

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER



November 2024

Dear Families,

It's been another busy month at Botriphnie with lots to report in this month's bletcher. So much so, Mrs Lawrence has been busy making videos as there's just so much to capture. Fingers crossed, you are able to access three short videos using the links. Feedforward welcome!

It was lovely to see some of our pupils support Loch Park 'Soup and Sweet' at the start of the month. Thank you to parents for taking them along. It's great to be able to return some bucket filling community support...demonstrating commitment to our school value 'community'. I heard Charlie may have earned himself an 'over and above' certificate for his commitment to pudding!



## Life and Work of the School as a Community Remembrance -

### Book & Reading Schools

Charlie had the honour of laying 'Moray Council' wreath this year, to mark his last remembrance at Botriphnie. Once again, our pupils demonstrated they were responsible citizens with all of P4-7 volunteering to clean and tidy the war memorial in advance of Remembrance Sunday and the final church service at Botriphnie Parish.



Following the laying of the wreath and our two minute silence we headed to the storytelling chair, where we shared one of 'Poppy Scotland's' recommended stories for children. It was a very powerful picture book sharing the journey of a child forced to become a refugee when war destroys everything she has ever known. It helped us all to think about children across the world as we explored Article 38- the right to protection in war. The children made a short video to showcase their learning.



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## Life and Work of the School as a Community -Pumpkin update

Thank you to Mel for dropping off the pumpkins to school. What a great learning experience...I know the pumpkins didn't quite grow as we had expected but it made for rich dialogue around what to do differently next time. Instead of using them to create their carving for the annual Halloween Disco, Mrs Lawrence opted for a different learning experience. See video for more information.

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Once again, we must say a huge thank you to all Boptriphnie Parents for organising and running another fantastic Halloween Disco for the school community to enjoy. It was extremely well attended and it was clear a real 'Persevering Pet' Mindset had been applied to costumes and the lantern competition...it's always so hard for me to pick winners! It was a real bucket filler to see past, present and future pupils all having a great time together. Well done to all the organisers.

## Curricular Skills- Reading Schools

There have been a number of reading themed learning experiences on offer throughout November. P4-7 joined an 'Author's Live' event and have persuaded me to buy Jacqueline Wilson's new book 'Star of The Show' to start a lunchtime book group. I've managed to buy it on Audible and we look forward to starting it on Friday. Here's what Botriphnie's biggest Jacqueline Wilson fan (Lexi, P6) had to say...

*"Today we took part in an author's live talk. The author was Jacqueline Wilson. I was super excited about this because I'm a superfan! I've read 'Hetty Feather', 'Candyfloss', 'Fortune Cookie' and 'Cliff-hanger'. In my opinion, they are the greatest books ever. I've also watched the television series to match her books. Some are called 'The Beaker Girls', 'The dumping Ground', 'Tracey Beaker returns' and 'The Story of Tracey Beaker'. I have watched more but I can't list them all. Jacqueline Wilson has written and published a new book called 'Star of The Show'. Jacqueline Wilson inspires me to write books and novels. What was interesting about her is she started writing when she was nine...that's amazing!"*

We look forward to starting the book and will keep you posted with an update on how we find it.

## Reading Schools- Promoting reading within the Community

The Reading Stars were pleased to see so many children had taken part in the 'Spooky Story Hunt' during the October Break. They enjoyed 'marking' their entries and deciding on the winners. They worked hard to rehearse the winner's presentation speech and it was great for them to be able to announce at a community event...Halloween Party. We wanted to thank our kind community neighbours for their support and recognised their commitment with an 'Over and Above' certificate for their commitment to our school value 'Community' and 'Creative.'

Some of our pupils were delighted to visit the Cabin as part of our community engagement focus. We were delighted with the 'Resilient Ruby' Mind-set on display. Jay, Erin and Charles took their roles very





seriously and worked hard to practise their books so they could be fluent, clear and engage the audience. Here's what they had to say on return...

*"Today me, Charles and Erin went to The Cabin to read a book to the kids. I read 'Oh Dear!' by Rod Campbell. I was 4 in the pit because I read it myself and I was the teacher.*

*First, we went into different groups and the children would come if they wanted to read with us. I had five children to read with me. I did the reading in the shed. They listened to me because they wanted to hear the story. I had actions to match the story like slapping my head for 'oh dear' and they copied me. I read it with expression and I made sure they saw the pictures and they could lift the flaps.*

*Then we spoke to Donna, the manager, and she said we could come back again. I feel good. I think it was awesome. I nailed it! I am going to read a different book next time." Jay*

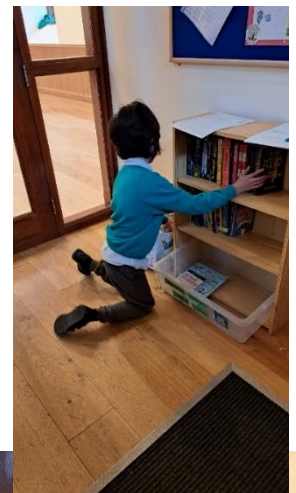


*"Today me and Charles and Jay, we went to The Cabin in Dufftown because we were reading to the little children. We are reading to them because they cannot read yet but we want them to get into reading. This will help us get gold for reading schools. I read 'Lost and Found' to my cousin and other children too. I practised reading the book so I could be good. I was expressing it quite a lot and I was quick at figuring out the words.*

*I think they liked it because they said, "Please read another story."*

*I am going to go back and get a different book to read. I am going to practise - practise makes perfect." Erin*

Toran Harris has been accepted as an honouree member of the Reading Stars, following the commitment he demonstrated to updating and organising our community lending library at Drummuir Hall. He thoroughly enjoyed organising all the books and Mrs McWilliam was impressed with the end result. Well done Toran!



Ruairi and Charlie are delighted to be receiving their very first reading homework book earlier this month! Both boys are demonstrating a real Botriphnie Ninja Mind-set towards learning and blending sounds to read their first words.



### Adventure Room Antics- Play Pedagogy

Following our last Parent Council meeting, Mrs Lawrence has put a wee video together showcasing 'Jurassic World'. It's great to see their motivation to lead learning and



create motivating small world play contexts, well matched to their needs and interests.

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P5-7 are about to embark on a short IDL challenge this week where they can use their 'Adventure Room' time to explore a design challenge, ahead of Christmas Jumper Day. This may include some research at home as they explore, select and plan the perfect Christmas Card to make for our Community Post. They will have to plan and pitch their idea to the school before we all vote. A great way to develop listening and talking skills.

### Opportunities for Personal Achievement

- Well done to Erin who has been sharing her progress and achievement in gymnastics with us all in the playground. Here's what she had to say...*"I have been demonstrating a Curious Carly mind set towards gymnastics. The move I have been perfecting is called backwards walkover. It has taken me three days to connect idea bubbles to perform the move."*
- Well done to Toran Harris. He has been recognised for his progress in football and recently received 'player of the week' for the first time.



Thanks to Ros, for sharing the feedback from Toran's coaches. It sounds like demonstrating a 'Persevering Pete' Mindset is reaping rewards.

"Well deserved tonight, really took on board what we said at the start."  
"Absolutely well-deserved worked hard and very focused in the fitness and in the match".



- Well done to Amélie who has demonstrated a 'Persevering Pete' Mindset towards guiding...making her 'promise' earlier this month.

### Life and Work of the School- Christmas Gifts

Thank you to Jo Rogers for thinking of us all with a creative Christmas Present idea. Jo provided all the materials and came to school for the afternoon to support children to make a unique gift for loved ones. I don't want to give too much away but am grateful to Jo for thinking of us all.

Finally, I wanted to say a huge thank you to the Irvine family for clearing snow from the school car park on Friday. There are many things to consider when making the decision to open or not. Lunch being delivered safely being one of them. Your support in clearing our car park is very much appreciated. I'm hoping that's the last of the snow for this term and we can enjoy all the events we have planned on the run up to Christmas. Please note we have an extra 'diary date' and have arranged to go to St Thomas Chapel for our annual Carol Concert once again.





Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events,

Rachael Smith,

Head Learner

### DIARY DATES

- **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-children can come in their party clothes
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-**  
Christmas concert at St Thomas - all welcome starts at 9.30am
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January-** First day of Term 3
- **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.

