

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS

JANUARY 2017



Parent Workshops

On **Wednesday 8th February** we are going to be running some information sessions for parents.

The class teachers and Mrs. Milroy, our Pupil Support Teacher, will be organising a fifteen minute talk on the topics below, supplemented with a handout at the end. I will also be offering a presentation about the upcoming Ardroy trip for P6 parents as part of this session.

Topics which we will be offering are:

Self-Regulation

This is part of our school improvement plan this year – Mrs Milroy will be giving an overview of how we encourage children to 'Make a plan' to support them to make better choices or have more success in their behavior and learning. This is suitable for all ages.

Early Reading and Ditties

Ms MacGillivray and Mrs Barnacle will be sharing information about reading in the younger years including approaches in our Read, Write Inc. reading scheme, which is a synthetic phonics based approach. This is best for P1 parents.

Words Their Way Spelling

We changed the way we teach spelling last year. Mrs Mossom will take you through the word sorts that children do in class and explain this approach. This is suitable for P2-7 parents.

Mental Maths to do at Home

Miss Kettles will share some games, activities and easy to adapt suggestions for ways to add some mental maths activities into homework. This would suit parents of P3-7 children.

Unpacking Maths Terminology

Mrs Woods will explain what we mean by terms such as partitioning
This overview would suit parents of older children for now,

Ardroy

Mrs Gordon will provide information about Ardroy and a kit list for participants. This session is for current P6 parents who have a child signed up for the May 2017 trip.

The plan is to offer the following times to parents:

- 5.00 Workshop One
- 5.20 Workshop Two
- 5.40 Ardroy Presentation

Please look out for a letter coming home asking you to state your workshop preferences in order and we will do our best to accommodate this on the night.

Alison Greenshields

Thank you to everyone who has emailed, phoned or spoken in person about the very sad passing of Alison Greenshields, our secretary. The staff and I do very much appreciate your support. I know quite a few of you made it along to the church and some to the graveside, however there weren't many parents at the Green Hotel. Alison's parents have advised that they would like the book of condolences from the Hotel to be at the school shortly. I thought that some of you might like to fill this in too and will let you know when it is available in the school office.

I know many of you also appreciated her as someone always so happy and welcoming, always ready to support and to help out. I spoke with the parent council last week about Alison and about what we could do to remember her. We agreed that we would establish a new trophy at the leavers' service, the Alison Greenshields Trophy, which would be awarded to the pupil who showed qualities like Alison: in supporting others, in caring, in always going the extra mile.

The children want to do something to remember her too. I have had one meeting with the pupil council already but am going to see them again soon as I said I would let them decide whether they want to plant a tree, site a bench or have other ideas of their own about what will be their way of remembering Mrs. Greenshields.

The senior clerical position in the office will be advertised shortly.



Other Staffing Information

We have received confirmation that Mr. Mark Ainsworth will be with us for PE for 2 days next year instead of one. We are delighted to have Mr. Ainsworth with us for extra time next year, but will be sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Hughes in the summer.

Financial Information

We will be having an audit of the school fund account this week. If any parents would be interested in reviewing this information once the accounts have been certified, then this will be available on request from the beginning of February.

ParentPay

Please ensure your ParentPay accounts are topped up if your child uses it for lunch money – there should be no time when your account is in negative balance as school meals must be paid for in advance. It is possible to set up free low balance email reminders to alert you when you have a balance below a certain limit – Mrs Davies can help you with this if needed.

Please do set this free service up. We have been sending text messages since this system was set up, however doing so does cost the school money and since there is a free alternative available we do ask that you make use of this function.

Lost Property



There are 4 toy boxes full of lost property just outside the office and they are already full to overflowing (despite having been emptied at the summer!). I have been round all classes to remind children to check for missing items. You are very welcome to pop into school for and look for anything your child is missing. We will be having another clear out at the February half term so please do check before then. Please also remember to label your child's clothing, footwear and water bottles so if they do end up in lost property we can return them to you with ease. Thank you.

Scots' Poetry Competition

Once again we were astounded by the level of participation in the Scots' poetry competition held to celebrate Burns' day. There was an incredibly high standard throughout the school however Mrs. Wilson (former Portmoak Headteacher) and Mr. Morgan (Jolly Beggars Burns Club) decided that the winners for each year group were as follows: P1: Jude Oliver and Caitlin Cox, P2: Vidal Mann, Olivia Nevitt and Luka McLaughlin, P3: Aiden Croft, Craig Hardie and Helena Verden-Anderson, P4: Hayden Cameron, Heather Cox, Millie Monaghan and Will Carmichael, P5: Rory Palin and Daisy Wringe, P6: Isabel Gray, Keira Robertson, Cara Gray, Jacob Mellis and Chloe Vlasto and P7: Niamh Brown and Finlay Clark. Finlay also won the Burns Quach for his rendition of Tam O' Shanter.



Tasty Thursday

The Health and Sports Committee have been evaluating the success of our Munchy Monday initiative. They feel that a number of children forget to bring a healthy snack on Mondays, and that if the day of the week was changed, staff and friends would be able to remind everyone the previous day. Therefore, they have selected Thursday as the best day of the week to bring a snack of fruit or vegetables and have named the day Tasty Thursday. Children who bring a healthy snack on Thursdays will finish work five minutes early before playtime and eat their snack in class, giving more time to play outside. The committee will also be tracking children who regularly bring a healthy snack on Thursdays with the purpose of rewarding them at the end of term. It would be helpful if you could encourage your child(ren) to choose a fruit or vegetable as their snack on a Thursday. Thank you for your support.



Dalguse Cluster Residential Info Sessions

We are going to be running two information sessions on the same evening. This is open to children who will be taking part in the cluster residential in either May 2017 (current P7) or May 2018 (current P6). Children are invited to come along with their parents. This will allow us to give the initial info to the P6 children for next year and to finalize details and answer any last minute questions from this year's P7. These are both at Loch Leven Community Campus in the assembly hall.

- Thursday 20th April 2017 at 6pm for P6
- Thursday 20th April 2017 at 6.45pm for P7

Festive Thank you

The staff and I were once again very grateful for the cards, gifts, chocolates and biscuits we received over the festive season. Thank you to everyone who sent something in and for your lovely comments and feedback – it was much appreciated.

Dates for Your Diary:

- Thursday 9th February – P2/3 Generation Science in class visit – Bricks and Blocks
- Friday 10th February P4-7 Ski trip to Glenshee
- Tuesday 14th February – Cross Country Championships – Perth
- 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 6th March – Dental visit for P1 & P7
- Tuesday 7th March – PKC Euroquiz Heats
- Thursday 9th March Tempest P1 & P7 photos
- Monday 13th & Wednesday 15th March – Parent contact sessions
- Thursday 16th March – Spring Disco – TBC
- 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
- Thursday 23rd March – P4/5 trip to Falkland Palace
- 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

