

BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER



December 2023

Dear Families,

We are flying through the month of December at an alarming rate. It's such a busy time of year for everyone with so much going on. Let's take a look....

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

I must start with a big thank you to everyone for their hard work in spreading some special Christmas bucket fillers last week. The children all worked very hard to create beautiful handmade cards to community members and we split the donation received between our two highlighted charities; 'Save the Children' and 'Scottish book Trust'.

Mrs Lawrence and her team of helpers have been committed to spreading kindness throughout the month of December. Each day, a different member of our school community is selected from the 'curiosity cube'. Here we see James receiving his balloon and bucket filling words...the children are quickly able to fill each heart with compliments specific to individuals. What a great idea...well done!



Let's Spread Peace Picture News Campaign

As part of Christmas Jumper day celebration, we participated in a 'Picture News' challenge to spread messages of 'peace'. Botriphnie Primary made peace chains. We really enjoyed this activity and the messages of peace, written by our pupils, were heart-warming. Picture News were hoping all schools could meet the target of making a chain long enough to travel from John o Groats to Lands End. We hope we can help meet the target length. They were delighted with our contribution to support reaching that target.

Botriphnie Bedtime Stories

By now, you will have received the first round of our Botriphnie Bedtime Christmas Stories. The children have enjoyed sharing their favourite Christmas Books via Botriphnie's take on CBeebies Bedtime Stories. I hope children are enjoying watching them at home and sharing with family members. It would be great to get some feedback from families around how the videos were enjoyed

at home. If you could take a moment to send an email, it would be very much appreciated. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Lawrence for filming. I know the 'uploading' process is extremely time consuming and we really appreciate her 'determination' to provide so many opportunities to share learning with families via video. An 'over and above' certificate is on its way from us all.

IDL- 'The Snowman' by Michael Murpurgo

As part of our journey to 'Reading Schools' Silver accreditation, I have planned a whole school interdisciplinary project around Michael Murpurgo's 'The Snowman,' a new story inspired by the original tale by Raymond Briggs. Our focus is literacy and health and wellbeing wiggly worms, as the story inspires us all to reflect on the wellbeing indicator 'Included', through the lens of the main character James. Taylah is clearly enjoying the book as she designed this fabulous Christmas Card for me.



Christmas Stories have been the theme throughout December. At around 2pm the children in the 'Adventure Room' have a big decision to make. They have a choice of two stories on a daily basis. However, they can only see one front cover. Mrs Lawrence has covered the other choice but not the back. She reads the 'blurb' and the children then have to make a vote around which story they would prefer based on the information they have. Another creative way to motivate learners and inspire a love of reading.



St Andrew's Day-IDL

We are so proud of all our learners for providing us with a St Andrews day to remember! Once again, a huge thank you for all your support. We were delighted with how many family and community members took the time to come along and provide an audience for our learners to perform to. It was



great to be able to share the Gaelic Films with you all. Huge thanks once again to Debbie for organising.

St Andrew's Day Reading Record

Well done to the Reading Stars who organised for the school to take part in the KILTS St Andrew's Day Reading Record. We read Kids' Literature written/published in Scotland for twenty minutes on the morning of St Andrew's Day, Thursday 30th November. 13, 576 pupils took part in total! As part of the event the whole school listened to 'The Gruffalo' in Scots.

Book Week Scotland

All primary 1-3 pupils received a free book bag to take home, as part of the Bookbug Primary 1 Family bag and Read, Write, Count gifting campaigns, funded by the Scottish Government.

Thank you to Primary one parents for taking the time to come into school to explore the bags with their children. Primary 2 and 3 enjoyed exploring the bags with an older buddy. They read the books, played the games and trialled the activities together in class before taking bags home.



Wider Achievement

A huge well done to Luna who received 'Player of the Week at Rugby'. Thank you for sharing with us all.



Outdoor Learning



This week, the children had to cook something over a fire as part of their Forest Passport. They chose to make smores! Here's what Matthew, P1, had to say...

"You have to hold the marshmallow over the fire then squash it between digestives. My marshmallow was a bit burnt but I did it myself."

Celebrating Success

Huge well done to James Findlay who came runner up in Richard Lockhead's design a 'Community' themed Christmas Card. James received a visit from Mr Lockhead on Monday to deliver his prize. He was delighted to see his entry on the card...it looked amazing.

Mrs Chalmers organised for the whole school to enter the United Keith Bauble Competition.

Christmas Lunch

A big thank you to all the kitchen staff at Keith Primary School for providing us with a wonderful Christmas Lunch today. It was delicious and enjoyed by all. A huge thank you to Nicola for making it such a special event...the table looked wonderful and there was space for us all. Of course, we had to make space for a special visitor named Bob...I'm sure you've heard all about him! Next, we have our Nativity to look forward to on Monday, Christmas Party on Wednesday and Carol Concert on Friday. We look forward to welcoming family and community members next week, you are welcome to attend both our Nativity and Carol Concert.

Nativity -2pm Start on Monday 18th December

Carol Concert- 9.30 am start at St Thomas Chapel

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Head teacher **DIARY DATES**

- **Wednesday 22nd December**- Children can dress as they please for the Christmas Party. This can be anything they feel comfortable in.
- **Friday 22nd December**- Term ends
- **Monday 8th January**- Term 3 begins
- **Friday 19th of January 5.30 - 6.30pm every week up until Easter Holidays**- P7 transition sessions at 'The Loft'
- **Friday 9th February and Monday 12th February** -School Closed -long weekend
- **Thursday 15th February**-Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School-pm performance

