

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER

August 2023

Dear Families,

Just like that... we are back and session 23/24 is well underway. I would like to start with a very warm welcome to a new school year at Botriphnie Primary School. The first weeks back are always such an exciting time as we catch up with each other again after Summer Break. I hope you had a great time, whatever you were up to.

We are delighted to have Ellen and Matthew with us as full time, permanent Botriphnie Bucket Fillers! We are reaping the rewards of transition week, with all of our learners happy, confident, settled and most definitely in the green zone, ready to learn! We've witnessed a wealth of Botriphnie Ninja Mindset qualities on display this week as we get straight back to it with spelling, reading, writing and maths learning experiences. Mrs Chalmers has home learning activities ready to go this week to ensure you have all the information you need to support your child's learning, progress and achievement.

## Outdoor Learning

It's been a pretty exciting first week back at Botriphnie, with all our learners taking part in Bikeability. The team at Outfit Moray has been so impressed with their cycle skills that an individual programme of activities has been created to support further development, based on first day assessments. As I write this, we have had our P3/4 learners out cycling to Loch Park and beyond. Our P5-7 have been out to both Dufftown and Fochabers. The children are buzzing and it's fabulous to see the progress and achievement gained from our outdoor learning experiences. We must say a huge thank you to Outfit Moray. They have gone over and above planning and delivering bespoke sessions to challenge learners, making the most of our local area. A line of rosy cheeks returned at lunchtime on Thursday this week. Here's what they had to say as we chatted during lunch....

*"We had so much fun biking but it was exhausting. We went to Loch Park and the train track. We were all 'Persevering Pete' as we all cycled up the big hill."*



For some, it was the longest cycle ride they've managed and there was a real sense of pride in their achievement. We have a wealth of wonderful photographs. In time, Mrs Stewart will upload some on our website when we've gathered them altogether. We will also print some for reflections jotters. Well done to everyone and thank you to Mrs McWilliam and Mrs MacGregor who have been out and about accompanying and supporting the sessions.



Next, let's take a look back to the end of last term.

### Water fun

Mrs Henderson treated everyone to some water fun for her last PE session of the term.

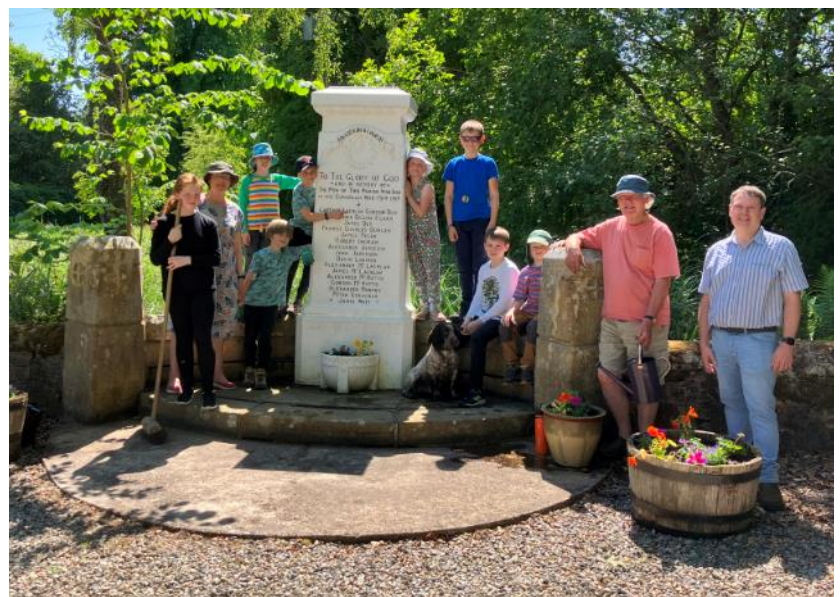
*"We split up into two groups. We had a water balloon fight and a slip and slide. I know how to make a water balloon pop...aim for someone's feet. It was really good fun."*



*"We had good fun with water. We used water guns and we went on big water slides. I liked the slip and slide the best. It was really, really fun. "*

### Effective Contributors

Thank you to Mrs Gordon Duff for inviting us to come along and see the new story board beside the church. The children were eager to help tidy up and plant at the War Memorial. It was a lovely day to be outside and it's wonderful to see our children enthusiastically contributing to their local community, as active citizens.



*"We planted flowers at the War Memorial with Mr and Mrs Gordon Duff. Charlie and I went to St Fumac's well to show Wiekus. I dipped stones into the well to make some lucky St Fumac Stones for my friends."*  
Rosie



## Play Pedagogy

In a previous newsletter, I mentioned a professional learning event staff attended on the In Service Days. We have been working with our learners to implement and develop some of the ideas and approaches suggested. At the end of last session the children made a short video explaining some of the changes. Please access via the link below.

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AgdUwBDfLh2QwBUdYvonHplqfTrN>



## Pet Visitors

Thank you to Tracey's daughter, Alana, for offering to visit with her new rabbit at the end of last term. *"Hagrid the lionhead rabbit came to visit us at the end of last term. We each got to hold him and learned how to look after a rabbit. We learned what he eats and how he has a run in the garden for exercise and that he curls up when he is scared. We found it funny when Alana told us that he acts like a parrot and sits on her shoulders! We asked for her to come back and visit us when he grows because he is only a few months old."*



We also welcomed a return visit from Max, the reading dog. It's been great to see how the children's confidence is developing. Some are now much more comfortable in his company and building a positive relationship. All enjoy reading to him and benefit from the motivation of having him here. Thank you to Mrs Murray for sharing Max with us all here at Botriphnie...it's a real bucket filler!



## Reporting

Reflection jotters are the main vehicle for continuous reporting, providing an opportunity for regular information and feedback around learning experiences and progress. We are delighted to see so many parents signing and commenting on a weekly basis- they provide a fantastic tool for home school communication, supporting all learners. We continue to embed our Botriphnie Ninja Mindset, so please celebrate when children mention that they have found something challenging and need more practice- this is clear evidence



they are learning. Just a wee reminder-it is really important reflection jotters are returned to school on a weekly basis and looked after well. Over the session, the information builds a picture of progress and next steps in learning, providing rich evidence of attainment and achievement.

### Diary date-Drop in Open Night

Looking ahead, a date has been set to welcome parents in to school. We have opted for **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** as our **Open Night with a drop in option anytime between 3-5pm**. This will be a chance to visit school with your child/ren for a tour and take part in some learning activities. Jotters will also be available to view.

### Parent Council Fundraiser

Just a reminder that a date of **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September** was set for our next fundraiser at the North Church Hall in Keith. Thank you for donations so far. Just a quick reminder that Mrs Stewart is in school on a Monday and Friday, if you have an admin related query or would like to hand in items for the Coffee Morning.



### Flu Vaccines

Consent forms were dropped into school this week and went home in bags on Thursday. A date of **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** has been set for flu vaccinations within Botriphnie Primary School. However, we do not have an exact time yet. Please contact us if you would like to attend the vaccination with your child to support administration. We know the vaccine can cause some learners to feel anxious and a parent can make all the difference in providing the comfort required to be brave.

I love this photo of the school. Thank you to Mel for sharing. It's a pity we had some absences on that day. I'm sure there will be another chance soon. We were all sad to say good bye to Kaila this week. We wish her well at her new school and the family all the best for the move.





Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Amélie, Lexi, Toran and James Harris for filling our buckets! On Sunday, they were able to show me all the gardening they had undertaken in the school grounds before the whole school returned. They weeded and planted the barrels at the side entrance and tidied up the area, as well as barrels within the playground and main entrance. Thank you for working so hard to make our school a neat and tidy place to learn. I can see an 'Over And Above' certificate coming their way for demonstrating commitment to our school value-Community.



We are on this journey together and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks, as we work hard together to ensure Botriphnie Primary School continues to be a magical place where little acorns grow and develop into mighty oaks.

Warm regards,

Rachael Smith,

Head teacher

### DIARY DATES

- **Bikeability dates-** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August-Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August** - Lego Coding Session
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September** - Coffee Morning at Keith North Church Hall
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September-** Flu Vaccinations in school
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October-** Family Open Evening
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October-** Last day of Term
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October-** First day of Term
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November-** School Closed In service Days

