

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS MAY 2016



Parent Survey Summary

Thank you to the increased number of parents who responded to our annual Parent Survey. We are grateful for the many lovely comments and the very positive feedback you gave. We have reviewed the information gathered, tried to identify any common themes from this to take forward and shared these with the Parent Council. Information to parents about their children's progress in learning and looking at ways to support parents to engage with their child's learning are areas we can work to improve upon and this has been taken into account when creating our School Improvement Plan for session 2016/17. The vast majority of responses to this session's developments in French, iPads and Learning Journey Jotters were positive. I am happy to discuss any individual issues which were raised in the annual survey with the parents who highlighted them. Please make an appointment through the school office if you feel a discussion would be useful. Thank you to all our families for your continued support with your child's learning and the help you provide to enable the children to access as many learning opportunities as possible.

Sainsbury Vouchers



The distribution of Sainsbury's vouchers has now finished. If you have any vouchers at home which you have been collecting, could you please send them in with your child as we are in the process of counting these and preparing to order from the Sainsbury catalogue.

Ardroy weekend

The P6 children had a fabulous weekend at Ardroy from 6th – 9th May. The weather stayed fine and dry and everyone had the opportunity to experience something new and challenge themselves in different ways. They were a delightful group to take away and their behavior was just as we would expect from Portmoak. A credit to the school!



Staff Retirement

I recently shared with the Parent Council the news that Mr Young is to retire at the end of the session. I am sure you will agree that the musical contribution he has made at Portmoak has been invaluable and he will be very much missed by the staff and pupils. In order to have Mr Young with us at what will be his last Portmoak assembly, the leavers' assembly will be on Wednesday 29th June at 1pm. I hope you can join us to give our best wishes to our P7s and Mr Young as they prepare to leave Portmoak.

Cricket Festival

Mr Surtees once again supported our Portmoak cricket teams in preparing for the Kinross cluster Kwik Cricket Festival at the campus last week. The weather was disappointing on the day but the performance of our teams was not with our Bears team winning the event and securing a place for themselves at the finals which are to be held at Doo'cot Park in Perth on Thursday 2nd June. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the best of luck for the day!



Euroquiz Final

Well done to our Portmoak Euroquiz team. They enjoyed their day at Heriot Watt University competing in the Scottish Euroquiz finals and endured several rounds of very challenging questions. They received a very respectable overall score on the day.

Eco Bin

The bin has arrived! You may recall in last month's newsletter that Lewis Bentall was announced as the winner of the Eco Committee's competition to design a bin for our school. The committee have planned a 'Go Green' fundraising event on Tuesday 7th June to help raise funds towards the final cost of the bin. Flyers advertising this event went home in school bags last week.



George Thompson's Book

We were recently contacted by the nephew of Mrs Jessie Millar, last surviving sibling of George Thompson VC. Amongst her possessions she had found a book of Burns poetry which had been awarded to George by the Burns Society in 1933 while a pupil at Portmoak Primary. She wanted to gift the book to the school. We have placed it on display in our George Thompson VC Library and the Pupil Council have plans to purchase a display case to avoid any damage to the book and have written a letter of thanks to Mrs Millar.

KPS iPad session



This month we welcomed pupils from Kinross Primary School who came to discuss with our pupils how progress has been made with digital learning using iPads. Each class from Portmoak was represented by 2 pupils who shared the various ways they had used the iPad apps to enhance their learning. The children presented very well and also heard about new apps which we have yet to try.



You will be aware from previous correspondence that the school is readying itself for the launch of ParentPay, a new online system which will enable parents to have much more control and flexibility over how they make payments for school meals and trips. This is a secure system which provides you with an individual account for each child. Individual account numbers will be sent home this week. We hope to have as many parents as possible making use of this system. Our Parent Council chairperson, Elizabeth Porter, is happy to discuss the features of this system with you. The school office will also be able to answer any specific queries you may have.

Sports Day

It is hard to believe that Sports Day is almost upon us again! Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and the day can go ahead as planned on Monday 6th June at 1.30pm. Please ensure that your child has their gym kit in school for the day – white t-shirt and black shorts. The children can choose to wear gym shoes or trainers during the event. A water bottle is essential for the afternoon and, weather dependent, a hat and sun cream. Events and Fundraising have requested parent helpers to set up the coffee and cake stall and pre-used uniform stall before the action kicks off on sports day. If you are available to help with this could you please meet at Portmoak from 12 noon. We would be very grateful for any donations of nut free home baking. These can be left in the school office on Monday 6th. Please label any donations and containers so these can be returned.



Parent Council

The last Parent Council meeting of the session took place on Monday 23rd May. Minutes from this meeting will be distributed as soon as they have been received and will highlight the date for the next meeting which will be the AGM at the beginning of session 16/17. Portmoak is very fortunate to have an active and supportive Parent Council and they are keen to welcome new members. A representative will speak to the parents of new entrants during their induction afternoon presentation but I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the AGM and consider being part of our Parent Council. Events and Fundraising have asked that you save the date of Saturday 17th September for a proposed quiz night to support school funds. Thank you to all members of the Parent Council for your valued support of our school.

Dates for Your Diary

- Wednesday 1st June – County Sports 4-6pm
- Thursday 2nd June – Whole School Sponsored Walk (parent volunteers please join us for a 9:15 departure)
- 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)
- Friday 3rd June - New P1 entrants PE session 11:15 – 11:45
- Monday 6th – Friday 10th June – Health Week
- Monday 6th June – Sports Day 1:30pm
- Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th June – P7 transition days to KHS
- Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th June – New P1 entrants induction afternoons 1:30 – 2:45
- Friday 10th June – P6 John Muir assembly (P6 family and friends please join us from 9:15)
- Thursday 16th June – P6 maths challenge
- Tuesday 21st June - New P1 entrants Music session 11:15 – 11:45
- Friday 27th June – P1/2 trip to Vane Farm
- Wednesday 29th June – Leavers’ Assembly Portmoak Church 1pm
- Wednesday 29th June – P7 Prom
- Friday 1st July – End of term at 12noon
- Monday 15th August – Session 16/17 start (staff only)
- Tuesday 16th August – Pupils return for new school year

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

