

BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER

April 2024

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a lovely holiday despite the pretty grim weather. There were a few nice days but nowhere near enough. Hopefully, May will be a glorious month with the long weekend to look forward to.

We may only have been back to school for a fortnight but there's plenty of news to share.

Transitions

'Leavers Hoodies' can only mean one thing...we are in our final term of the session! Taylah was absolutely delighted with her gift and is looking forward to wearing it throughout this term, in recognition of the milestone event...the end of Primary School. However, we have so much to pack in before that time. We look forward to celebrating her last term in a variety of ways.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Milne back to Botriphnie on a full time basis. The transition has been seamless, with all learners' demonstrating high levels of resilience and confidence. Mrs Chalmers and Mrs Milne met prior to the holidays and a thorough handover ensured all children experience continuity as they grow from acorns to mighty oaks. Mrs Milne is an experienced teacher and is very excited to be back in class on a full time basis.

Ethos and Life of the School as a Community

At the end of last term, we celebrated those going 'over and above', demonstrating commitment to our school values through a 'Fire Pit Friday'. Learners suggested a choice of snack and Mrs Lawrence set to the task of making their wish come true. We had a variety of options available. It was great to have the whole school together to celebrate. There were our new recruits Charlie Stewart and Ruairi Johnston receiving their first certificates, for



demonstrating an awesome 'Have a go Jo' Mindset towards all transition sessions. They are very much part of our school community. In addition, we celebrated our returning pupils: Mackenzie, Lucy and Maisie and their continued commitment to supporting Botriphnie Primary through Active Schools offers and Friday afternoon visits.

While Mrs Lawrence set up the firepit, the rest of the school was keen to show and explain the mink traps to Charlie and Ruairi. We all had a good look for evidence of movement. We didn't see any prints but we will go back to check again. Some awesome Curious Carly mindsets on display, with lots of questions and dialogue.

Next, it was time for a story at the story telling chair. It was a real bucket filler to hear Torin volunteer to read 'The Smeds and the Smoos' to the rest of the school...clear evidence he is developing as a confident individual.



Curricular Areas and Subjects- HWB-Sharon Henderson Dance



The whole school finished their final dance session with Sharon this month. Once again, they were full of compliments and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Here's what some had to say...

"It is really good. I like it. It gets us active." Lexi, P5

"It is a really fun way to exercise." Taylah, P7

"I like it. It is super active. We all got numbers and had to do our moves when our number was shouted. I really enjoy it. We did some poses and we had to make up our own with partners." Lachlan, P2



Spring Show Success



It was another super successful year for Botriphnie at The Spring Show, with ALL pupils receiving an award of some description for at least one of their entries. They were delighted to hear all about their success on Monday morning, following the event at the weekend. It was a particularly successful weekend for the Irvine siblings, with both Erin and Matthew winning 'best exhibit' in the 'junior' and 'senior' categories. We must say a huge thank you to both Mrs Chalmers and Nicola who were responsible for transporting our entries to and from the Spring Show.

It is great to provide the opportunity for children to develop as effective contributors....contributing to local events. The show was delighted to have so many entries from our wonderful wee school.

"I couldn't believe we got a five pound note for our prize. I think I might spend it on sweets. I was really, really, really pleased to win. I'm definitely going to enter every single year." Erin, P3

Innovative Curriculum Design

Here at Botriphnie we pride ourselves in facilitating relevant and motivating learning experiences. Our curriculum offer is continually evolving and refreshed with learner agency at the heart of our approach. Here's a flavour of how learning voice has shaped recent individual learner pathways.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Confident Individuals

Charlie demonstrated a real 'Have a Go Jo' mindset as he set off with P6/7 at Newmill for a day of Adventurous Activity. Charlie asked for more opportunities to socialise with peers and develop outdoor learning skills. Here's what he had to say...

"On the last day of term I went to Portknockie with P6/7 at Newmill. We got the choice to go kayaking or paddleboarding. I chose kayaking. First we played a game with our oars. When the instructor 'left' you had to move left and grab the oar before it fell. Sometimes she would say 360...which meant you had to make a complete turn and pick up your oar before it fell. After that we played another game on the kayaks called 'World Domination'. It's basically where you pick a country and go round tapping your oars on the back of other kayaks three times to get them to join your country. After lunch, we jumped in and went into some caves. We had to crawl by the end as the caves were so narrow. Whenever the waves came in, they would splash against the roof and walls of the cave. It looked really cool. Overall, it was a really fun day even though the weather wasn't great. I could hardly feel my toes by the end of the day. I would definitely go if there was an opportunity to do this again"



Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Swimming Skills

After a KGS transition event which involved a swimming session, Taylah decided she would like to develop her stroke and overall water confidence. As a result, we are heading to the pool on a weekly basis for swimming lessons, with the target of being able to swim a length, on her front independently. She feels this will support her to feel more confidently able to approach swimming sessions at KGS. As a school, we talked about how we could involve the whole school and I've arranged a Botriphnie Primary School fun session on the last Wednesday of term between 10-11 am. In order to take the whole school, I'd need some parental volunteers in order to meet the adult child ratio for under eights. Mrs McWilliam and I are willing to accompany but we would still need three parental helpers. Please drop Mary an email at the admin address if you are willing to accompany. It would provide a great opportunity for Taylah to showcase her progress and celebrate her last week at Botriphnie Primary School. I am very proud of Taylah's 'Resilient Ruby' Mindset....target setting and working hard to achieve goals...it's what successful learners do...well done!

Taylah has a number of transition activities to look forward to this session. She will be heading to Newmill to meet both English and Maths teachers with her P7 peers, as well as, heading to KGS next Friday for a School Tour with 'The Loft'....exciting times.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

It's been great to hear all about what our learners are achieving outwith the school day. We have a great range of achievements to celebrate this month.

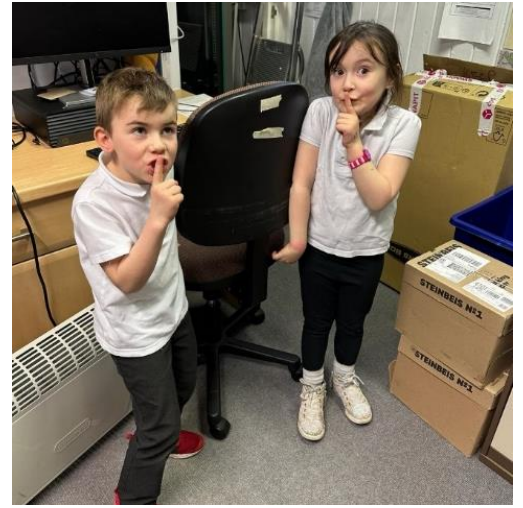
- Lachlan demonstrated a real 'Persevering Pete' mind-set to achieve his first badge at Beavers for reading.
- James tells me he has been demonstrating a 'Curious Carly' attitude towards lambing this year and now knows a lot more about how to support lambing season at home.
- Charlie tells me he is demonstrating a 'Resilient Ruby' Mindset towards building a cart at home, with Dad's help. We look forward to seeing some pictures of the end result.
- Easter cards on Tour- Mrs Lawrence was delighted to hear that Lachlan took all the Easter Cards, he had made for family and friends, with him on holiday. The cards are well travelled, with the latest photo sitting proudly on the window in the Isle of Musk, with the Isle of Rum in the distance. Mrs Lawrence has been delighted to hear that the Easter craft activity is filling buckets across the country.
- Taylah and Lexi continue to demonstrate a 'Persevering Pete' Mind-set to learning to play piano and are growing their skills as a result. They have been keen to share their latest pieces with the whole school.
- Ellen has approached Highland dancing with a 'Curious Carly' Mindset and we have been delighted to learn some moves. She has been able to show us all what she has been learning at her Dancing classes, with her Auntie's support.
- Amélie, Toran, L Lewis and Torin had us all 'hooked' with their holiday news. They all brought in a range of props to share with us, all which helped us gain a sense of their destinations. Lovely to see their listening and talking skills in action as they confidently presented to the whole school.
- Luna has been demonstrating a 'Have Go Jo' attitude towards Rugby Tournaments and received her second medal last weekend. She tells us there are lots more tournaments coming up.



Thank you to parents for taking the time to share achievements. It's a real 'bucket filler' to hear all about the 'connectedness' of learning experiences, demonstrating a relentless shared commitment to supporting all of our learners to grow from acorns to mighty oaks.

Play Pedagogy -Adventure Room Antics

Our approach to play pedagogy is once again, developing a child centred curriculum approach based upon learner agency. Our P4-7 learners have requested some cooking experiences as part of Tuesday sessions and Mrs Lawrence is keen to provide this. We all have our thinking caps on to provide some progressive cooking skill sessions. They have suggested a focus on baking. We are hoping to twist Mrs Stewart's arm...she is our baking expert! Any good recipes...please pass them into school with the children. Mrs Lawrence has been brainstorming idea bubbles with the children and 'Chef's Club' is very much on the horizon.



We have been able to purchase some new scooters and helmets for outdoor play. Next, we are looking to purchase some more balance bikes. It's lovely to see Taylah taking responsibility for keeping our younger pupils safe...encouraging and supporting them to wear helmets, ensuring they are fastened correctly.

Bucket filling news

Councillor Derek Ross called me some time ago to confirm that we are to receive some additional funds. His request: that the funds be used to provide all children with a theatre experience. As a result, we have booked the pantomime for December 2024. The whole school will go to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Eden Court on Friday 6th December. Once again, we were delighted to receive our annual generous donation from Jim Christie. In addition, we received a very generous donation from the Riach Family in memory of Billy Riach who passed away recently. Our plan is to combine the two donations to cover the cost of transport to Eden Court and the Sports at Newmill. This means there will be no additional cost for families. Another fantastic opportunity for our learners...what a lucky wee school we are!



Thank you for all the interest in supporting Mathew's dream to take the whole school fishing on the last week of term. I look forward to meeting Parent Council soon to make a plan. As a staff we have discussed a carousel of activities involving: fishing, walking, fire pit snack and a range of outdoor learning activities available at the grass area at Loch Park. We will need to check with Loch Park that we have permission to be on site. Of course, a dry day would be required so there may need to be a 'back up date' up our sleeve.

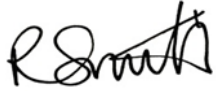
So much to look forward to this term, please check dates below. Children will need PE kits on Monday for a badminton



taster session organised by Active Schools. We are delighted Maisie and Lucy are continuing with Sports sessions after school on Fridays.

It's a real privilege working with you all to make our children's dreams come true and create magical Primary School memories.

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith,

Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Monday 29th April**- Badminton taster session for whole school
- **Wednesday 1st May** -QIO visitors to school 9-12.30
- **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
- **Tuesday 4th June**- Sports Day at Newmill Village Park 1pm-2.30pm
- **Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th**- KGS transition Days
- **Wednesday 26th June**- Whole school swimming trip to Keith Swimming Pool. We wondered about a trip so St Rufus Park for a picnic lunch following the swim.
- **Friday 28th June**- last day of term
- **Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th**- In Service Days- teachers back to school.
- **Wednesday 14th August**- Session 24/25 begins for pupils
- **Friday 6th December** - Inverness Panto



We are a **Reading School**

