

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER

January 2025

Dear Families,

Once again the festive period has passed in a flash. I hope you all enjoyed some bucket filling family time together. We wish you all a very Happy New Year and sincere best wishes for 2025. It's been a tricky week weather wise... huge thank you for clearing the car park once again to help ensure lunches can be delivered. Community support is a real strength at Botriphnie which we all recognise and appreciate greatly.

## Life and Work of the school as a Community- Christmas Celebrations

Let's start with a look back to Christmas 2024 and our wonderful Nativity at Botriphnie Parish Church. It was certainly a night to remember and our children demonstrated a fabulous 'Have Go Jo Mindset' with each and every one of them determined to give us all a 'four in the pit' performance! Here's what the children had to say...



*"This week we performed a nativity on Tuesday. I developed determination to manage my emotions and developed skills within the expressive arts wiggly worm. Almost all of the community came to see us. We did the nativity in the lovely church. I was one of the angels. I really enjoyed my part. Next year, I might do a solo. We all performed to a big audience. At the end, Matthew did a funny joke with Miss Smith. Almost everyone laughed. All pupils planted daffodils with my Aunt Jo. At first I was a 'Town Person' but once our song was finished, we changed into our angel costumes. We all loved it."* Luna, P4

*"I was a shepherd at the Nativity. It was called 'Hey Ewe'. I was a Persevering Pete because I was singing lovely. I listened to feedforward Fred's feedback to get to four in the pit. I even added my own idea of a joke to make the show even better. I got the idea from the Panto."* Matthew, P2

Our children then performed confidently at St Thomas Chapel on the final day of term. As ever, it was a lovely Christmas bucket filler in another magical setting to set the scene for Christmas holidays. We must say a big thank you to Reverend Wiekus and Deacon Graeme for the warm welcome and at both venues.

## Opportunities for Personal Achievements through Play-Self Directed Learning

Mrs Lawrence has very kindly put together a short video highlighting the range of playful learning experiences on offer in the Adventure Room throughout December. A real highlight has been learning



within the 'technology' wiggly worm. Many enjoyed using practical tools to create their very own light up Christmas Trees as presents for their family. They were all unique and great to see the skills progression throughout P1-7. Thank you to Mrs Lawrence for her creative ideas. The videos are a great way for us to share learning with you and for you to have that clear picture of what life is like at Botriphnie Primary in terms of our curriculum offer.

[https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EZM3Yh0o6lpNvyHeZC1TLkkBoHHQCwE\\_PT4U1eynts\\_eg](https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EZM3Yh0o6lpNvyHeZC1TLkkBoHHQCwE_PT4U1eynts_eg)



### Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Competition Winners

Well done to Ellen and Ruairi who were Christmas Card Competition winners this year. We had a special visit from both Richard Lochhead and Douglas Ross to present their prizes as 'runners up' in the respective Christmas Card Competitions.



### Reading Schools- Reading visit to The Cabin

In December, some of our pupils visited 'The Cabin' for another reading session. Here's what they all had to say about the experience..." Erin read, 'Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy' by Lynley Dodd. Jay read, 'You Choose!' by Nick Sharrat and Pippa Goodhart. Charles read 'Happy Dog/Sad Dog' by Sam Lloyd, 'One Mole Digging a Hole' by Julia Donaldson and Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen.

*We chose 'Happy Dog/Sad Dog' because we thought they would like it and teach them about emotions. Charles made a joke and asked the children, "Who likes hot-dogs?" 'Hairy Maclary' is a rhyming book and we thought that would be good. One of the girls helped Erin read 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. Jay thought 'You Choose' would be good to get the children involved. They enjoyed them. A little girl kept presenting books to Charles for him to read. They concentrated and they chose to listen.*

*We gave a box of books to The Cabin so they can take books home to read with mums, dads, aunties or grannies, grandads or uncles." Our children made a video to persuade parents at 'The Cabin' to get involved. 'The Cabin' are going to share it on their Class Dojo and we are going to upload it as Reading Schools Evidence of how we are promoting reading within our community.*

Jay thought it gave him reading practice. Charles thought it was fun. Erin gave the whole experience 10 out of 10.

### Curricular Skills- Outdoor Learning

Children continue to enjoy weekly outdoor learning experiences. Last month they have been focusing on 'fire' section of 'Wild Passport' (a progressive skills curriculum and attainment monitoring system for outdoor learning).





Mrs Milne has been planning opportunities to develop maths skills through a focus on position and movement and compass points.

We would like to say a big thank you to Rosie and Lachlan's dad for providing the wood to support this experience.

Here's what our learners had to say...

*"First, Charlie Stewart and I stirred the stew. After that we went to play. Then I said, "Ok Charlie...how about we go*



*and give knot tying a try". I was the only one who actually tied something. I have some pictures. Then I said...Charlie let's use a compass. The stew tasted 10/10. Ellen didn't want hers so I gobbled it up. I was actually looking for more people who didn't like it so I could have more." Charles, P4*

### **Life and Work of the School as a Community- Bucket filling**

Our school value 'Community' has been at the heart of our words and actions throughout December, with special Christmas card

deliveries. Mrs Stewart has posted some photos on 'Botriphnie Blog'. We have used the context of 'Peace at Christmas' as part of our weekly Philosophy sessions -inspired by Picture News as opportunities to develop as 'Responsible Citizens'. We have a short video outlining all our Community Achievements last term. I think you will particularly enjoy the backstage photos from the Nativity performance evening.



As ever, we look to our next steps in terms of learning for sustainability and promoting rights and we have approached 'The Big Blue Bus' to ask how we can support. It will be in Drummur on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 11am. We are very much looking forward to investing in this new partnership as another opportunity to develop as active citizens within our community. Access video via link below.

[https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/ERLS8T2PloxJo68PSNf02ewBuy\\_ng-vjB3ux-nmwZU6u2Q](https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/ERLS8T2PloxJo68PSNf02ewBuy_ng-vjB3ux-nmwZU6u2Q)

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Milne has decided to reduce her hours and will be teaching three days a week from the start of term (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday). I am going to be teaching on a Thursday and Friday in the meantime to ensure continuity for the children and their learning. Mrs Henderson has made the difficult decision to fully retire and is looking to finish PE sessions at Botriphnie as soon as I can find a replacement. It goes without saying that we are going to be very sad to say good bye to Mrs Henderson but know she won't be a stranger.

## Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Reading Schools

The Reading Stars have set a January Family Reading Challenge for our school community.

Recording sheets will be in bags today and we look forward to

planning a special Reading Assembly to recognise commitment to reading for pleasure in February. We also have some diary dates ahead for joint Reading School themed event at Newmill on our journey to Gold accreditation.



## Interdisciplinary Learning -Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths focus

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Milne was working her way through the learning pit attending a 'Coding Success Programme'.

The Coding Success Programme is fully funded by the Royal Air Force and BAE Systems and delivered in partnership with Raising Robots and The Smallpiece Trust.



At Botriphnie we aim to fully engage learners by providing learning experiences that are well matched to their needs and interests. We recognised our learners were inspired by the STEM event at Keith Grammar School earlier last year and Mrs Milne is looking to build on digital skills developed through the event. As a result, Mrs Mine has managed to borrow multiple sets of Education Spike kits worth £700 each and has planned an IDL project using the Lego Robotics resources for all learners. We will make sure to provide an update in the next Blether. It is the first thing the children shared with me as they arrived in school yesterday so it is fair to say...they are enthused!

Take care and keep warm,

Rachael Smith,

Head Learner

## DIARY DATES

- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**- First day of Term 3
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**- Parent Council meeting 6pm in school (weather permitting)
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** - P7 trip to 'The Loft' in Keith for the first transition session 1.30 - 2.30. Parents Welcome to attend.
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** - School dentist check-up for P1 and P7 pupils
- **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- info to follow.