

Fettercairn Primary

Newsletter



April 2023

Welcome back to the final term of this session. Sometimes I just don't know where the year has gone. As usual we have lots of things planned for this term to keep everybody busy.

Ian Clarke
Head Teacher

Parking

Please take extra care when picking up and dropping off your children and allow for pedestrians to use the pavement. Please could I ask that the bus lane is kept clear and that when parking we respect the needs of our neighbours. It would be of great help if parents could park in the square and walk up to the school to pick up the children.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Last term we had Morning Multi-sports Club, a Lunchtime Cross-Country running club, a lunchtime coding club and an After-school Dodgeball club as well. All of which will continue this term. The Cross-Country events will go ahead again this term, which are now fully organised by Active Schools. *If you want your child to take part in these events you need to sign up by copying and pasting this link into your browser* bit.ly/PortlethenActiveSchools. The children have also continued their dance and performance clubs and choir clubs.

World Book Day

We had a very successful world book day organised by P2/3 and raised £463, which will be spent on reading resources for the whole school. To support this development and our Outdoor learning on behalf of the children, staff and school community, I would like to thank Rosewood Timber for the new additions to the outdoor classroom and the outdoor reading shed in the garden.

Talent Show

Our Annual Talent show on the last Thursday of last Term, was well attended. I would like to congratulate all the children who performed. It is not easy to get up in front of other people and perform. Thanks also to the teachers for their support as Judges and organisers.

The winners were:

P1-4 – Isobel Gascoigne

P5-7 – Zoe Anderson

Group – Merrin Salmon and Samantha Shaw

Nursery Garden

Recently we have had a number of incidents in the Nursery Garden at night. In the morning we have found Vapes and some of the furniture has been moved and the picnic tables turned over. Please can I ask that you are vigilant should you be passing the school and see anyone on the grounds. Please do not approach them but if you let me know then I can deal with this directly. In view of the recent incidents, I have spoken with Mearns Academy who will be passing on this information to their pupils who live in the village. Hopefully we will have no more incidents./

School Playground

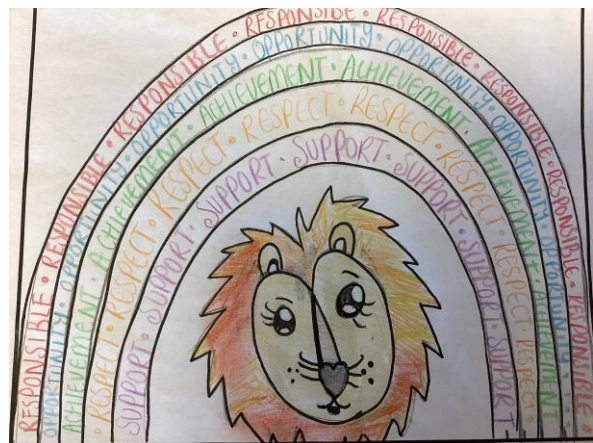
Our school playground has not been at it's best for a number of years and for about the last five years I have been trying to get it re-surfaced. With the help of some parents and the parent council this will be finally completed early during the summer. The work went to tender last term and that process was completed on 31st March. I attended a meeting on Thursday 27th April to discuss the next stage. Due to health and safety surrounding large machinery it was agreed that work will commence as soon as possible in the summer holidays. I do not have a firm date yet but as soon as I do I will let you know so that you will be aware of the work and the affect it might have on traffic during the holidays.

Health Week

This years Health week will take place week beginning 9th May. Please remember sports day will be on Thursday 11th May at 9.30am – 12pm approx. and you are all welcome to come and watch. See below for a draft timetable. More communication will come out regarding the activities.

Vision, Values and Aims

Last term we updated our Vision, Values and Aims to create a more child friendly version. With the development of this we wanted to create a pin badge to remind us of all of our values and I set the children a challenge to come up with designs that represented these values. We would then try to get a couple of these designs created into pin badges for the whole community. I can say that the designs we received were amazing and it was incredibly hard to choose. I thank everyone who took part. The two designs chosen were from Margaret Stevenson and Lucy Pickup.



Absences

We would like to remind you all that if your child is not going to be in school for any reason it is essential that you ring the school (Tel No. 01561 400675) between 8.45a.m. and 9.30a.m Monday - Thursday (as Mrs Johnstone, School Administrator is in to take messages) to let us know that they are safe. It is the policy of Aberdeenshire Council that if we don't hear from you then we do have to start calling you or your emergency contacts to confirm that the pupil is indeed safe.

Please keep your child off school if they are not well enough to attend, no matter how much they want to come. School is not a good place for children when they aren't well. **Remember too that if your child has sickness / upset tummy then 48hrs must be left between the last bout and them returning to school.** Also take care when visiting the school with siblings who are unwell, please do not let them mix with the other children. This is to prevent other children from getting ill. If you know that your child is going to be absent due to an appointment please could you let us know in writing beforehand (email) where possible. PLEASE BE AWARE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS./

Medical

Please check your child's head regularly (we recommend weekly) and notify the school if you find head lice. Current advice on the treatment of head lice is available from your local pharmacist.

Please can you ensure that your child's medical records, that we hold, are kept up to date. If there are any changes in your child's medical needs please inform us straight away. It is also important that if your child requires an inhaler there is one present in school at all times. This can also be done on parents portal. <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

Fettercairn Farmers Club Show Art Competition

The Fettercairn show is on Saturday 1st July 2023.

As always here in the school we will be putting in entries for the school competition, which is on the topic of 'The King's Coronation'. However, the individual art competition topics are as follows:

- Open Art Competition –
1. Front Cover for 2024 Show Catalogue
 2. Create a likeness to a local landmark, can use anything
 3. Decorate a cupcake – decoration only to be judged

***ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 30th June 2023
or on the Show morning, before 9 a.m.**

Please support this local event.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-10.45	Smoothie bikes / Skipping (Aris)	Gym circuit Park Activity	Sports Day	Community Walk
11-12.30	Smoothie Bikes / Skipping (Aris)	Dance (hall) Football (Park)	Sports Day	
1.30-3pm	Afternoon tea QEC Table top games	People Who Help Us – careers fayre in hall 2-3pm	Bowls tournament / Mini highland games	Place2be

**Dates for
your Diary
Monday 8th
May –
School
closed –
Coronation
Sports
Week 9th –
12th May**

This is a draft timetable of what we have planned for the children. Other communication will be sent with more details. All week the children can wear comfortable sports clothes.

**P7 3 day visit to Mearns Tuesday 20th June – Thursday 22nd June
Curriculum Showcase Friday 23rd June 1.30pm – 3.15pm**

Parents are invited into all classrooms to see the learning that has taken place this session.

School Leavers assembly Thursday 6th July 2pm

All parents are invited into our final assembly of the year where we will be celebrating our P7s.

Friday 7th July – School closes for summer at 3.15pm

Tuesday 22nd August – School re-opens 9am

Fettercairn Community News

King Charles Coronation – On Sunday 7th May, starts with a Church Service in Fettercairn Parish Church. Then walk to the park for a picnic. Bring your own picnic. Lots of fun activities – well throwing, children's games

Gala Events – In Church Hall

- **Bingo** Friday 28th April 7pm, adults £2 and children £1.
- **Quiz** Friday 12th May 7.30pm £4 per person, table of 4. B.Y.O.
- **Duck race** – to be held later in the year/

GALA DAY – Saturday 20th May opening 1.30pm – look out for further information.

Curriculum News

P1/2

In Literacy P1 will continue to work on 2-letter sounds and learn to form capital letters correctly. P2 will continue to learn about Grammar to use in our writing, including adjectives, adverbs, antonyms, speech marks, question marks, alphabetical order and using a dictionary. Diane the Librarian from Mearns Library continues her very popular monthly visits to read to us and has been delighted that some of the class have visited the Library to borrow books. Please consider adding a trip to the library if you are in Laurencekirk for something else as it makes such a difference to the children's reading if they have access to a wide variety of texts. Opening times are on the website <https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/libraries/local-libraries/mearns-community-campus-library/> and they have now got a drop box outside the building at the south door if you want to return books when they are closed.

In Numeracy and Mathematics both year groups are learning about money. Nowadays children have very little opportunity to handle physical coins and therefore have difficulty in recognising the difference between coins, that pounds are different from pence, and that there are not coins for every value e.g. 3p or 6p. Although we use imitation coins in class, it would be really helpful for the children if each family could give their child experience of handling physical coins, getting to know the colours, sizes and shapes and how to make up different amounts. Primary One will continue to work on Numbers to 20, and Primary 2 will work on Problem Solving using strategies such as draw a picture, produce a table and use a table. Also In numeracy P1 will work on subtraction to 10 using fingers and number line , P2 will focus on skip counting, estimating and rounding. We will look at simple fractions. P2 will begin to understand what multiplication is.

In Art we are going to be working on a Transport theme using a variety of different techniques and materials. We will be learning about animals in French, and in Health and Wellbeing we will continue to work on developing our Growth Mindset. Children will listen to stories and discuss real life situations to help them understand that they can approach learning in different ways to become a successful learner and we will be exploring our different emotions.

In Social Studies and Science we will look at all kinds of evidence from the past about how people travel and what materials were used to help them. We will design, make and test our own models of different types of transport.

In music we will practise singing songs related to transport, focussing on keeping the beat by using our bodies and instruments. We will listen to tunes from different parts of the world.

P2/3

In our final term in P2/3 for literacy we will be focusing on our confidence of being independent writers and using our phonological awareness to help us. Our learning will take place in the form of instructional writing. The children have discussed what they would need in their written pieces to achieve this learning intention and have co-constructed their steps to success.

In numeracy we will be learning multiplication followed by division. We will be focusing on building our mental agility and understanding the inverse operation of multiplication and division. You can help your child at home with their multiplication by using 'hit the button' on Top Marks at the following link;

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Hit-the-button) and by rote learning of saying the times tables out loud or writing them down. In mathematics we are learning data handling.

Our topic this term is the Picts. We have looked at various artefacts from Pictish times and have discussed them. The children have specifically asked to learn about the differences of then and now, the Pictish stones and have asked to do a STEM activity and build round houses./

In HWB we will be focusing on 'being my best' and our growth mindset. We will also be focusing on our physical fitness and the skills we require for athletic activities i.e. speed and hand/eye coordination.

P4-5 Term 4 Overview

In literacy, our writing focusses for this term will be persuasive and discursive. We will identify the features of each genre and try to use them in our own pieces of writing. We are hoping this will link nicely to some debating in listening and talking. In reading, we are going to focus on inference (reading between the lines) and making connections.

In numeracy, we are learning about pattern and relationship, expressions and equations, area, statistics, data handling and chance and uncertainty.

In health and wellbeing, we are covering the topics of rights and respect, safety, being my best, and growing and changing.

Our topic this term is castles and we are hoping to go on a class trip (yippee!).

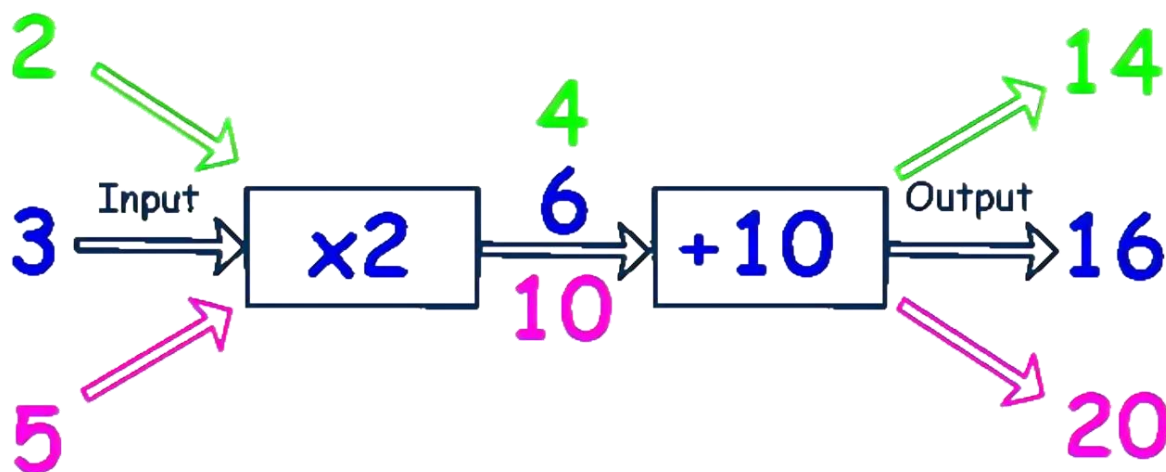
P6/7

Literacy: This term, P6/7 will be doing a novel study on 'Journey to the River Sea' By Eva Ibbotson. Our comprehension and writing will be linked to this book, and I am sure the children will enjoy it just as much as our last novel!



In writing, we will be working to embed Big Writing – look out for a 'Big Talk for Big Writing' slip in your child's bag which will be sent on Wednesdays with our writing topic.

Maths: This term we will be learning about function machines and algebra. Below is an example of a two-step function machine which you can practice at home!



We will then be moving on to data and analysis where we will learn to read and draw different types of charts and graphs. We will also cover measurement, where we will aim to get outdoors as much as possible!

Health and Wellbeing: We are starting this term by learning about substance misuse, legal and illegal drugs and alcohol. We will learn to understand the effect that a range of substances including tobacco and alcohol can have on the body. We will also be covering Living and Growing this term, and I will email parents/carers with more information about this in a few weeks' time.

IDL: Our topic for the first part of the term is World Cultures, where we will be focusing on learning about differences and diversity around the world. The children will lead their learning and will decide which countries they would like to focus their learning on. If any parents/carers would like to have input in our topic, please do get in touch!

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