

BOTRIPHNIIE BLETHER



February 2024

Dear Families,

February is passing in a flash. The days are stretching and the temperature's most definitely rising which is lovely to see. The children were delighted to get out and about in the Community Woodland and Loch Park on Friday. Mrs McWilliam and Mrs MacGregor accompanied P1-3 and returned to school with overflowing buckets...each and every child demonstrated a 'Resilient Ruby' Mind-set and gave the long bike ride their best effort. The children were able to tell me about the progress they are making in terms of their strength, stamina and cycle skills. Mrs Stewart has posted photos of the event on our Botriphnie blog. On Wednesday March 13th P4-7 will head off to Fochabers Windy Walks for a day of mountain biking.



Outfit Moray will bring bikes for everyone. Outfit Moray staff had a chat with P4-7 on Friday to remind them to pack gloves for cycling.

Personal Achievements

We are delighted that our learners are sharing wider achievements with us all on a regular basis. I promised to include them within our newsletter. It's great to be able to share and celebrate them across our whole school community. Well done to the following:

- Keziah has demonstrated a 'Have ago Jo' attitude towards learning a new sport and was voted player of the week at Rugby
- Erin has demonstrated a 'Resilient Ruby' mindset and has learned to tie her laces.
- James shared a video with us all -he demonstrated a real 'Curious Carly' Mindset. He made his own 'Adventure Room' at home with an 'Under the Sea' and 'Farm' play areas.
- Jay demonstrated a 'Curious Carly' mind-set towards learning about other cultures and made a fab Chinese Dragon at Beavers.



Active Schools- RUGBY Sessions

"On Thursday 22nd February Jasmine came to teach the whole school some rugby skills.



We learned how to pass a rugby ball and played some fun games. We liked playing bulldog at the beginning. We showed a

Persevering Pete Botriphnie Mindset, we didn't give up in the game where we had to pass the ball 20 times! It was tricky because some of the other pupils were taller than us but we didn't give up.

Our next step is to try to pass to other people and to intercept the ball when the other team are passing to each other. We are looking forward to next week."

Sinan & James P4

It's been great to provide a wide variety of sports and opportunities to be active this term. Next, we have been able to arrange a block of dance sessions with Sharon Henderson. The sessions will be between 11-12 on Friday 1st March, Friday 15th March, Friday 22nd March and 19th April. Lucy and Maisie are also returning to deliver some mixed sports sessions after school on Fridays.



Digital Learning Micro:bits

Mrs Chalmers arranged some digital lessons for p4-7 last week. Here's what the children had to say...

"On the 19th February Mr Morrison from the Digital Learning team in Moray came to school to teach Primary 4-7 about magnetism with micro:bits.

Micro:bits are like mini computers that have 25 LED lights that make up a square. You put a code in using an iPad/computer and then this programs the micro:bit to complete an animation.

We all displayed Persevering Pete and Resilient Ruby Botriphnie Mindsets because we kept trying and never gave up! We were

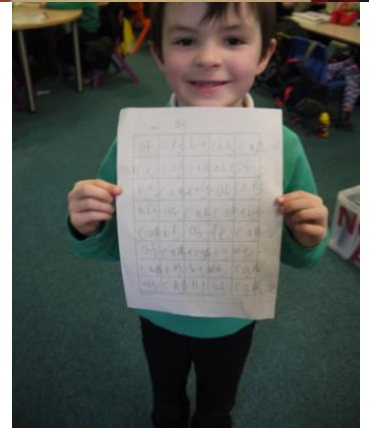


Successful Learners because we were all able to use the skills 'plan-do-review' to code the micro:bits to complete a program.

Our next step is to continue practising making different codes for the micro:bits. We might then be able to set ourselves a challenge of creating a game for a micro:bit competition. We would also like to share our learning with P1-3 to teach them to use micro:bits too."

Precision Teaching

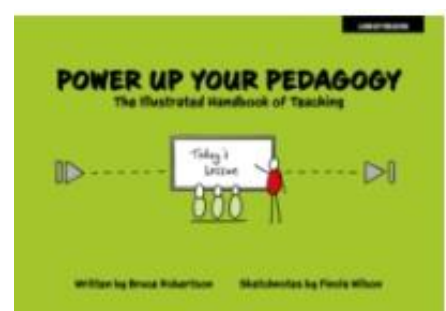
You may have heard children talking about precision teaching. As a whole school we have decided to use precision teaching as an approach to learning to spell tricky/common words. This is in addition to daily spelling tasks to teach word pattern and rules. Each child focuses on five words they don't know how to spell and measures their progress throughout the week, using a grid. They record how many words they can spell correctly within two minutes daily. Each and every one of them can see an improvement throughout the week. Some children have now moved on to their second set of words. Here's Jay having managed to write forty words in two minutes, all spelt correctly. The children work in pairs to practice their words ahead of the two minute challenge. I've been really pleased with how they have embraced the routine and the mindset on display. Last week, a pupil said to me...*This is not my favourite things to do but I know it's good for me and it's working....*clear evidence of a 'Persevering Pete' Mindset. A video explaining the approach can be found at



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/botriphnieprimaryschool/>

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The children may have told you that we had some extra visitors in school last week. The visitors were Mrs Mair and Mrs Watt, both teachers at Newmill Primary School. This is part of our school improvement focus. We are all part of a 'Teacher Learner Community (TLC)' using the text 'Power Up your Pedagogy-the illustrated handbook of teaching' to ensure we are delivering high quality lessons here at Botriphnie and Newmill. As part of our professional learning, we undertake peer observations using a teacher WAGOLL guide (what a good lesson looks like) full of success criteria. We take time to observe and evidence criteria as a starter for discussion with each other. Our TLCs are each Thursday after school



at Newmill Primary. Last week, Mrs Chalmers visited each class at Newmill and all teachers reported they found the opportunity beneficial. I explained to our learners on Friday that we rate ourselves in the Learning Pit (self-assess our own teaching skills) and then set targets to improve the quality of our teaching. I then showed them how Mrs Mair had peer-assessed Mrs Chalmers and provided feedforward in learning. They were fascinated to see that we use the same tools and approaches to learning new things and developing our skills. They did make me laugh...looking at the list of success criteria for lesson plans made them feel a little differently about their own and decided a list of four or five criteria wasn't so bad after all.

Adventure Room Antics

Once again, Mrs Lawrence organised a Pancake Day, with each child having the opportunity to make and eat a pancake. We must say thank you to Erin for donating the eggs and to Mrs Lawrence for organising. I ended up at Botriphnie by mistake that Tuesday afternoon...I was sure Mrs Chalmers had a meeting to attend. Never mind, it turned out to be a brilliant mistake....it brings a smile to my face thinking about Matthew coming to the office door while I was on the phone. I heard a knock then his wee voice "Miss Smith your fly cup is ready....come on!" Bucket filler!



Message of thanks

Thank you to Alfie for gifting us his wonderful selection of books and to Jo and Jenny for delivering them. Another thank you to everyone for filling our school RAGBAG. Our latest collection earned the school £66.

Staffing

As you know Mrs Chalmers is acting Depute Head Teacher at Lhanbryde Primary School on a Friday.

There has been a change in staffing at that school and they are now looking to appoint an Acting full time DHT until Summer 2024. Discussions have taken place with the Education Department around the possibility of Mrs Chalmers being able to be at Lhanbryde more of the time. As a result, Mrs Chalmers job here was advertised on Thursday last week as an Acting Principal Teacher Post until Summer 2024. At this point, it is a case of waiting to see if the post receives any interest before any further decisions can be made. I will let you know as soon as there is anything concrete to report.



IDL- Scottish Opera



Unfortunately, I missed the Scottish Opera performance this year. I had to stay with the P5s and P7s from Newmill as only P6 were attending this year. Mrs Mair was very proud of all our Botriphnie and Newmill Ninjas who demonstrated a real 'Resilient Ruby' mindset...the performance was amazing!

P1 transition

It's been a real bucket filler welcoming Charlie and Ruari to Botriphnie Primary on a Friday afternoon. It's fair to say they receive VIP treatment, with each and every pupil keen to spend time with them in the Adventure Room. Time certainly flies...it hardly seems any time since we heard news of their birth via Mrs Henderson and Mrs Stewart and here they are well into the swing of school life!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Smith'.

Rachael Smith, Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Wednesday 6th March-** P7 transition Event at KGS from 9.30-11.30am -Miss Smith to take Taylah
- **Thursday 7th March-** World Book Day Celebrations
- **Tuesday 12th March-** Dentist visiting P1 and P7
- **Wednesday 13th March -** P4-7 Mountain biking
- **Saturday 23rd March-** Moray Schools Cross Country
- **Tuesday 26th March-** Mr Smit- Quality Improvement Officer visiting Botriphnie with QIO colleague for an in depth look at Learning, Teaching and Assessment.
- **Thursday 28th March-**Spring Break begins (The Good Friday holiday is on 29th)
- **Monday 15th April-** Summer Term Begins
- **Monday 6th May-** May Day Holiday
- **Tuesday 7th May-** Parental Meetings
- **Wednesday 8th May 2024-** Science Fair at KPS for P6 children
- **Thursday 16th and Friday 17th May-** In service -school closed to pupils
- **Monday 3rd June-** School closed-holiday

