

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER



October 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to term two. I hope you all had a great holiday and a good rest. The term is well and truly under way with lots to report.

A big thank you for the great turn out at Botriphnie Parent Council AGM. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the highlights of session 23/24 and set some targets for session 24/25, working in partnership, combining idea bubbles to provide the very best range of learning opportunities possible. Together we demonstrate a relentless focus on improving outcomes for our Botriphnie Bucket Fillers!

It's a big year for Botriphnie as we look to celebrate 150 years of our school. Plans are already underway for a community celebration on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

As an aside, the chocolate brownie baking mystery has been solved and we are very grateful Mrs Lawrence refused to let the P1/2s eat the 'chocolate brownies' they had been making in the finger gym...Ruairi was a bit 'miffed' he had missed out on a tasty treat. I think a taste may have put him off brownies forever.



## **Curricular Skills- Outdoor Learning Opportunities for all**

First a look back to an outdoor learning highlight...matching boiler suits! It was a big moment for Matthew ...looking just like the Findlay brothers! So much so, I was instructed to capture it in a photo and include it in the Bletcher. The children continue to thoroughly enjoy weekly outdoor learning sessions.

Thank you to Mrs Milne for working in partnership with Dorenell Ranger Service, based in the Cabrach, to organise outdoor learning sessions at our community woodland area for all classes.

The sessions focus on:

- \* Nature Connection
- \* Practical Conservation
- \* Sustainability and Renewable Living

There was a real buzz in the school after the sessions.

Here's what Jay, P3, had to say...

*"Yesterday at outdoor learning we had the rangers visit - it was different because we were in the playground. First we went off*



*in groups - P1-3 and 4-7s. In the different groups we were learning about eagles. I liked this learning. I learned lots here. I was in flow. The wing was bigger than Mrs Lawrence! Also after they are done eating, they spew out all the fur and bone - stuff they cannot digest. In the second group we learned about Sphagnum moss that grows at the bottom of a bog - its stops the water from over flowing if there is a flood. We used a bottle to stimulate a storm we used a sponge to replicate the Sphagnum moss. If the Sphagnum moss was not there, there would be a flood. It was very interesting. I thought I knew lots about the outdoors but I have learned even more. I can confidently say I am moving towards four in the pit."*



We realised everyone could fit into an eagle nest. (Photo)

Here Charlie and Rhauri are comparing an eagle feather to their arm.

*"Today, Wednesday 30th October 2024, the Dornell Rangers came to school to talk to us about power and energy.*

*First, we went out to the playground. We were learning about how we use energy. After that we did some experiments including chemical reactions when little tubs flew everywhere and we watched how a solar-powered light worked. Jenna and Rebecca picked two volunteers who were Jay and Toran Harris. They had to hold a golf ball and drop it. Then they had to do the same with a bouncy ball. This was to demonstrate how gravity would pull things to the ground. Charles, Llewie and Matthew raced pull-back cars to show how kinetic energy worked. We saw how heat pads worked. We had to bend the metal and the pads started to get hot. We blew up some balloons - when you let go they fly all over the place.*

*Finally we went inside and made cars with things that can be recycled. Each car group had a name and each group raced their car. The ultimate winner was 'Fast and Furious' which was made by Ruari, Torin and Erin. There was lots of cheering and shouting.*



*Everybody enjoyed it. It made some of us feel inspired and we would like to visit the peat bogs at Dornell because we would like to see more dragonflies." By #TeamBotriphnie*



Sounds like a school trip to the peat bogs might be something we have to look into organising within the Summer term!

### Life and Work of the School as a Community- Interactive Learning Pit #How we learn

Thank you to all families for joining us for our Open Evening during the last week of term. It's always lovely to welcome family members into school to learn more about how we do things here at Botriphnie Primary, gaining a clearer picture of what daily life looks like for our wee people. We hope you enjoyed participating in the learning tasks on offer and feel in an even stronger position to support home learning as a result. We were delighted to see so many of you complete our questionnaire matching our newly developed interactive learning pit. Please remember you can also access this at home on our Botriphnie Blog. Link below



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/botriphnieprimaryschool/2024/09/30/the-botriphnie-learning-pit-howwelearn/>

It's great to hear (via questionnaire) that so many of our learners refer to learning ninjas out of school, confirming that they help promote learning attitudes which support wider achievement.

As part of our school improvement agenda, we are introducing 'cold' and 'hot' assessments in writing. As always, the learners are fully involved in the process and are aware of the rationale behind changes. This ensures their voice can be heard as we measure impact. As we embark on a term focusing on learning to write reports, the children completed their 'cold' assessment this week, using only success criteria to guide them. The whole school wrote a report about Botriphnie Primary School. It was really interesting to read what our pupils had to say about our school from a self-evaluation point of view as well as the quality of writing.

*"My school is the best in the world." James, P5*    *"This school is welcoming to everyone." Lexi, P6*

*"Botriphnie is an amazing school with really nice teachers and really nice pupils. I really recommend this school."*

*Sinan, P5*

*"Our vision is to grow together from acorns to mighty oaks and our school values are community, determined, creative, successful. I think this is a fun and good school. It has the best teachers ever. I would recommend this school. Best school!" Amélie, P6* I'll be interested to see how the 'hot' assessments compare when we use the same context to moderate value added as a result of the learning and teaching focus. As a staff team, we continue to make our way through the learning pit, embedding the 'Explicitly Teaching Writing Approach' and maximising use of our newly purchased PM writing resources to up level our curriculum.



## Life and work of the School as a Community-Reading Schools- Spooky Story Hunt

We have many entries submitted for our Spooky Story Hunt. Thank you to all families for taking the time to participate. It's great to see so many enjoying the hunt as a holiday activity. The Reading Leaders started to mark entries on Monday afternoon. A special thank you to everyone who agreed to share story recommendations in their window....over and above certificates celebrating their commitment to our school value 'community' heading their way. We will share winners and present prizes at the Halloween Party on Friday night.



Thank you to Drummuir Social Group for agreeing to support our 'Reading Stars' to set up a 'Book Borrowing' initiative within Drummuir Hall. A special thank you to Dianne for sourcing a special book shelf for us to organise our lending library. There are a range of books for all ages included and a QR code to answer a short survey when returning. It's a lovely way to promote reading within the local community. Thank you to everyone who continue to donate books for the lending library.

## Life and Work of the School as a Community- Reading Schools IDL- DOT DAY

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Botriphnie Primary School celebrated 'International Dot Day' as part of their IDL study 'Creativity is Contagious.' The Day was planned around the book 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds and we joined an online event, hosted by Peter Reynolds himself and his twin brother to hear all about how 'Dot Day' is celebrated across the globe. Thank you to everyone for their efforts to embrace dotty dress up day.



The day included, reading the book and creating our own 'make your mark and see where it takes you' dot pictures. The pictures were displayed throughout the day and judged by Nicola (catering assistant) after lunch. Our first, second and third place winners were all delighted to receive cool book marks as their prize.



## Life and Work of the School as a Community- Christmas Plans

I've noted some Christmas dates for your diary in the section below. I'm delighted to announce, I met with Reverend Wiekus Van Straaten on Monday and he has agreed to a Service at Botriphnie Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm (as suggested at our Parent Council meeting last week). The children will share their Nativity





Concert at this event. This will be our very last chance to hold a service of this kind within Botriphnie Church and so we are looking forward to making it a night to remember. The children will get to work designing some invites for community members and Reverend Wiekus would like a poster to promote the event via their social media channels.

### Life and Work of the School as a Community- Family Learning Opportunity

In September 2024, Mrs Henderson (PE specialist) and pupils led a 'Family Fitness Event' for children to share their learning and encourage physical fitness. The event included dance, fitness stations and yoga. Parents participated with their children and had to highlight activities that developed stamina, suppleness, speed and strength. We must say a huge thank you for the amazing turnout...we were delighted that almost all families were able to attend. It was great to feel the 'Have Go Jo' Mindset around the room, with learners and parents working together to fully participate. Thank you to Mrs Henderson and Fiona for organising and Mrs Lawrence for volunteering to keep times and of course, the children for leading us all through the activities.



### Life and Work of the School as a Community-Shoe Box Appeal

Another big thank you to Nicola. All children had the opportunity to fill a shoebox with Nicola on the last day of term. Photos of children participating can be accessed on Botriphnie Blog.



### Opportunities for Personal Achievement

I have a feeling this section of the Blether could become a separate newsletter in itself. Here goes October...

**Matthew-** Well done to Matthew. He was very proud to share his lego model with me last week. He started with a rapture pen, idea bubbles started to flow and added more and more areas to create Lego Jurassic World. Matthew tells me he most definitely was 'Persevering Pete' because his model took a long time. His model has started a whole world of small world play in the Adventure Room with a Jurassic World corner and its evolution becoming a hot topic of discussion.



**Lachlan-** Well done to Lachlan who has managed his emotions and demonstrated a real 'Have a Go Jo' mindset towards embracing his first sleepover at Beavers. He was able to enjoy a new experience as a result.

**James**- Well done to James who continues to demonstrate 'Persevering Pete' mindset towards progressing his football skills. He signed up for a football camp in the October holidays and was delighted that his efforts had been recognised as he was awarded 'Player of the Week' by the coaches.



**Jay**- Well done to Jay who tells me he had to channel a real 'Resilient Ruby' mindset to achieve five bicycle kick goals in two nights in his back garden. He tells us all that he was very close to giving up on a few occasions but set himself the challenge of continuing until he had achieved his goal.

**Lexi**-Lexi has demonstrating a real 'Persevering Pete' attitude towards guiding and has achieved her four year badge as a result. It is a celebration of her journey through rainbows, brownies and now into guides. She tells me she is aiming for an eight year recognition badge. It's great to hear you setting yourself aspirational targets, Lexi.

**Charles**- Well done to Charles who was able to tell us he has been working his way through the learning pit learning to swim back stroke and passed his swimming assessment as a result. Good luck to him as he heads back to the start of the learning pity to learn front crawl. I'm in no doubt that Charles will channel 'Resilient Ruby' superpowers to achieve his new target. It's a double celebration for Charles as he has worked his way through the learning pit and can now tie his own shoelaces. I'm going to suggest now the he can start to teach the younger ones as a next step.

**Torin Lloyd**- Well done to Torin who was able to share his October Holiday challenge...he was determined to complete all tasks to achieve Moray Badge. This involved him collecting photo evidence of participating in a range of activities including kayaking, exploring bridges and climbing. Well done to Torin



**Toran Harris**- Well done to Toran Harris who worked hard to earn a Blue Peter Sticker. He demonstrated a real 'Have Go Jo' attitude to designing a new Blue Peter Badge. He included lots of his favourite things within his design.

## **Remembrance Day**

Poppies will be available from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November throughout the week until Remembrance Day. Pupils can bring donations at any point within this time. I'll see you all tomorrow for the Halloween Party.

Rachael Smith,

Head Learner



## DIARY DATES

- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November-** In Service closure for pupils
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>-** Book Week Scotland- Read, Wrote Count and Book Bags disturbed this week.
- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December-** P7 transition event at KGS 10-12.20
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Panto trip at Eden Court
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Lunch at Botriphnie (children are free to wear something festive)
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Jumper Day- Community Christmas cards made and delivered.
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Service at Botriphnie Church
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Party Day
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-** Last Day of Term
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January-** First day of Term 3
- Parent Council Meeting
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - P7 trip to 'The Loft' in Keith for the first transition session 2-3pm Parents Welcome to attend
- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February-** School Closed for In-Service
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday 17<sup>th</sup>** - School closed for February long weekend
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025-** Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School for P6 and P7 pupils
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June-** 150 years of Botriphnie Primary School celebration- dates to follow.

