

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015



Staffing

As you will be aware from the letter sent out earlier this month, Mrs Kellie was successful at interview for the post of Acting Headteacher when I am off on maternity leave. I am due back at the summer, but will hopefully see some of you when I pop up for visits during this time. We interviewed recently for the post of Acting Principal Teacher to fill Mrs Kellie's post. Miss Rebecca Marr was the successful candidate and is officially due to start with us on 5th January, although she will be visiting for three days in December to allow for a handover. Miss Marr is due to be married during the Christmas holidays, so when she comes back she will have changed her name to Mrs Pullar. Mrs Clemie will continue to teach P4/5 on a Wednesday to cover Principal Teacher management time.

Snacks with Nuts

Please ensure that the snack you provide your child with is nut free. We have children in school with nut allergies and also have a member of staff with a nut allergy who could be affected in the playground. Please note this applies to all nuts, not just peanuts.

Parents' Group Sessions

Thanks to those who attended our November group sessions.

Upcoming sessions for December:

- 2.12.15 – Digital technology session including iPads and apps used in school / recommended for home (Lee Fairlie/Louise Gordon – suitable for all ages)
- 9.12.15 – An overview of how we teach Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood in primary school (P1-7 covered) and how this progresses into secondary school (Stephanie Kellie leading – suitable for all ages)
- 16.12.15 – Christmas coffee morning (all welcome to attend – even if you don't come along weekly)

Nativity Invitation – Tuesday 15th December 9.45am or 2.00pm

As you will be aware, we are having two performances of our Nativity, titled *A Miracle in Town*, on Tuesday 15th December. I would like to invite you to attend one of the shows, which are at 9.45am and 2.00pm. All classes have learned songs for this performance, which is narrated and acted by P1-3.

As a guide, I would ask that where possible P4-7 parents and friends attend the afternoon performance and the guests of P1-3 attend in the morning. If you are unable to attend the session allocated to you, but can make the other session, please feel free to come along at the alternative time.



Winter Playground Policy

New parents may be interested in the following winter playground information:

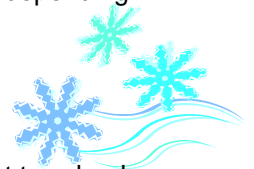
All year groups have access to our extensive playground areas, although when P5-7 are playing football the pitch is used for this. The top grass area, trim trail and slide are in daily use. The basketball court cannot hold all of our pupils, and indeed can become too slippery for use in icy weather. 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.

Coats

As the weather gets colder it is more important than ever 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.



Dress Down Day

This year we are supporting the Perth and Kinross Foodbank for our festive dress down day. This is on Friday 4th December and donations from the list on the right are welcomed for this event. More information on the Perth and Kinross Foodbank can be found here:

<http://perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk/>

Christmas Parties

The school has been divided into three for the parties again this year. The dates (all afternoons) are:

- * Thursday 10th December – Christmas Party for all of P1/2 and P2 from Mrs Mossom's class
- * Monday 14th December - Christmas Party for P5/6 and P7
- * Thursday 17th December - Christmas Party for P3 from Mrs Mossom's class and P4/5



Children will be given time to change at the end of the lunch break. They should not come to school for the day wearing party clothes unless they are returning for the afternoon after a home lunch.



Christmas Lunch

The school Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 8th December this year. A sheet with menu choices was sent out to you on Friday, please do get back to us as this is a very busy dinner day and the ladies like to be as organized as possible.



Primary One Enrolment

Can all parents let friends know of the date for our P1 enrolment week? The new P1 pupils for 2015 are invited to register for the next session week beginning Monday 11th January 2015. Prospective parents should call the school office to make an appointment during enrolment week.

Dates for Your Diary

- Friday 4th December – P5/6 Assembly (P5/6 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Friday 4th December – Events and Fundraising Meeting 2pm-3pm – all welcome
- Friday 4th December – Dress down day for P&K foodbank
- Tuesday 8th December – School Christmas Lunch
- Thursday 10th December – Christmas Party for all of P1/2 and P2 from Mrs Mossom's class
- Monday 14th December - Christmas Party for P5/6 and P7
- Tuesday 15th December – Nativity am & pm
- Thursday 17th December - Christmas Party for P3 from Mrs Mossom's class and P4/5
- Friday 18th December – End of term (12 noon finish time)
- Tuesday 5th January 2016 – First day of Term 3
- Wednesday 6th January – Parent Coffee and Catch Up just after drop off (All welcome, parents will have a chance to meet Mrs Pullar at this session well as see Mrs Kellie)
- Monday 18th January – P4/5 and P7 class trip
- Friday 22nd January – P7 Assembly (P7 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Monday 25th January – Parent Council 6pm
- Friday 29th January – Ski trip for pupils from P3-7 (weather and snow dependent)
- 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 4th March – P7 Assembly (P7 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Monday 7th March - Parent Council 6pm
- 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
- Friday 25th March – Good Friday holiday
- Monday 28th March – Easter Monday holiday
- 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

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

