

BOTRIPHONIE BLETHER



November 2023

Dear Families,

Another wonderful month full of motivational and exciting learning opportunities for our learners. Once again, we have so much to share. I must start with a huge thank you to all our parents for their hard work organising another brilliant Halloween Party for the school. I don't enjoy picking the winning costumes but I do enjoy watching the children having so much fun together...precious memories that will last a lifetime. Well done to all involved!

We were delighted to have 72% families represented at our Parent Council AGM last month. Thank you to everyone for giving up their time to attend. I'm delighted to say...all office bearer roles were filled. Thank you to Kelly Gordon for all her hard work as Parent Council Chair over the past few years. Karlyn and Fiona are continuing as secretary and treasurer. Ros kindly offered to share the secretary role and Mel was happy to become Chair. Your support is appreciated. Thank you to our families who have already completed our parental questionnaire. We will use the results to lead our next steps to support parental engagement and involvement. We would really like to have all eleven families respond, consequently, I have included the link again with this newsletter as a reminder.



https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKYyV6gC_VKHpGkX4Ie_YxkWIUMkdMNUxCUFc5SIFJNVJSN0c2NU9QVzhDWi4u

Curricular Skills- KAPLA - STEM Event

It's always lovely to have visitors in school. Our learners really enjoyed participating in a STEM activity, courtesy of Kathleen from University of Highlands and Islands. Here's what they had to say...



"Today Kathleen the local UHI STEM Co-ordinator came to school to introduce us to Kapla. None of us had ever heard of this before. Kapla are small wooden blocks like Jenga blocks. We learned what STEM stood for: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



We learned about different types of engineers. We learned that engineers build bridges and design products. We were given challenges to work as a team using Maths and Science to problem solve.

We really enjoyed building bridges and making a course for a ping pong ball.

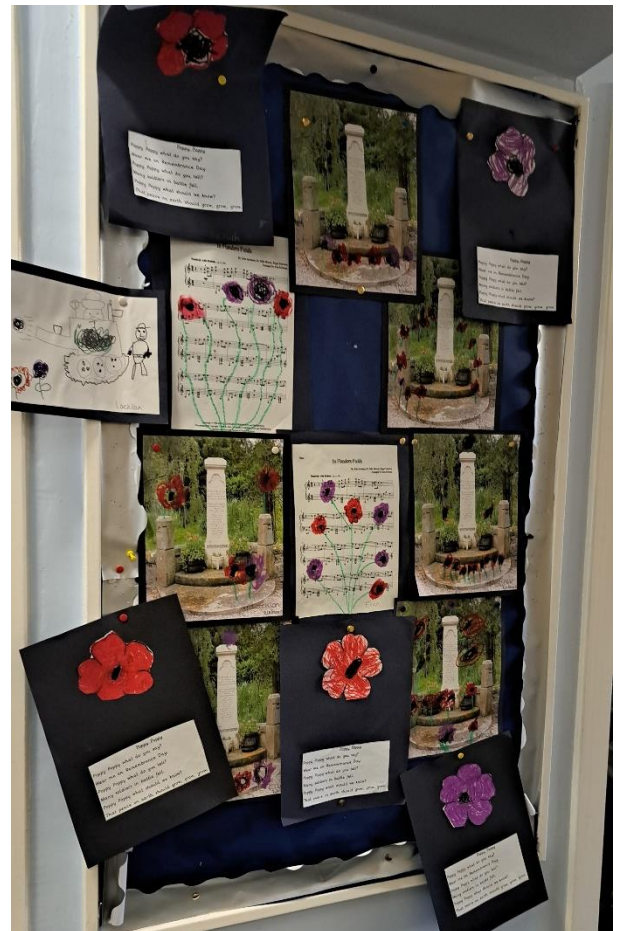
We demonstrated all of the Botriphnie Ninja mindsets when taking part in the challenges, we 'had a go', we persevered to get the design just right, we used our imaginations and we were resilient.

Primary 4-7



Ethos and life of the school as a community -Remembrance

We are very proud of our learners. Once again, they all demonstrated commitment to our school value 'Community' and developing as responsible citizens. Mrs McWilliam and Mrs Gordon Duff report our P4-7 children demonstrated a real 'Independent Isla Mindset' when clearing and cleaning the War Memorial area, ahead of Remembrance Events. Mrs McWilliam was impressed they were able to attack the task without direction, working hard as a team to achieve a great end result. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Gordon Duff and Fiona for supporting. I'd also like to say thank you to the children who volunteered to share poems at the memorial when we went to lay our wreath. A lot of courage went into speaking in front of everyone and they represented us so well. Some of you may have noticed our Remembrance Cookies hanging in the playground and on the gate at the church. Thank you to Mrs Lawrence for all her creative ideas...each year she works hard to find new and exciting ways to engage our learners and mark the event.



Developing Young Workforce

"P5/6/7 went to Keith Grammar for a DYW event. There were lots of different stalls in the hall and we got time to explore some of them. My favourite stand was the stone mason one. For some reason I just found their work interesting. There was also a CPR stall. I was really good at the activities they asked us to do. Maybe I could be a heart surgeon but I don't fancy it. We visited the armed forces stall and the RAF one. I got some good advice from them. They said...best thing I can do is continue building things with lego. I am really good at making lego vehicles. My favourite type of Lego is Technic because it is more challenging. The orange truck took me about five to six days to complete. Overall, I enjoyed the event. Thank you to Mrs Lawrence for driving us there and accompanying us. Charlie, P6



Outdoor Learning Update

This term our focus has been on developing



outdoor learning skills with the 'fire' section of Wild Passport. Learning aims include:

- Learners can demonstrate fire circle etiquette
- Learners can collect dry sticks
- Learners can produce sparks with a fore steel
- Learners can understand the need for completely extinguishing a fire.

Reading Schools Update

We were delighted to welcome Catherine Stables into Botriphnie Primary to share her book. Here's what Erin had to say....

"Catherine Stables is a local vet and author. She came into school to read her book 'Shona the Vet'. We also got to see a leg brace. I enjoyed listening to the story. I was 'Curious Carly' because I asked lots of questions."



Curriculum Areas and subjects- In Service

Charles made me smile on return to school this week. He'd been thinking about us being in school when he is at home and has a theory that he missed out on a big staff party! I had to assure him that we, the whole staff team, have been demonstrating a Botriphnie Ninja Mindset and were most definitely in flow, working on different aspects of our School Improvement Plan...I'm not sure he was convinced! Support Staff joined First Aid Training and Mrs Chalmers and I worked with teaching staff at Newmill. Our main focus was developing our writing curriculum, based on our professional development training last session. We have been working on implementing an 'Explicitly Teaching Writing' approach after participating in five online learning events last year. At the end of last session, we purchased resources to support this approach and staff have been trialling them since the start of session. We invested in a video to help us learn more about the resource and how to make best use to raise attainment. The video gave us some amazing idea bubbles about how to improve our school approaches, as well as how to develop ASG approaches to support more robust professional judgment and moderation of standards for the benefit of learners.



Ethos and life of the school as a community- Nativity

Once again, the nativity rehearsals are well under way. The children have suggested Mrs McWilliam gets her certificate now! Yet again she has taken the lead on props, costumes and backdrops, involving the learners in all aspects. Mrs McWilliam, your creativity has been noted and an 'over and above' certificate is on its way. The children were unanimous! A date of Monday 18th December has been set for the show-2pm start.

Interdisciplinary Learning -St Andrews Day Event

Of course, we have our St Andrews Event to look forward to at Newmill Village Hall on Thursday 30th November at 1.30pm. We cannot thank Debbie and Alastair enough for the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful learning experience. The children have learned so much from their knowledge and expertise. The children were most definitely in flow throughout the two days producing our Gaelic Film. Here's what Rosie had to say...

"On the first day we were filming at Drummuir hall, the playground and the play park. On the second day, we filmed at the school, Erin's Eggs and the woods. I learned how long it takes to film a short film. I enjoyed doing the editing. My next step is to not to look into the camera.

I was Resilient Ruby because I learned my lines. I was a successful learner because I know the Gaelic lines and songs by heart."

We cannot wait to get together to celebrate St Andrew's Day. It's a great way to celebrate Scotland; showcasing or Gaelic films and sharing songs and poetry. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Opportunities for Personal Achievement

We are delighted to see so many of our pupils sharing wider achievements with us here in school and link it to skills within the four capacities (flowers on the wall). Here we have Erin sharing her rural skill success at Turiff Show as a Young Handler.

Amélie and Charlie have also been demonstrating a 'Persevering Pete' Mindset at home, following instructions to create a variety of lego vehicles. Well done to all.



We welcomed Vikki from Sansum Martial Arts to school for a taster session on Wednesday 15th November. She talked about what to expect from her classes and the children took part in a variety of activities. You will find leaflets and a card in bags, which entitles children to a free session. Classes are in Dufftown on a Friday and in Keith, at the Longmore Hall on a Monday if you are interested in taking up the free session.

Ethos and life of the school as a community - Rights Respecting School News

We have been celebrating key themed events, using Rights Respecting School Resources and activities in our journey towards silver status. This week we took part in 'Anti Bullying' week, with themed activities. Each week, we aim to find out more about as many different UNCRC articles as we can. This week's focus supported our bucket filling ethos. We read a lovely story highlighting the importance of valuing each and every one of us as unique individuals.



Please note a couple of changes and additions to the diary dates below.

Christmas Party has been changed to accommodate a special visitor. Thank you to Mrs Stewart who has very kindly taken charge of wrapping all the books at home, in preparation for the event.

Our Scottish Opera date is also earlier this year-please see below.

As a final note, I'd like to end with a huge personal bucket filler. I usually take the photographs to avoid featuring in newsletters but this was an occasion I just had to capture. Your children are a pleasure to spend time with and I'm really enjoying my Fridays with them in class. As part of our self-evaluation processes, we continually rate ourselves against the quality indicators within the document 'How Good is Our School'. One of our aspirations is to ensure the school and community have ownership of our school vision and values. Lachlan appeared in school last week with a surprise for me....he'd asked Mrs Lawrence if she could help him with something. He had stopped on the way to school to pick up a fallen acorn and leaf and asked Mrs Lawrence to glue them together so he could surprise me. Here's my Friday morning reminder that together we grow from acorns to mighty oaks at Botriphnie Primary School...proof that self-evaluation evidence comes in all shapes and sizes!



Warm regards,

Rachael Smith, Headteacher **DIARY DATES**

- **Thursday 30th November-** Gaelic Showcase Event
1.30pm -Newmill Village Hall
- **Friday 1st 8th and 15th December-** Active Schools
3.00-3.45
- **Wednesday 13th December-** School Christmas
Lunch
- **Monday 18th December** - Nativity Play 2.00pm
- **Wednesday 20th** - Christmas Party Day
- **Friday 22nd December-**Carol Concert at St Thomas
Chapel- 9.30 am start tbc
- **Monday 8th January-** Term 3 begins
- **Thursday 18th January-**Parent Council Meeting at
6pm
- **Friday 9th February and Monday 12th February** -
School Closed -long weekend
- **Thursday 15th February-**Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School

