

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS DECEMBER 2016



Coffee and a Catch Up

Reminder that the next session will be on **Wednesday 18th January** and I have asked the support staff to join us in the library from 9am, so that you can put faces to the names of the staff who help support our children in classes and in the playground.



Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices

The school policy is that children should leave all electronic items at home and we do not allow them to bring them to school. I have reminded the children about this as there have been a few mobile phones in school bags.

If you feel there is an occasion when your child requires access to a mobile phone at the end of the day (for example if they are going straight to a friend's house) then the school procedure for this is that they may hand their mobile phone into the office at 9.00am for safe keeping and can collect this at the end of the school day.

Rest assured that staff will continue to contact you in the usual manner if there is any concern about your child's health or wellbeing during their time at school.



End of Term Arrangements

A reminder that our school finishes at 12 noon on Friday 23rd December 2016

The Kingdom bus will depart just after 12 noon. The 201 Stagecoach Service bus is not running as all parents have confirmed to me that they are able to collect their child. Thank you for this.

Panto Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give us feedback after Dick Whittington on 14th and 15th December. The children very much enjoyed hearing the many positive things that you had to say about these two performances and it was lovely to hear how much you all appreciated the hard work of staff also.



In terms of actions to take forwards from this we have noted that:

- Several people commented on audience entertainment during longer scene changes. There was music during these, so perhaps our coomber isn't loud enough and we need to use our sound system instead.
- We also had a suggestion that choir could sing more at these points, so we will also consider this for the next time too.
- Several people also felt we needed to introduce a fairer queuing system – apparently people arriving later made way to front of area where parents were waiting. We changed the system for the Nativity performance the following week so that parents could queue up the corridor instead of waiting at the front door.
- Some people wanted us to consider choir standing while singing. We have considered this, and may do this in the future but only when this wouldn't obscure the audience view of actions on the stage.

Nativity Feedback

Again, lovely positive feedback received from parents and other family members. Thank you for this.

The response to whether we should have an evening performance going forwards was a resounding yes.

Next time we do our Nativity we will:

- Have an evening and morning performance as this trial has been evaluated so positively
- Consider the length of time between the nativity and the pantomime performances as an evening show the week after panto is a lot for the children and for staff.
- We will need to consider how we can best manage the attendance of older children at the evening Nativity, as they do help with the singing and some of you noticed a difference in the volume of this for the evening show. This is because only 1/3 of P4-7 made it along, so it wasn't as loud as usual.

Broke Not Broken

Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and bags of scented pine cones at the two Nativity shows. We have raised £330 for Broke not Broken, the charity who run the Kinross food bank. Here are the Pupil Council handing over a cheque on the last day of term.



Last Week

We have had a lovely last week of school with our Nativity and all three stage group parties and finished the term with a visit from Santa and singing of Christmas songs in the school hall.



Christmas Message

The staff and I would like to thank you for all of your support throughout the year and wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy 2017.



Dates for Your Diary:

- Monday 9th January – Term starts 9am
- Monday 16th January – New Primary 1 enrolment week
- Wednesday 18th January – Parent Coffee & Catch Up 9am
- Wednesday 25th January – Burns Lunch Menu
- Friday 10th February P4-7 Ski trip to Glenshee
- Tuesday 14th February – Dental visit for P1 & P7
- Wednesday 15th February – In-Service Day
- Thursday 16th & Friday 17th February – Half Term Holiday
- Friday 24th February – P5/6 Sharing our Learning Assembly (P5/6 parents please join us)
- Tuesday 28th February – Pancake Day Menu
- Monday 13th & Wednesday 15th March – Parent contact sessions
- Friday 17th March – P2/3 Sharing our Learning Assembly (P2/3 parents please join us)
- Thursday 23rd March – Rotary Quiz 3.30pm for P7s on Rotary Quiz team
- Friday 31st March – Easter Service with P1/2 in Portmoak Church (all parents please join us)
- Tuesday 18th April – In-service day for staff
- Wednesday 19th April – Pupils back to school
- Monday 1st May – holiday
- Friday 5th May – P6 to Ardroy Residential
- Monday 8th May – P6 return from Ardroy
- Wednesday 24th May – P7 to Dalguise Cluster Residential
- Friday 26th May – P7 return from Dalguise
- Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th June – transition visits to Kinross High School for P7s
- Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th June – transition visits to Portmoak for new P1s
- Wednesday 28th June – Leavers' service at Portmoak Church 9.30am
- Thursday 29th June – End of Term 12 noon.

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

