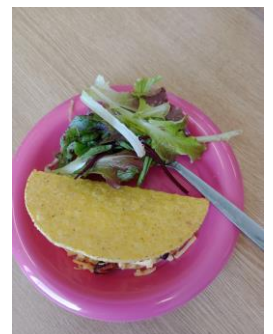
Hockey Taster Sessions-Nineteen **Primary 4 to Primary 7** pupils signed up for, and enjoyed, 4 weeks of hockey taster lunchtime sessions at school organised by **Active Schools**.

Interschool Competition at Portlethen Bowling Club - **Primary 5** took part in this local event and had a great time developing their bowling skills and working as a team. Results are still to be shared!

Community Wildlife & Sensory Garden - All pupils in **Primary 5 to 7** have been involved in putting their special mark in this garden through planting activities with **Aberdeenshire Ranger Service**.



Planting Achievements in Fishermoss Courtyards-Areas of the school hidden from the world outside are our internal courtyard spaces where pupils plant things without fear of them being removed by unkind visitors to our playground on the weekends! Here is just one example of the many things grown... a bumper crop of lettuce and spring onions by **Primary 5**! Not every Head Teacher gets a plate filled with school grown lettuce delivered to her office for a morning snack!



Curriculum News this Term!

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 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 did us proud with their entries and **Isla Davis** won the top prize of £150 for school entries for the following brief.....

'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.'

Congratulations to **Rowyn Alexander** for winning the trophy for the Remotely Operated Vehicle Simulator game.

Aberdeenshire Student Chromebook Roadshow.....Primary 7 & Primary 6/7 pupils attended a 90minute interactive event at school designed to enhance skills in a hands-on and fun experience. Together they discovered the Accessibility settings, Chrome keys and the Touch Pad across multiple games and websites that lend themselves well to multidisciplinary learning. They had the opportunity to pull together their learning in teams or solo efforts to beat the Digital Escape Room.

Primary 6 attended a Waterstone's virtual **Author Live event** with **A.E Steadman** who was the author of their last two class novels.

All pupils in Primaries 6 & 7 attended an online Kooth session to find out more about this service. [Kooth](#) is a free, safe and anonymous resource for all 10-18-year-olds living in Aberdeenshire. The online platform offers many different features including a Kooth magazine, discussion boards, mini self-care activities and journalling/goal setting tools - all to help support better emotional and mental health and wellbeing for our young people.

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.

Kodaly Music sessions - As part of our Expressive Arts Curriculum, **all classes Primary 1 to Primary 7**, enjoyed blocks of Kodaly Music. 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 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!

Financial Education - All pupils in **Primary 3 to Primary 7** attended online Financial Capability workshops delivered by **Money Advice Scotland**. Workshops included Budgeting for a Day Out, Shopping Offers, an Introduction to Money, Banking & Borrowing and Budgeting for a Birthday Party.



Delivering the Curriculum 'Oot and About'

This term has been particularly active with outings to all sorts of interesting places for classes. These educational excursions further enhance our delivery of the curriculum, allow pupils to explore and enjoy our corner of the Northeast of Scotland and are a lot of fun. Thanks yet again to the **PSC** for funding our School Trips. Here is a whistle stop tour, and almost all experienced lovely weather.....

Our **Primary 1 & Primary 3** pupils kept it 'Eco and Local' as they walked all the way to **Farm Stop** and back for an interactive day with the animals!

Primary 1/2 & Primary 5 took a trip to **Stonehaven Beach** for a day rock pooling! **Primary 2 & Primary 2/3** enjoyed a day at **Hazlehead Park & Pets Corner**. **Primary 6** took a trip to **Aberdeen Science Centre!**

Primary 3/4 & Primary 4 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!

Assemblies

It has been great to welcome lots of family members to our class assemblies this term, which included the following.....

Primary 2/3 took us on their learning journey from this term, sharing lots of different experiences including Health & Wellbeing, Science and French with a musical extravaganza in the mix. A very confident and polished performance.

Primary 3/4 delivered a confident performance showcasing their learning from their Vikings project! Again, a confident performance and they impressed us with how well they had remembered their lines, with no prompt notes.

Primary 6 presented the very tragic story of the Titanic and the aftermath. The class had super stage presence and demonstrated real maturity in the way they shared these events. A powerful and emotional performance to be proud of.

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 Scottish Maths Challenge awards.

All classes showcased their '**Learning for Sustainability**' work. It was great 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, Climate Change, Outdoor learning experiences and our Eco Schools Adventure! So many rich learning opportunities developing a broad skill set!

Primary 5 had the role of being our **Digital Leaders** this year and they have done this with great enthusiasm, taking their new role extremely seriously. They educated us all about online safety, what makes a secure password, how to keep information about yourself private online, our digital footprint, online stranger danger, safe websites and our role as digital citizens where the values of kindness and respect are as important.

Nicole Hepburn from **Portlethen Library** came to share news of the Library's **Summer Reading Challenge**. We also welcomed **David Young**, who spoke about what the bible says about how we should treat each other. Assemblies are also a time to focus on our work as **Global Warriors** and we marked **Hedgehog Awareness week**, learning things we could all do to help protect them.

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 also had our **Presentations Assembly** where medals and certificates were handed out following **Sports Day**, in addition to certificates for our **Young Leaders**, **STEM awards** and **Basic Life Skills** awards.

Staff News

Welcome Back & Farewells.... We recently welcomed back Miss Airlie from maternity leave and her little girl was the centre of attention at our Primary 7 Leavers' Ceilidh!

Sadly, this term often brings farewells.....we recently said goodbye to Miss Sangster who was covering the maternity leave in Primary 6/7 but our 'goodbye' was short lived as we have quickly had her back providing cover for staff absence. We are most grateful to Miss Sangster for her support over the past 3 years, teaching various classes.

We will also be saying farewell this term to Miss Watson, our Primary 3/4 teacher, as her temporary contract also comes to an end. We wish her every success in her teaching profession going forward.

Retirement.....We are saying goodbye to Miss Carol Ruxton, our Modern Languages specialist, who is retiring after 9 years at Fishermoss School. We wish her many happy days in her retirement.

Staffing Reorganisation.....Following work undertaken by Aberdeenshire Council to review the distribution of janitorial allocations to schools and clusters across the Shire, Mr Paul Matthews, who was our new school Janitor, is now based at Hillside school. Mr Matthews also serves as the cluster Facilities Operations Coordinator. Whilst we no longer have our own school janitor, we do have access to a pool of janitors in the cluster to request support from, and we are most grateful for their assistance.

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, 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**. Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 10th September at 6pm**. Please do come along so you can find out what you can do to enhance your child's learning experiences at school. All would be delighted to see more parents involved.

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 20th 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 2024-2025

Monday 19th August 2024-Staff In-service Days-school closed to pupils
Tuesday 20th August Start of Term 1 for Pupils
Friday 11th October-Last day of Term 1
Monday 14th - Friday 25th October-Autumn Holiday

Term 2

Monday 28th October -Start of Term 2
Thursday 14th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Friday 15th November-Staff In-service Day-school closed to pupils
Friday 20th December-Last day of Term 2
Monday 23rd - Friday 3rd January-Winter Holiday

Term 3 - 2025

Monday 6th January 2025-Start of Term 3
Thursday 6th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 7th February-Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Monday 10th February- Mid Term Holiday-School closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 11th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Wednesday 12th February- Staff In-service Day-School closed to pupils
Friday 28th March- Last day of Term 3
Monday 31st March- Friday 11th April-Spring Holiday

Term 4

Monday 14th April- Start of Term 4
Friday 18th April-Good Friday Holiday- school closed to pupils and staff
Monday 5th May-May Day Holiday-school closed to pupils and staff
Friday 4th July-Last day of Term 4

Please visit Aberdeenshire Council website for dates beyond Session 24/25.