

BOTRIPHNIIE BLETHER



September 2023

Dear Families,

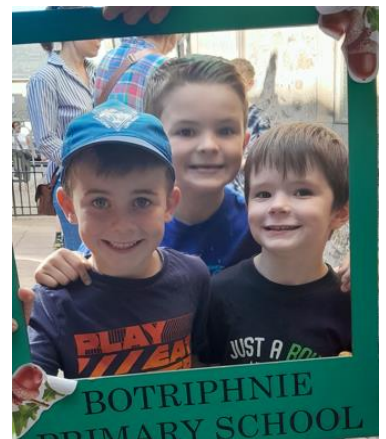
There really is no such thing as a quiet month here at Botriphnie. As I was pulling together all the information to share in this month's bletcher, there's a clear key theme running through our achievements...PARTNERSHIP working to improve outcomes for our wee Botriphnie Bucket Fillers! It's been a road to an awesome kind of month with the whole school community contributing to, not only the life of the school but also our school improvement agenda. Thank you to everyone...collectively our words and actions have demonstrated our commitment to our school values as this has certainly been a '*Successful September*'.

Coffee Morning

We must start with a huge thank you to our Parent Council for organising the most fantastic fundraising event on Saturday. It's been a long time since we had our last event in the North Church Hall, but thanks to Nicola's advice and lots of generous donations, the event was a huge success. The children are writing thank you letters to a range of donators. We have a lot to be grateful for. The children clearly enjoyed being there and helping out. It was most definitely an opportunity for some to develop skills for life and work. Rosie was an attentive waitress and Llewie took his role as chief photographer

very seriously! Thank you to Jo for the table

decorations...beautiful as always... a real talent. The adults were rushed off their feet...the bottle stall was a real success, there were queues at the raffle stall and the sweetie stall sold out quickly. As for the teas and coffee....after some initial feedforward from our first customers, more tea bags were added and we were working our way through Botriphnie's learning pit.



The end result...£1391.40 raised for our school and lots of lovely feedback from our customers to say it was an enjoyable experience.



Adventure Room

We could not wait until the end of term to present our first 'over and above' certificate this term. Mrs Lawrence has demonstrated commitment to developing the adventure room with our learners and, as a result, we have a new addition to 'cosy corner'....a fabulously comfy sofa. We must also say a big thank you

to Mr Lawrence as we know it took a lot of work to get it to Botriphnie Primary School. However, it is being extremely well used and our 'Reading Stars' are delighted with how it is supporting their journey to embedding a reading culture at Botriphnie Primary School as we aim for silver accreditation. In true Botriphnie Ninja Mindset, Mrs Lawrence was curious about how to develop the area further and had a plea... for a coffee table to add to the area. We mentioned this to Karlyn on Thursday and by Friday playtime a coffee table appeared. Thank you to Fiona for the donation. It is very much appreciated. We can see Lachlan in flow here reading 'Farmers Weekly' and the coffee table will house our most recent copies nicely.



The adventure room is an exciting place to be and enjoyed by all!

Making bread by P1/2

This morning we made bread. First, we weighed flour, sugar, salt and some Yeast. The yeast was smelly BUT it made the bread rise up and really tasty!! We mixed the bread using our hands. We next covered the bread and left it. It got very big. Next, we put it into baking tins and Nicola cooked it for us.



P4-7 made butter for out bread. We got to taste it after PE. It was very tasty, we liked both the bread and the butter.

Interdisciplinary Learning

We have been delighted to welcome some new partners to Botriphnie Primary throughout September. A connection has been made with a parent at Newmill Primary...Debbie McKay. Debbie is a drama teacher and working with the whole school to learn Gaelic. Thus far, all children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Gaelic through games and songs, something which we will continue to practise in school. We will be taking part in seven workshops between now and Christmas and look to involve you all in the final showcasing event. We are delighted to have been selected to participate in this fully funded project. More exciting details to follow. In the meantime, here's what the Rosie had to say....



"On Tuesday Debbie and Deirdre came to Botriphnie to teach us some Gaelic. Deirdre taught us a Gaelic song. I found learning the song confusing, but fun! Debbie taught us how to say 'My name is...' and some other commands. We found out that Drummur is a Gaelic word. I was 'Have a go, Jo' and was trying to read Gaelic from the whiteboard. I am looking forward to our next session." Rosie, P4

Reading Schools Update - Roald Dahl Day

What an exciting Roald Dahl themed reading week, with many partners supporting our Reading Schools journey.

Thank you to our pupil led leadership group for organising. Mr Leitch (Librarian) is always a source

of inspiration and the children have decided he is also worthy of an 'over and above' certificate for demonstrating commitment to our school value 'Creative'. His exciting inputs really motivate and inspire and we appreciate the time he puts in to planning his visits. Here's what Amélie had to say...



"Today Mr Leitch came into school to visit us. He read some Roald Dahl extracts to us. We made some origami foxes and we took part in a quiz about Roald Dahl books. We found our Roald Dahl names - mine was Flightsome Trunchbull. My favourite part was making the origami fox. I needed a little bit of help because it was a little bit tricky. I was a 'Have a go, Jo. He showed us some Dream Catchers he had made, and I would like to make one too. I think I know how to make one." Amelie P5



We would also like to say a big thank you to all our parents who volunteered to come into school and read to the class. In total, we read three Roald Dahl books last week and the children thoroughly enjoyed welcoming you all into their classroom.

Library bus

Our children also very much enjoy changing books at the Library Bus. The library Van will visit on the following dates...

- 28th September
- 2nd November
- 7th December



Lego Coding Session

We must also say a big thank you to Torin and Llewie's dad for passing us the information about how to book 'Coding' sessions with RAF. All children enjoyed an age appropriate session led by RAF volunteers. We have taken details of the equipment used and look to purchase some of the resources to use in school more regularly. Here's what Taylah had to say....



"Lego coding was really fun. I enjoyed making paper aeroplanes, coding and making lego robots. I learned to make the lego robots. I was 'Have a go, Jo because I've not played with lego in a while so I found it quite fun. I worked well with Lexi to build the robot. All of it was very interesting to me and I hope we can do it again. "

Outdoor Learning

Mrs Chalmers has been leading Outdoor Weekly Learning sessions using the 'Wild Passport' resource. The resource outlines outdoor skills and children can track their progress with their own individual passports. It has been a real highlight and feedback has been positive. Mrs Chalmers was delighted to hear Torin, P4, say*"School Earthtime is better than real Earthtime."* A real bucket filler!

Here's what the children had to say...

"Yesterday the whole school went to the woods for Outdoor Learning. There were two activities to choose from: bird nest making and using a potato peeler to safely peel a stick and then wrap it with wool. These were activities on our 'Wild Passports'.

We also played Ninja kids. I was part of a team with Keziah, Rosie, Ellen and Lexi. We were climbing and jumping. I was Independent Imaginative Isla because I was using my imagination. I was also Resilient Ruby because I fell but I just got back up and played.

Tomorrow I am going to learn how to build a den. Overall Outdoor learning was fun and cool! "We have so many great photos, we are looking to share more via our Botriphnie Blog. We will also share the passports with you all on our Open Evening on the last week of term.

Shoe Box Appeal

Nicola is keen to get started with Botriphnie Shoe Box Donations again shortly. We are hoping to start filling over the next couple of weeks. However, we may be looking for some donations to fill enough to match our previous shoe box donations. There are two options....



1. I wondered if it might be quite nice for the children to donate some of their money (approx. £50) possibly from Botriphnie Coffee Morning/School fund to help other children across the globe access their rights.
2. We can showcase some of the shoeboxes already prepared at our Open Evening in the last week and leave a donation jar to raise money for more items.

Thanks to Nicola for supporting us with this initiative.

Reporting -Open Evening -Drop in open Evening -Thursday 5th
October 3-5pm



We have been busy preparing some activities for you all to participate in, to showcase daily learning experiences at Botriphnie. Pupils will take on the role of teachers and lead activities focussing on:-

- **Spelling-Diacritical Marking**-For anyone looking to prepare in advance, please remember there are videos on our blog explaining these strategies to support spelling progress. Link below <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/botriphnieprimaryschool/latest-news/literacy/>
- **Numeracy- Place Value-** there will be a chance to test out your skills and try out some of the numeracy assessments we have been working hard to develop and embed within our learning, teaching and assessment cycle.
- **Reading-**there will be a chance to look at some of our newly purchased resources bought through Reading Schools grant.
- **Writing-**We will be introducing how we use a 'describing bubble' to support independent writing
- **'The Wall'-** we aim to showcase our new interactive wall and have a quiz prepared for you all to take part in.

In addition, you will be able to take some time to view....

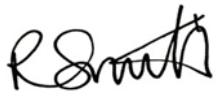
- **Floorbooks** – Play Pedagogy Evidence and Reading Schools Evidence
- **Wild Passport** – Wild Passport resources and individual passports to share
- **Jotters**
- **Adventure Room experience**



Parents are welcome to take part in as many activities as they like. We understand it will be dependent on the time you have available. Please don't feel you have to complete everything. We wanted to give you some more information about what to expect and prepare you to bring your best Botriphnie 'Have a Go Jo' Ninja Mindset! If the date is unsuitable and you'd like to visit on another day, please just drop us an email and we will try our best to sort something out.

Once again, a huge thank you for everything you all do to support our wonderful wee school....fantastic to see how we are growing together from acorns to mighty oaks!

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- Thursday 28th September - Flu immunisation 11am
- Wednesday 4th October- Elgin Library trip
- Thursday 5th October-Open Afternoon 3-5pm
- Friday 6th October- End of Term
- Monday 23rd October-Term 2 begins
- Thursday 26th October- Parent Council AGM at Botriphnie Primary School at 6pm
- Monday 13th Nov and Tuesday 14th Nov- School Closed for In Service
- Friday 17th November- Active Schools 3-3.45
- Friday 24th November- Active Schools 3-3.45
- Thursday 30th November- Date for Community Gaelic Showcase Event- joining with Newmill- time to be confirmed
- Friday 1st December- Active Schools 3-3.45
- Tuesday 18th December- Christmas Party Day
- Friday 22nd December- Term ends
- Monday 8th January- Term 3 begins

