

BOTRIPHNIIE BLETHER

June 2023

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are in June and rapidly approaching the Summer holidays. Life is fast and fun filled here at Botriphnie, with a wealth of learning and school achievements to share with you all this month.

We did it...Botriphnie Primary has been accredited as a 'Reading School.' Well done to the Reading Stars Group for all their hard work and effort following their action plan and submitting their evidence trail. We are now officially able to use the Reading Schools Badge in our newsletter! Our assessor wrote to us to say...

"It was very inspiring to read about all your hard work as a school that has gone in to building and sustaining a reading culture. The huge amount of work and dedication you have put into the programme really shone through your application - what an incredible reading environment for your learners".

(Anna Derricourt- Reading Schools Manager)

Next, on to the next level action plan...aiming for Silver accreditation and Lexi has been supporting this by taking in some of her old books for others to enjoy.

Sports Day

Sports Day was a huge success for our learners. The whole school brought their 'Have a Go Jo' Mindset and participated fully in the afternoon of events. The weather was perfect and it's a real bucket filler for me to see both schools together, benefitting from the shared experience.



I was particularly pleased when some of our older pupils asked to sit with their friends from Newmill. Here's what Erin, P2, had to say...

"I love Sports Day! It is the best day ever in school. I got myself into flow and ran and didn't look back. I'm so proud of myself and can't wait until next year."

KGS links

Today a secondary teacher from Keith Grammar School called Mr Garner came to our school to set us a challenge and teach us some French.

We practised counting to 20 and how to ask someone their name.

We played some French games: a matching game and 'elevens'. Charlie won the matching game and Sinan won 'elevens'.



Our task is to find out where in the world Mr Garner was from five pictures of famous places. We then have to research these places to find interesting and unusual facts about them.

We showed a 'Curious Carly' Botriphnie Ninja Mindset because we asked questions and had to evaluate evidence to figure out what French speaking countries Mr Garner was in. We are going to be creative and share our research by making a poster or PowerPoint. *Primary 3-7*

Cinema Trip



Our cinema trip was another fantastic success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day out and were very grateful for the opportunity. The whole school behaved very well and were fantastic ambassadors for Botriphnie Primary School. I was presented with these bucket filling post its during 'wall time' on Friday. They read...

'Thank you for taking us to the movies' and 'I would like to put the whole school on the wall for making the cinema trip a success'.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of you all at our Christmas Fayre...thank you! Lovely to see that our learners were so appreciative of the experience.

Amélie continues to channel her enterprise skills and I'm sure you will all have seen her plant business advertised as you pass through Drummuir. She has very kindly donated £20 of her profit towards a while school treat. Thank you! Parent Council has organised for an ice cream van to visit the park on the last day of term when we all go together. We are going to put the money towards an ice cream for each pupil. Staff would like to donate the remaining amount as an end of term gift from us all.

Drawing club- an adventure into Story

In my last newsletter I mentioned 'Drawing Club' as an inspiring initiative Mrs Chalmers was keen to develop here at Botriphnie. P1 and 2 have been taking part in Drawing Club. This involves sharing stories and animations with children whilst at the same time enriching their language skills, developing their fine motor and spending 'Time Together' with them. Drawing Club brings the world of story to life. It develops creativity and imagination and develops the use of new vocabulary.

This is very much up and running and we have all been delighted with the results thus far, particularly their use of new vocabulary. Look out for some Drawing Club sheets coming home for your child to share with you. Here is what some of the pupils had to say about it...

"Drawing Club is amazing. We listen to a story and then draw different aspects like characters, settings, problems and ideas to extend the story."

"You get to draw every day."

"We test each other every day on the new wow vocabulary words. They are words like **destroy, astonish, ignore, sliver**. We try and use the new words in our writing."

Building our Botriphnie Community-Transition week with Earthtime

Last week our HWB week was a fantastic success. The weather was great for a week of outdoor learning. I'm so glad we were out in the morning and had the shade of the trees down at the station area to protect us from the heat. Outdoor learning provides the perfect context to prioritise our childrens' wellbeing, particularly their social and emotional needs to support effective transition. We were delighted to welcome our new p1s for the week whilst Connor ventured off to KGS for his transition days. Earthtime sessions were well received by all and provided a motivating context, not only for our new P1s to get to know everyone but also for our whole school community to transition. We were very impressed with how our older pupils are emerging as leaders. Mrs Chalmers is keen to develop this further, with a continued weekly forest school session. Here are some of our pupil highlights.

"I like collecting bugs and playing in the squishy wood factory."

"I like the hammock swing."

"Today we made a bird feeder. I got a pipe cleaner and hung it on the tress. I was 'Have a Go Jo' today." Toran, P1

"I like going in on my back on the tight rope. I found a cool stick for the battle. It was tricky to share it but I was able to share the stick with Matthew in the end." Jay, P1

"I loved all the snacks. I liked popcorn, toasted brioche rolls with jam, waffles, toasted baguets and smores." Llewie, P1



"I liked being Persevering Pete to make a rope swing." Charles, P2



"I enjoyed pond dipping." Luna, P2



"I enjoyed the Acrobatic show."

Values based Curriculum- Over and Above Certificates -Wider Achievement Focus

Thank you for your support in helping us recognise and celebrate wider achievement this term. It's been really interesting to read about all the wonderful skills for learning, life and work that are being developed outwith the school day. It really filled my bucket to read your family discussions and how you were all able to identify and name the learning attitudes (Botriphnie Ninjas) that are supporting skill development in a variety of different contexts.



We are going to celebrate those who go 'over and above' demonstrating their commitment to our school values, around the fire pit, on Thursday next week.

NSPCC Health and Wellbeing Lessons

Before the end of term we will be delivering assemblies created specifically to deliver important safeguarding messages to primary aged children. I have shared information below. Please visit the website below if you would like more information.

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.***



programme this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Bikeability

Outfit Moray will be with us on the first week back to school in August and will work with the whole school. Consent forms will go home soon. There is an option for children to bring their own bikes and Outfit Moray can check them. Alternatively, bikes can be borrowed from Outfit Moray for the week.

It's hard to believe we are once again approaching the end of term...time certainly flies at Botriphnie Primary. Thank you to all our families for their continued support and have an awesome Summer holiday when it comes!



Rachael Smith, Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Friday 30th June** - Last day of term
- **Bikeability dates-** Tuesday 15th August-Friday 18th August
- **Tuesday 22nd August** - Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (Mink monitoring) Rachel Turner Talk
- **Friday 25th August** - **Lego Coding Session**
- **Saturday 9th September** - Coffee Morning at Keith North Church Hall
- **Friday 6th October-** Last day of Term
- **Monday 23rd October-** First day of Term 2
- **Monday 13th Nov and Tuesday 14th November-** School Closed In service Days

