

BOTRIPHONIE BLETHER



March 2024

Dear Families,

What a bucket filling month March has been with so much for our whole school community to feel proud about. Mrs Chalmers shared the amazing news this week that we have earned Reading Schools Silver Status... an amazing achievement. We must say a huge thank you to everyone for their contribution. Our World Book Day celebrations provided the missing jigsaw piece in terms of the evidence required to showcase how we promote

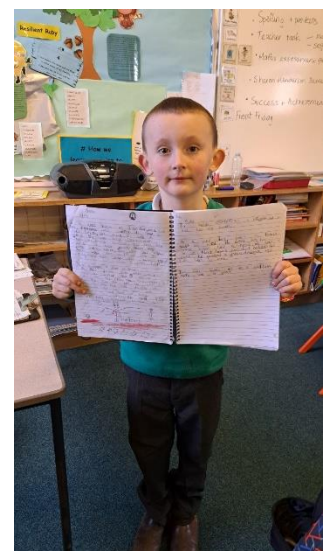
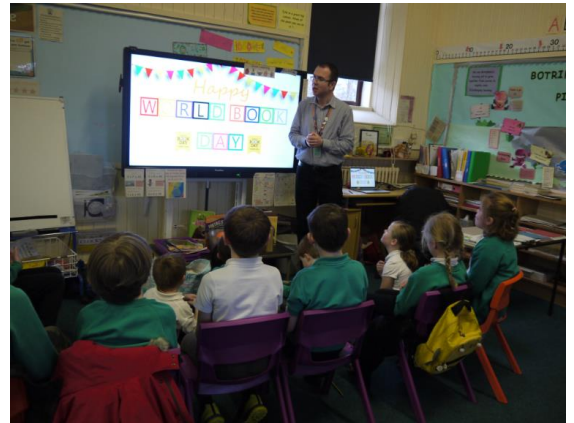


a culture of reading at our school. Thank you to all our parents for your commitment to supporting World Book Day with many of you volunteering to read to the class. And also for the amazing costume effort. Mrs Leitch (KGS Librarian) was another important partner on the run up to World Book day and we appreciate his time and investment in supporting our Reading Schools Journey.

Life and Work of the school-Reading Schools journey- Mr Leitch Visit

On Wednesday 6th March Mr Leitch the librarian at Keith Grammar School came to visit us for World Book Day. We played a Reading Game. We looked at different book genres: history, adventure, fantasy, animal and horror. We looked at the books and picked out our best cover, blurb and start for each genre. I enjoyed it and can't wait to dress up for World Book Day tomorrow. Erin P3

Mr Leitch will be delighted to know he has inspired Charles. He was hooked by the horror stories Mr Leitch shared and has set about creating his very own one. He shared what he has so far with P3-7 today. Next, he set about creating a fairy tale for P1/2 as he wanted to make sure they felt included and didn't think horror stories were appropriate for them...very thoughtful indeed!



Everyone at Newmill and Botriphnie got together for a World book day Quiz. We did it online to celebrate World Book day. We got into teams and there were seven rounds. My team was called 'Friends Book Stars'. The rounds were: Scottish Creatures, Picture Books-what's missing, Titles-missing words, Julia Donaldson, True or False and Book settings. I enjoyed it. I was every flower from the wall and Persevering Pete. Amelie, P5

Here's what the team at Reading Schools had to say about our Silver journey.

Reading Schools Accreditation-It was very inspiring to read about all your hard work as a school that has gone in to building and sustaining a reading culture.

Having looked through all of your excellent evidence, I am delighted to let you know that you have achieved your Reading School: Silver accreditation!

The huge amount of work and dedication you have put into the programme really shone through your application – what an incredible reading environment for your learners.

Partnership Working supporting Outdoor Learning-Mink Monitoring



Thanks to Rosie and Lachlan's Dad for supporting a new and exciting partnership. The children are always delighted to welcome visitors to school and learn so much from their expert input. Jay has already been out to check for tracks and we can most definitely incorporate this within our outdoor learning experiences. Here's what our learners had to say....

"Lewis came into school on Monday 18th March. His job is to control invasive species. He told us what

'native' and 'non-native' means. Native means it comes from this country and non-native means it comes from another country. Non-native are things that explorers brought back. Some non-native species are: pheasant, giant hogweed and minks. Some examples of native species are: red deer, water vole, otter and white-tailed eagle.

Lewis taught us about minks. We learned that they are small semi-aquatic animals. They eat just about anything so that is why we want rid of them. They use waterways to get around. They prefer to walk.

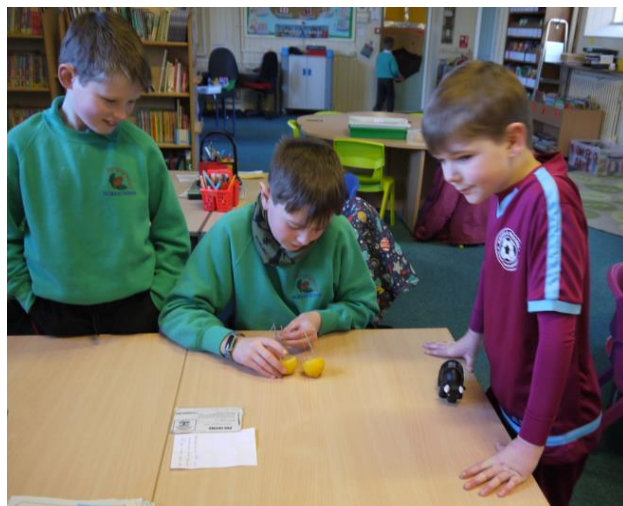
We were Curious Carly's because we identified different animal tracks and asked lots of questions.

Our job is to check the raft that Lewis is putting down beside the bridge for animal footprints. We will use the 'tracking guide' Lewis left to identify the animals that the tracks belong to."

Curricular Skill- Science-Building a Battery

On Thursday 29th February Kathleen (UHI STEM Moray Co-ordinator) came to school and we completed a workshop on 'Building a Battery'.

We learned that a battery stores chemical energy and that electricity is the flow of electrons. We made batteries using a lemon, clock, copper and zinc electrodes and wires. We drew a diagram and wrote the method.



After that, we made predictions on what objects would conduct electricity. Next, we experimented using apples, oranges, kiwis, play doh, plasticine and potatoes. We learned that all of these are conductors apart from plasticine. It is called an insulator.

Torin was a 'Curious Carly' when he wondered if microbits could be powered by a lemon battery.

We all shared our learning with Kathleen where we told her everything we have learned about circuits and electricity.

Lexi "I was a Persevering Pete when I had to thread the wire through the electrode."

Amelie "I was a Curious Carly because I tried using different objects to conduct electricity."

Primary 4-7

Curricular Skills- HWB-Childsmile

On Wednesday 20th March Louise from Childsmile came to school to talk to the pupils about tooth hygiene. The pupils were once again 'Curious Carly's' and asked many questions. As a result, they learned lots of facts about toothbrushing. Her advice was: "The last thing you put in your mouth before bed is your toothbrush."



Wider Achievements

We are delighted to see so many learners proud to share personal achievements with us in school.

Charlie demonstrated an amazing 'Persevering Pete' mind set to make a



Viking long ship out of Lego. It is a real bucket filler to see him inspired by our IDL study this term. He also brought in other creations to share with the class.



Lachlan has been demonstrating a 'Resilient Ruby' Mindset at football. As a result, he received a special shout out at football, for making good blocks, runs and some shots at the goal. Well done!

Adventure Room Antics

Once again we must say a huge thank you to Mrs Lawrence for her creative thinking. Each year, she comes up with a new and exciting ways to celebrate and mark annual events. This year, we used Mother's Day as a context to nurture creative and aesthetic talents. Mrs Lawrence comments regularly of the pleasure watching the progression...

different ages and abilities tackle activities in their own way. We are delighted to offer so much choice with all children accessing play based learning in the 'Adventure Room' on a weekly basis. I love this photo....heads down ...all very much in flow.



Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Mountain Biking

I think it is fair to say our learners are developing their cycling skills at pace and benefit greatly from the expert input Outfit Moray provide. I am so proud of them all. They happily 'skip off' with Outfit Moray for a day of adventurous activity with a smile on their faces...clear evidence they are developing as confident individuals. We were delighted to be able to make their dream come true and organise some extra sessions...reading their reflections on the experience was a bucket filler...they are really channelling their Botriphnie Ninja Learning Superpowers and achieving great things as a result.



"Yesterday was the best day of my life ever because we went mountain biking. First, we learned how to stand up and lean to go right round a corner. It was really fun. Then we biked up a big hill with frogs hopping across the road. I almost ran over one. I had to push my bike up a massive hill. Finally, we stopped for a break and I went to explore the place. We eventually found some wooden huts. Then it was time to start biking again. This hill wasn't as big as the last one. When we got to the top we had a little break then got cycling again. We turned back and zoomed down the hill." Sinan, P4

"On Wednesday 13th March, P4-7 went mountain biking to Windy Walks in Fochabers with Outfit Moray. Our instructors were Michelle and Carter. First, we cycled around the bus for a few minutes and then after that we had snack. We then went for a ride on the pump track and I was a bit scared at first but was determined to be a 'Persevering Pete' and 'Resilient Ruby'. Next, we did the blue bike track and it was fun. Next we met at the bottom and went back on the pump track. Then we had lunch and my lunch was delicious. I was so scared because we saw a lot of frogs." Lexi, P5

Learner led learning environments and learning experiences

Co-creating motivating learning environments and experiences based on pupil voice is at the heart of our curriculum design here at Botriphnie and we have been delighted with their ideas and enthusiasm this month. I've joked with the children this week that the staff team here feel like genies ...your wish is my command. In March, we have been able to make three dream comes true...

Charlie and Taylah were looking for more opportunities to meet up with Newmill. On the last day of term, they will be joining P6/7 for a day of paddle boarding.

All our learners were keen to have extra cycling and we were able to save some money within our budget to make this happen for them.

P3-7 have been inspired by the 'cosy corner' in the 'Adventure Room' and have been helping reorganise the big classroom to have their very own reading area. I promised I would source a comfy seat for them all and last weekend my dad and I were able to do just that. It's a real personal touch for me. The sofa comes from my grandparents' house. I've mentioned my granda in previous newsletters as he remains a great source

of inspiration for me as someone who at the age of 98 still remembers school days as being one the best times in his life. The staff team here are driven by a strong moral purpose ...to ensure our learners feel that very same way about school life. The children were delighted with their new reading area and there has been a renewed enthusiasm as reading groups gather in the new area for reading sessions...already working towards our vision of achieving GOLD Reading School! The next stage of action points and evidence begins.

Matthew's dream

I'm afraid I'm going to have to reach out for some help with this wish. Mathew has made a wee video to inspire all to put our heads together to make his term four fishing dream come true. To view my file, click this link:

https://1drv.ms/v/s!AgdUwBDfLh2Q0n_Eo1d1oEA3Jtgr



Coincidentally, Loch Park have made contact with Mrs McWilliam looking to organise a school visit with mention of a boat trip. Initial idea bubbles include a 'fishathon' with each pupil having an opportunity to have a fishing experience (rota basis), others on a boat, others walking and a picnic lunch at Loch Park. I've told Matthew I'll need a team of experts and a big risk assessment to make his dream come true. Please get in touch via admin email if you are willing to be involved and we can set about organising the day at a Parent Council Meeting.

Staffing Update

I'm delighted to announce that Mrs Milne was successful at interview this week and will be joining us as Acting Principal Teacher next term while Mrs Chalmers heads to Lhanbryde as Acting Depute, on a full time basis until Summer. I informed the children on Wednesday and was delighted with their 'Resilient Ruby' Mindset. We know how much they all value Mrs Chalmers and the news she wasn't going to be here next term could have been difficult for them. They recognised it was her opportunity to move through the learning pit and grow new skills and were happy to welcome back Mrs Milne. Some of them remember having Mrs Milne as their teacher in the past. Mrs Milne knows the school, staff and community well and is very much looking forward to returning.

Mrs Stuart (SfL) will be absent from Botriphnie for the foreseeable future following an operation this week. We will miss her very much and wish her a speedy recovery.

This afternoon we head out for 'Fire pit Friday' to celebrate those going 'over and above' demonstrating commitment to our school values. A bucket filling end to our final Friday this term.

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Thursday 28th March**-Spring Break begins (Good Friday holiday is on 29th)
- **Monday 15th April**- Summer Term Begins
- **Monday 6th May**- **May Day Holiday**
- **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



We are a **Reading School**

