

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS JANUARY 2016



Welcome back to a new year at Portmoak! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Staffing News

As you will be aware from the letter sent out in December we had to advertise nationally for the post of Acting Principal Teacher to fill my vacancy. I am delighted to tell you that Mrs. Paula Woods has been successful at interview and we hope she can start with us on the 11th February pending completion of all necessary checks. Mrs. Clemie will continue to teach P4/5 on a Wednesday to cover Principal Teacher management time.

Robert Burns Poetry Competition

The children have been practicing their poems throughout January and the competition was held in school on Tuesday 26th. The visiting judges were very impressed by the number of children participating in the competition and the confident presentations. Several merit certificates were awarded across the school and the winners from each class were Olivia Nevitt, Helena Verden-Anderson, Skye Robertson, Hope Philp-Carr, Ella Forbes, Angus Bain, Isabel Gray and Kirsty Buchanan. Louisa Muszynski was P7 runner up and our competition winner, Katie Robertson, was awarded the Quaich for her rendition of Address to the Toothache. Well done to all!



National Youth Choir of Scotland

Perth & Kinross ECS are delighted to be working with the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) on another boys singing project which is taking place between January and March. The event will culminate in selected boys from Perth & Kinross schools performing with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Perth Concert Hall. Christopher Bell, Artistic Director of NYCoS, visited Portmoak in January and several boys have been identified through a workshop to participate in this Concert in March. Mr. Young will be supporting these boys in preparation for the day.

Read, Write, Count : Together it's fun

Perth & Kinross Council is celebrating the launch of the National Read, Write Count Campaign which is aimed at the parents of children P1-P3. Storyteller Gerard Durkin will be entertaining families at the North Inch Community Library on Saturday 6 February 2016, between 11.00 a.m. and 12 noon. This event is free to children and their families. Places must be booked by contacting the North Inch Community Library (01738 454406). Promotional gifts will be handed out to families on the day.



Active Kids Vouchers

Active Kids launched in Sainsbury's stores on 27 January. We will once again be happy to accept your vouchers to enable us to purchase more sports and cooking equipment for the school.

Parent Drivers

We follow Council policy in the use of parent drivers and adapted our arrangements in 2014 in line with this. We worked with parents on a checklist which states the checks that they and we must undertake to make sure that everyone is safe and supported and to (we hope) encourage more parents to act as parent drivers. All drivers are legally responsible for the safety of those in their car and the checklist we provide states that before undertaking any parent driver duties, parents should ensure office staff have copied their MOT, insurance documents and driving licence (both parts) and check with their insurance company that they are insured to transport children to school trips. We continue to be very appreciative of the parents supporting Portmoak as parent drivers and the positive feedback we have had about our checklist.



Parking

I have been asked by our Parent Council to remind all parents about the guidance on safer parking during school drop-off and collection times which parents worked with our school Junior Road Safety Officers to create. There are red crossing areas to provide children with safer routes to school. Please ensure that you do not park in these areas or on the corner at Buchan Avenue which can obstruct the buses. At the end of the day parents are requested to park on the far side of Bruce Road to ensure that children have a clear line of sight when crossing. Please ensure that you do not park within the bus bay and we would like to remind you that the disabled parking spaces are for blue badge holders only. Please be aware that our community police officer sometimes attends the school at drop-off and collection times to help us keep our children safe.

Coats

As the weather has been very unpredictable it is important 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, hat or umbrella. Children will be reminded to wear their coats on cold and/or damp days.

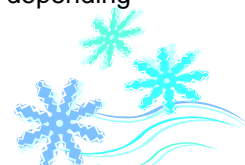
Winter Playground Policy Reminder

All year groups have access to our extensive playground areas, although when P5-7 are playing football the pitch is used for this. The top grass area, trim trail and slide are in daily use. The basketball court cannot hold all of our pupils, and indeed can become too slippery for use in icy weather. This means that in winter time we must ask that children come to school suitably attired for playing on grass, which may be damp or muddy. A change of shoes (and socks) is a good idea for changing into during break and lunch time. You may also wish to provide a pair of tracksuit bottoms or waterproof trousers to wear over school clothes to stop them getting muddy.

School staff will remind pupils about getting changed for breaks, however I would ask that parents speak to their children about getting changed if appropriate. Please also ask your child to let their

teacher or a member of support staff know if they have fallen and got very wet or muddy, so that this can be dealt with. Please rest assured that if your child is significantly wet and needs to have a complete change of clothes we will contact you.

In snow and ice, daily decisions will be made in school on whether children can play outside on safety grounds, following risk assessment. Areas suitable for play will also be considered. In heavy or persistent rain certain areas of the playground may be temporarily removed from use (e.g. the bottom pitch) or children may be kept in for break. Again, this will be a decision made on the day, depending on the conditions.



Head Lice

Just a start of term reminder that the Tayside Public Health advice regarding head lice is that families should be checking their hair on a weekly basis and that includes all adult members in the family as they can be carriers. Only the person that has head lice should be treated and, if you are in doubt speak with a pharmacist who will be able to advise you on treatment options.

Twitter

If you use Twitter you can follow us through the school Twitter feed @PortmoakPS and the Parent Council also runs a twitter feed - @friendsportmoak

Dates for Your Diary

- Tuesday 2nd February – Cluster X Country 10am-11am LLCC
- Tuesday 2nd February – Dental Nurse to P1&7
- Friday 12th February – P2/3 Assembly (P2/3 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Wednesday 17th February – In-service Day
- Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February – Half term holiday
- Friday 26th February – P1/2 Assembly (P1/2 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Friday 26th February – Ski trip for pupils from P3-7 (weather and snow dependent)
- Friday 4th March – P7 Assembly (P7 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Monday 7th March - Parent Council 6pm
- Tuesday 8th March – P6 Euroquiz Heat
- Wednesday 9th March – Tempest class photos for P1&7
- Monday 21st March - Parent Contact 5.30pm - 7.30pm
- Tuesday 22nd March - Parent Contact 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- Tuesday 22nd March - Ardroy parents' meeting 6pm
- Friday 25th March – Good Friday holiday
- Monday 28th March – Easter Monday holiday
- Tuesday 29th March – NYCoS concert – Perth Concert Hall
- Tuesday 29th March – Dalguise parents' meeting 6pm – 7pm at LLCC
- Friday 1st April – Easter Service at the Church – led by P4/5, 9.30am start, all welcome
- Friday 1st April – End of Term 3 at 3pm
- Monday 18th April – In-service Day
- Tuesday 19th April - Start of term 4 for pupils 9am

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

