

PORTMOAK PRIMARY NEWS

OCTOBER 2016



Coffee and a Catch Up – Reminder

Thanks to everyone who came along for a biscuit and a blether last time. Coffee and catch up is an informal chance to chat to Mrs. Woods and I and representatives from Friends of Portmoak, our Parent Council. The next coffee and catch up is on **Wednesday 2nd November at 9am** drop off. Mrs. Milroy, our Pupil Support Teacher, will also be available this time for a chat.

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.



Road Safety / Parking

I would like 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. These include:

- 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.

At assembly last week we also discussed the dangers of:

- Crossing between parked cars
- Not staying on pavement
- Seatbelts needing to be worn at all times and fastened before take-off and until the engine is right off.
- Dark nights being dangerous as drivers can't see as well



Outdoor Learning

As you may be aware outdoor learning is a development focus for us this year. I had a lovely morning with P1/2 at Kilmagad Wood on Wednesday and I know the children have enjoyed their Halloween themed outdoor learning today in our school grounds. Thank you to the parents who supported both days.



Coats

As the weather has been very unpredictable it is important that children are suitably dressed for outdoor breaks. Please ensure your child comes to school with a suitable coat every day, preferably with a hood, hat or umbrella. Children will be reminded to wear their coats on cold and/or damp days.

Ladies' Night at Portmoak Hall

Tickets are still available for this year's Shopping and Pamper night which will be held in Portmoak Hall on Friday the 11th November. This is a really super evening which raises a substantial amount of money for the benefit of our school. The events and fundraising ladies have spent lots of time organizing this, so thank you to them also.



Halloween Discos

The children gave very positive feedback about this year's discos at the assembly last week and I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to organise and attend these events. A very positive report from all concerned about the attitude and behavior of the children who were at both discos too.

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.

Flu Vaccines

Everyone should have received their flu vaccination letters from the NHS. School nurses will be in school on the afternoon of 15th November to administer the nasal spray for those who are taking part in this initiative.

School Lunches

The cut off time from the kitchen for ordering a school lunch is 10.30am to allow staff time to cook items for the 12.35pm start of lunch time. If your child is at an appointment in the morning but will return to school in time for lunch, please ensure that you either phone the school office and order lunch or send your child to school with a packed lunch that day. Menus are available on the Perth and Kinross website: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals>

Outdoor PE Kit

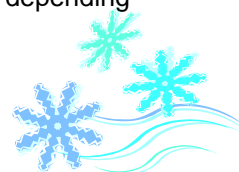
A reminder that we have optional outdoor PE kit: a hoodie, a tracksuit (can be purchased as a set or separately) and a beanie hat. This can be purchased from Halbro Sportswear Ltd on:

<https://www.halbro.com/portmoak-primary-school>

Please note the following:

- These items are purely optional for outdoor school activities and are not to be used as regular school uniform.
- Postage is £3.95 for all orders under £100 and free for orders over £100.
- Our school will earn 10% commission on all sales
- These are suitable for girls and boys.

A couple of our P7 pupils pictured here looking very smart in their outdoor PE tops today.



Dates for Your Diary:

- Tuesday 1st November – M&M Pantomine in school – 1.45pm
- Wednesday 2nd November – Parent Coffee & Catch-Up 9am.
- Thursday 3rd November – P6 Bikeability (Group 2)
- Friday 4th November – P1/2 Sharing our learning Assembly (P1/2 parents please join us)
- Monday 7th & Wednesday 9th November – Parent contact sessions
- Friday 11th November – P6/7 Remembrance Assembly (P6/7 parents please join us)
- Tuesday 15th November - Flu vaccines
- Thursday 17th & Friday 18th November – In-Service Days
- Friday 25th November - P6/7 Cycle round Loch Leven
- Wednesday 30th November – St Andrews Day Lunch Menu
- Friday 2nd December – P4/5 Advent Assembly (P4/5 parents please join us)
- Wednesday 14th & Thursday 15th December – Dick Whittington Pantomime - 6pm start
- Monday 19th December – P1, P2 & P3 Christmas Party
- Tuesday 20th December - School Christmas Lunch
- Tuesday 20th December – Nativity 5pm arrival for 5.30 start
- Wednesday 21st December – Nativity – 9.45am start
- Wednesday 21st December – P4 & P5 Christmas Party
- Thursday 22nd December – P6 & P7 Christmas Party
- Friday 23rd December – End of term 12pm
- Monday 9th January – Term starts 9am
- Monday 16th January – New Primary 1 enrolment week
- Wednesday 25th January – Burns Lunch Menu
- Tuesday 14th February – Dental visit for P1 & P7
- 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 13th & Wednesday 15th March – Parent contact sessions
- Friday 17th March – P2/3 Sharing our Learning Assembly (P2/3 parents please join us)
- Friday 31st April – Easter Service with P1/2 in Portmoak Church (all parents please join us)

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

