



Headteacher's Newsletter – September 2017

Macmillan Coffee and Open Afternoon

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon and Meet the Teacher from 1.30-3.00pm on Wednesday 27th September. Classes are open for visits between 1.30pm and 2.30pm, with coffee in the hall open until 3pm. Donations are welcome on the day to raise funds for Macmillan cancer care and we would also welcome donations of home baking on the morning of the 27th.

Whole School Rights Show: 'Rights of the Child'

To celebrate Portmoak receiving level one Rights Respecting Schools Award, we had a show from Hopscotch Drama all about children's rights. This told the story of Ryan, a young schoolboy who has no idea he has any rights. In fact, Ryan can't even be bothered learning about them at school. In a dream he meets Rights campaigner Eglantyne Jebb and accompanies her to the United Nations to fight for the rights of all children in the world. When he awakens, he understands the value of rights and returns to school determined to share his newfound knowledge. The P4/5 and P5/6 class also enjoyed follow up workshops the next day picking up themes around wellbeing and rights.



ParentPay

Thank you to all of the parents who have already signed up to ParentPay, this makes administering money for dinners and school trips much easier for our office staff. To anyone who has not yet signed up, please ask either Mrs Davies or Mrs Clark in the office and they will be happy to assist you. Please remember to set up low balance reminders by email which can be done for free via the ParentPay system. Please remember that school dinners should be paid for in advance and that if you are not using ParentPay or have no credit on your child's ParentPay account then you should send dinner money in with your child on the day they are having school dinner.

Spree Books

Please return any unwanted Spree books to the school office ASAP so that work on this can be finalized. I do hope those of you who bought a book enjoy using your money-off vouchers – I certainly have got more than my money back in the last few years.

Snacks/Lunches with Nuts

Please ensure that the snacks and lunches you provide your child with are 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.



M&M Productions – Sleeping Beauty

In November we are looking forward to an early Christmas treat with M&M productions booked to perform Sleeping Beauty on the afternoon of Thursday 2nd November. (Please note this is a change of date to the one advertised in the August newsletter)

So that we can host a pantomime every year, we ask parents to make a voluntary contribution to help offset the cost of the production. M&M production's fees have increased significantly and therefore this year we will be suggesting a contribution of £4.50 per child / £7 per family. Letters will come home in due course.



Police visit

The whole school enjoyed meeting our community police officers: PC Atholl Spalding and PC Dougie Stapleton on Monday 18th September.

As well as an assembly for the whole school, they also visited P1/2 as part of their People Who Help Us topic. P1/2 are also hosting several parents who are coming in to tell the class about the jobs that they do – many thanks to everyone who has supported with this.

Procedure when entering school building

Please remember to come straight to the school office when you enter the building. Parents should never go straight to a child's class, we need to know who is in the building at all times. We also teach the children not to answer the door, but to leave this to an adult, so please do not be offended if they walk past you at the door.

Portmoak Festival

A big thank you to our friends at Portmoak Festival – they have granted us £1500 to put towards our project developing the IT hardware in the school and replacing the smart boards with state of the art Promethean Boards (like smart TVs). We are very excited to be getting closer to our target on this as the trial of one before the holidays in P2/3 got a big thumbs up from Mrs Mossom and her children.



P4/5 Trip to RSPB Loch Leven

Last Tuesday P4/5 visited RSPB Loch Leven to take part in woodland sensory workshops, as part of our commitment to the Growing up with Loch Leven project. The aim of the trip was to provide a stimulus for writing descriptive Autumn poetry on return to the class, with a particular focus on adjectives and verbs. The children took part in natural colour collecting, smelly potion creating, listening circle activities, mirror walking (walking slowly with mirrors pointed up to observe the movement in the high branches) and even created a tree poem on sight by observing the

trees from different distances and angles. Each part of the workshop was linked together with the collection of descriptive language on group graffiti boards. The trip provided the perfect inspiration for the creation of some excellent poetry, which will be included in the class' Harvest Assembly at the end of term.



HMI Visit

The staff and I have been very touched by all of the messages of support and the kind words that we have received from parents and the wider community over what has been a very busy and tiring but ultimately rewarding time in the life of our school. I emailed out with the headline news on Friday, but I do look forward to being able to share the report with you when it is published – expected to be Tuesday 28th November.

I know that many of you understand the additional pressure that this puts on staff, but I would like to note my thanks to every single one of them for going the extra mile this last few weeks to ensure that no stone is left unturned, no story left untold and no evidence left un-gathered. It takes a lot of preparation to get ready to showcase the work of the school and everyone has just been fantastic. It is very difficult to say everything you want to say in such a short space of time, but I am happy that we have been able to be the best that we can be!



Thank you to everyone who took the time to give their feedback too, both in sessions and in the survey.

Dates for Your Diary:

September 2017:

- Tuesday 26th September – TEMPEST school photographs
- Wednesday 27th September – Macmillan Coffee 1.30-3.00pm (classes finish at 2.30pm)

October 2017:

- Friday 6th October – Harvest Service (Portmoak church, 9.30am, P4/5 are leading this, but all families are invited to attend this service)
- Friday 6th October – 3pm End of Term
- Monday 23rd October - Term starts 9am
- Thursday 26th October – Halloween Discos
- Friday 27th October – Bags 2 School – collection 9 am

November 2017:

- Wednesday 1st November – Parent Coffee and Catch Up
- Thursday 2nd November – M&M Pantomime in school
- Thursday 9th November – P2/3 Trip to Verdant Works
- Friday 10th November – P5/6 Remembrance Assembly (P5/6 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Thursday 16th +& Friday 17th November – In-Service Days
- Thursday 23rd November – P2/3 Visit from Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET)

December 2017:

- Monday 4th December – Flu Vaccinations
- Friday 8th December – P4/5 Christmas around the World Assembly (P4/5 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)
- Tuesday 19th December - 5.30pm performance of Nativity
- Wednesday 20th December – 9.30am performance of Nativity
- Friday 22nd December – End of Term 12pm

January 2018:

- Monday 8th January – Term starts 9am
- Friday 19th January – P5/6 Sharing our Learning Assembly (P5/6 family and friends please join us from 9.15am)



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

