

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS MARCH 2016



Book Bundles

This month we were very fortunate to receive more books from our friends at Moto Services in Kinross. They very kindly donated 9 boxes of books which the children will now be able to use to support their literacy and language learning in the classroom. The children wanted to pay something back by supporting children in other countries. To do this, the children from the community committee have arranged for the donation of 12 boxes of our used books to a charity called "The Bookery" which will take the books to schools and libraries in South Africa. Thank you to Mrs Carmichael for supporting the community committee in organising this donation.



Ski Trip

Last month 47 children from P3-7 had the fabulous opportunity of a full day skiing in Glenshee. As you know we had been watching the weather for a while and keeping our fingers crossed that the slopes would eventually be open. Our luck was in and on 26th February the children, staff and parent volunteers left on the coach from Kinnesswood for the long (and winding!) journey to Glenshee. A fantastic day was had on the slopes by everyone and the progress made could be seen in those trying out skiing for the very first time. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to make this event possible.



KIB Artwork

This month Mrs Smith and several artistic volunteers have visited the school to support the children in creating some artwork for display during this year's festival. The children have used a variety of media from clay to cameras to capture images and inspire their imaginations. We hope you will all enjoy viewing their work later in the year.

Sport Relief Fundraiser

The children all had a great time on Friday 18th March helping to raise some money for Sport Relief. The children watched a video together during assembly to better understand how

their donations would be used to help children across the world. They also had a fun day participating in lots of active learning! Their efforts helped raise £129.50 for this worthy cause. Well done everyone!

Big Pedal

Just a reminder that the Big Pedal fortnight will launch on Monday 18th April. When the children return to school on Tuesday 19th April they are encouraged to cycle if they can. A bike maintenance session is being held at school on 31st March to prepare for this event. If your child will be cycling to school during this fortnight please ensure safety helmets and clothing which makes them visible to drivers are worn.

Scholastic Book Fair

The book fair returned again this month with all classes visiting the fair to look at the books on offer and make some purchases. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to get enthused about reading and also supports the school in receiving books from Scholastic to add to our library collection. Thank you to Mrs Brown for organizing this event with our parent volunteers.

After school clubs

This month the outdoor cricket and football clubs restarted at Portmoak. As with any after school club, if your child has been given a place it will be expected that they attend on a regular basis. If for any reason your child is unable to attend, a note should be sent with your child so the coaches can be informed. If your child has left a mobile phone in the office during the school day, this should be kept with the coach for safe keeping until after the session.

Quiz News

Our Euroquiz team have been working very hard over the past weeks during their after school club and in their own time to study and prepare for the Perth and Kinross Euroquiz heats. These were held this month in Perth with the team competing against four other schools. After a nail biting final Portmoak were announced as the winners for P&K this year and will now have the opportunity to compete in the national finals in Edinburgh in May. Well done! The Rotary Quiz team competed very well, finishing fourth equal in this year's competition.



NYC

Christopher Bell, Artistic Director of NYCoS, visited Portmoak in January and 16 boys were identified through a workshop to participate in a day of singing, culminating in a Concert for parents on 29th March at Perth Concert Hall. Mr. Young, our visiting music teacher, has been supporting the boys in preparation for the day. During his recent re-visit to Portmoak, Mr Bell was singing the praises of the boys for their fantastic singing and dedication to learning the Scottish songs for the big event. A reminder for parents who wish to attend this concert to contact Horsecross.

Parent Contact

Parent contact evenings were held this week. Thank you for all the positive feedback during these interviews; I know the teaching staff appreciate your support with their children's learning and the opportunity to share your child's progress and achievements with you. Several parents have already completed the online parents' survey – thank you! This survey is still live so there is time to ensure your thoughts are gathered. Paper copies are available on request from the school office if you are experiencing any internet difficulties at home.

School Meals

We have been notified of a change to the school menu planner. As always the menu was due to change after the Spring holiday but this year the menu is set to become a 4 week cycle which will now only change on an annual basis. Options will remain the same with 3 hot meal choices and 1 sandwich option. Please discuss the options with your child so they know which choice to order in the mornings. New menus will be sent home in bags prior to the spring holiday break. Please send cheques (payable to Perth and Kinross council) or money for school meals in an envelope with your child rather than handing in to the school office. School meals can be paid for up to a term in advance. Please ensure school meal payments are up to date prior to the spring holiday.



School Times and Routines

As you can imagine, the school day is a very busy one with lots of routines to be carried out, particularly in the mornings. It has come to my attention that the number of children who arrive after 9am has increased significantly and on a regular basis. Children arriving late to school has an impact on the morning routine, much of which is needed to be carried out within a time scale to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children. The priority of office staff in the morning is to check those children who are absent and alert parents in cases where no reason for absence has been given. Delays to the morning register being completed impacts on this. May I kindly request that children arrive at school in time to be in their class line for the 9am bell? I would also ask that parents call the absentee line on 01577 867196 rather than the school office number to report your child's absence each day your child is off. This service is available 24/7 for parents to access. It is important for the office staff to have information about a child's absence as early as possible to ensure they can follow up unexplained absences quickly.

Medicines

Perth and Kinross have updated their policy on the Administration of Medication in Schools. The key principle adopted by prescribers of medicine and parents will be that medicines should be taken out-with school hours. There are two exceptions to this rule:

- Where it is important for diagnostic purposes that medication is given at a specific time and the consequences observed and noted
- Where a short course of prescribed medicine is required to be completed and the prescription states a time for the medication to be administered.

To ensure parents are aware of the changes, a letter has been sent home for your information. If your child is prescribed medication that must be taken at a specific time within the school day this should be handed in to the school office, clearly labelled with your child's name, and the updated consent form signed for the days the medication is to be received. This can be handed in to the school before the lines come in at 9am.

Easter Service and holiday reminder

A reminder that school will be closed to children and staff on Friday 25th and Monday 28th March. Our end of term assembly will be held in Portmoak Church on Friday 1st April from 9:30, all welcome to attend. If you are available as a parent helper to accompany the children during our walk to and from the church, please meet in the foyer for a 9:10 departure.

Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 24th March – Spring Discos 5:45 – 6:45, 7:00 – 8:00
- 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
- Tuesday 19th April – Friday 29th April – The Big Pedal
- Thursday 21st April – Parent Coffee and Catch Up, just after drop off (All welcome)
- Thursday 21st April – P5-7 Day of Song, Perth Concert Hall
- Friday 29th April – P4/5 Assembly (P4/5 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Friday 6th May – Monday 9th May - P6 to Ardroy
- Friday 13th May - P5/6 Assembly (P5/6 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Friday 20th May – Bag2school
- Friday 20th May – KWIK cricket tournament, LLCC
- Wednesday 25th May – Friday 27th May – P7 to Dalguise
- Thursday 2nd June - P4/5 visit to Hattonburn – 'trout in the classroom' project
- Friday 3rd June - P2/3 Assembly (P2/3 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Monday 6th – Friday 10th June – Health Week
- Monday 6th June – Sports Day 1:30pm
- Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th June – P7 transition days to KHS
- Thursday 16th June – P6 maths challenge
- Wednesday 29th June – P7 Prom
- Thursday 30th June – Leavers' Assembly Portmoak Church 1pm
- Friday 1st July – End of term at 12noon

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

