

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS

AUGUST 2016



Welcome Back

A warm welcome to our new P1 pupils and their families and welcome back to our pupils and families from P2-7. We have had a great couple of weeks already this term as the children settle into school life with their new teachers. It is great to see such high standards of uniform throughout the school. Parent efforts to maintain our high standards in this area are appreciated – they all very much look and act like Portmoak pupils.

Staffing Update



Miss Rennie left Portmoak at the summer at the end of her probation year and I am sure you will join the staff and pupils in wishing her well as she leaves us to take up a permanent teaching post in Clackmannanshire. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jillian Bell as our new probationer teacher at Portmoak Primary School. Mrs Bell is teaching P4/5 this year.

Mrs Fraser will be teaching on Fridays in Mrs Bell's class and delivering Religious and Moral Education once a week to each class. We welcome Mrs Kirsty Barnacle to the staff who was appointed at the end of last term to provide Mrs Woods' management day out of class, so will teach P6/7 on a Wednesday.

Mrs. Alison Hughes will be teaching every class on a Tuesday. She is currently working on French with an element of drama in all classes. Mr Ainsworth will still be teaching PE to all pupils every Friday. All of our musical instructors are staying on for the new session, but not all have space for new pupils. Classes being offered a chance to be tested for learning a new instrument will be contacted directly. Pupils entitled to free school meals (P4-7) can also apply for an exemption from musical charges.

Mrs Davies, Mrs Welsh, Mrs Williams and Ms Gibbon are all returning as our classroom support staff. Mrs Davies is currently supporting Mrs Clark in the office due to Mrs Greenshields' absence.

We were sorry to see Mrs Dunnett, our Pupil Support Teacher, leave us at the summer as her hours at Kinross Primary had been increased. She is ably replaced by Mrs Jennifer Milroy who already supports Cleish and Milnathort Primaries.

Coffee and a Catch Up

Thanks to everyone who came along for a biscuit and a blether last Wednesday. This was an informal chance to chat to Mrs. Woods and I along with various parents, including representatives from Friends of Portmoak, our Parent Council. The next coffee and catch up is on Thursday 3rd November at 9am drop off.



Summary of Improvement Priorities 2016-17

• **Learning Experiences**

- 3 year topic pathway
- French
- Numeracy Progression

Working with other teachers in other schools

Health & Wellbeing

- Self-regulation
- Health progress
- Outdoor Learning

Parking

A reminder at this time about safety for our pupils and consideration for our neighbours: I appreciate our car park can be a busy place at pick up and drop off times but please make sure you park thoughtfully around the school and do not use the disabled bays or bus stops. Parents should never park on the pavement.

Remember too that our buses need enough room to get around the corner, so parking right at corners can make this difficult for the bus drivers and makes the walk to school less safe for our children.

Please be aware that the red painted lines represent walk ways that must be left clear. We suggest parking on the opposite side from the park at the top of Bruce Road so that children have a clear view. Be aware too that our school area is a *twenty's plenty* zone.



PE Kit

Our uniform policy states that our preferred items (to be available daily) in gym bags are:

- Black shorts
- White T-shirt
- Black "light" gym shoes with non-marking soles– not heavy "trainer" type
- Optional - trainers and tracksuits may be worn for outside gym if desired
- For Health and Safety, no jewellery is allowed to be worn during P.E. sessions. Pupils who wear earrings will need to remove them or tape them up before taking part.
- Spare socks and a hair bobble for those with long hair should also be included.

Due to the need for clean shoes for indoors gym (when rolling on gym mats etc. it is not suitable to be dropping mud and grass onto the equipment that others are then using) and the frequency that the children are going outdoors for gym, we would ask that all children do now bring old trainers to change into for outside gym please. Our preference for indoor gym is gym shoes, but we do understand that children's feet can sometimes outgrow the sizes available and clean trainers are also perfectly acceptable.

As it gets colder, some children may prefer to wear a tracksuit rather than just their shorts and t-shirt to go outside for gym. Tracksuits for outside gym do not have to follow the black and white colour code for indoor gym uniform. We would still ask, however, that children attending sporting events (orienteeing, cross country etc.) all wear a Portmoak sweatshirt and appropriate bottoms.

New optional sports/PE items can be sourced from the link below:

<https://www.halbro.com/portmoak-primary-school>

Macmillan Coffee

This will be held in the school hall on the afternoon of Wednesday 28th September. You are invited to come along to the school for 1.30pm, visit your child in class and see their work / wall displays, then come along for coffee and cake in the hall. Donations of cakes by the morning of the 28th would be very welcome. All proceeds from this event will go to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school you must call and let us know. We operate an absentee line on 01577 867196. Unless you need to speak to someone about your child, this is our preferred method for contacting the school about absence. This is a voicemail only line, so is available 24 hours a day, with parents being asked to leave a message for their child's name, class and reason for absence. If you do not advise us of why your child is absent we will contact you as it is important we know where everyone is at all times.

Quiz Night

Information has gone out on school bags for our quiz night on Saturday 17th September. This is in Portmoak Hall, 7.30pm to 11pm. Tickets are £5 per person and are available in advance. I do hope as many parents and friends as possible will come along and help raise funds for our school.

Office Procedures

Please note that the office operates a 'no answer' policy between 11-12 to allow for some of the more time consuming tasks to be completed without interruption. It would be appreciated if, wherever possible, you could avoid popping in during those times.

All visitors should report to the office on arrival. Parents are not expected to take children up to class; this will be done by staff members. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please contact the school office to make an appointment. I am happy to see parents at or before 9am, so feel free to catch me at the morning lines, but teachers are not free at this time as they are busy preparing for the day's learning. If your enquiry is something quick, teachers are usually around at 3pm when the children are being escorted to the front door.

School Dinners

School dinners for P1-3 are still free of charge. P4-7 pupils are £2 per day. School Meals should be paid for in advance on a Monday for the following week where possible. Our preferred method of payment is through Parent Pay. Contact the office if you aren't sure how to set this up.

Parents can see menu choices online here:

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals>

Are you good enough to WIN the:

Portmoak Primary

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 17th September, Portmoak Hall, 7.30pm to 11pm

*Bring your brainiest team of friends to our fantastic Quiz Night and see if you can beat the reigning Portmoak Champions.
Choose carefully, the coveted title is at stake.*

- We promise fun, laughs and lots of difficult (and not too difficult questions)
- Winners' Prizes
- Raffle
- Irish Bingo
- BYOB and snacks
- A great night out with plenty of time to socialise
- Up to 6 people per team

Tickets are £5 per person



The daily sandwich option is also available to download from this site. Please note that the sandwich option also includes pudding, salad and a drink.

Sickness bug – 48 hours

The medical advice is that children who have a sickness or sickness and diarrhoea bug should be kept off school for 48 hours after the last episode. Please help us to limit the spread of winter bugs by following this rule.



Coats

As the weather gets colder it is more important than ever that children bring a suitable coat to school every day. Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat every day, preferably with a hood. Children will be reminded to wear their coats on cold and/or damp days.

Parent Helpers

We would very much like some new parent helpers to help in classrooms and with admin tasks, photocopying etc. for teachers. If you would like to help please get in touch with me.

Roald Dahl Dress Down Day

On Tuesday 13th September we are supporting Roald Dahl's dahlicious children's charity by having a dress down day. Those who wish to participate should bring £1 and dress as a character from a Roald Dahl book. We will be having a parade of outfits in the hall.

Dates for Your Diary:

- Thursday 1st September – P6 bikability starts (group 1)
- Thursday 1st September – P7 cricket session (pm)
- Monday 5th September – Events and fundraising meeting 9am
- Monday 5th September – Cricket soccer sevens
- Tuesday 6th September – Parent Council 6pm
- Tuesday 6th September – P6/7 visiting Portmoak Hall
- Thursday 8th September – P6 bikability (group 1)
- Thursday 8th September – P7 cricket session (pm)
- Tuesday 13th September – Roald Dahl Day (£1, dress as a character)
- Wednesday 14th September – P1/2 woodland visit
- Thursday 15th September – P6 bikability (group 2)
- Friday 16th September – P5/6 farming trip
- Thursday 22nd September – P6 bikability (group 2)
- Wednesday 28th September – McMillan coffee and open afternoon
- Thursday 29th September – P6 bikability (group 1)
- Thursday 6th October – P6 bikability (group 1)
- Friday 7th October – Harvest Assembly at 9.30pm in church (all welcome)
- Friday 7th October – End of term 3pm
- Monday 24th October – Back to school after October holidays

Don't forget to save both school numbers
01577 867290 (school office)
and the absentee line on
01577 867196





School term and holiday dates

Autumn Term 2016

Staff Return: Monday 15 August 2016

Term Starts: Tuesday 16 August 2016

Term Ends: Friday 7 October 2016

Autumn Holiday: Monday 10 October 2016 - Friday 21 October 2016

Winter Term 2016

Term Starts: Monday 24 October 2016

In-Service Days: Thursday 17 November 2016 and Friday 18 November 2016

Term Ends: Friday 23 December 2016

Christmas Holiday: Monday 26 December 2016 - Friday 6 January 2017

Spring Term 2017

Term Starts: Monday 9 January 2017

In Service and Occasional Holidays: Wednesday 15 February - Friday 17 February 2017

Term Ends: Friday 31 March 2017

Spring Holiday: Monday 3 April 2017 - Monday 17 April 2017

In Service Day: Tuesday 18 April 2017

Summer Term 2017

Term Starts: Wednesday 19 April 2017

Term Ends: Thursday 29 June 2017

Notes

- Easter Sunday - 16 April 2017
- May Day Holiday - Monday 1 May 2017 (to be confirmed)
- School Session 2017/18 will commence on Monday 14 August 2017 for Staff and Tuesday 15 August 2017 for Pupils.