

BOTRIPHNIIE BLETHER

February 2025

Dear Families,

February is passing in a flash. The days are stretching and the temperature looks set to rise at the weekend...signs of Spring! Matthew and I even spotted snowdrops on the way to the church. We welcome Demi, Thomas and their family back to Botriphnie Primary School. It has been another busy month for our Botriphnie Ninjas with learning superpowers in action across the school. Let's take a look at what we have been up to....

Life and Work of the School as a Community- Reading Schools

We must start with a huge Reading Stars announcement. The group were blown away with the support for the Januread Challenge. Individual families were awarded certificates and prizes for their commitment to the challenge. However, the group worked out that as a school community we read for **594 hours and three minutes** throughout January....amazing! Thank you to everyone for the time taken to complete reading logs on a daily basis. It has been wonderful to hear how families were encouraging each other to read through January.



A special well done to....

1st place- Keziah and Luna's family-217 hours

2nd place - Harris Family-212 hours

3rd Place- Basan family-64 hours 45 mins

Things have been pretty hectic on the Reading Schools front. All our learners have been able to engage with authors and illustrators through attending 'Authors Live' Events.

"Today Miss Smith organised for P5-7 to watch an Authors Live Event. We discussed the author after the event. A lot of her idea bubbles start with her imagining...what if? Lots of her books are inspired by her past. As a child she loved stories but she didn't imagine becoming an author. Lots of little things spark her ideas. Then she imagines all sorts of things. What if cats could talk? She had a couple of nice English teachers who inspired her. She says that anyone can be anything which is true. Her books include different types of families. Her name is Patrice Lawrence."

P1-4 watched Jackie Kay and he read an extract from his book 'Corrie Doon.' Everybody loved the book and Mrs Lawrence bought a copy. She has been delighted to hear so many pupils ask to borrow it to share with their family at home. Next month we meet an author called Struan Murray.

We had an extremely successful joint school reading morning exploring the theme of 'Empathy'. It is always a real bucket filler for me to see the mix of blue and green jumpers together with Botriphnie joining Newmill for a reading focused morning. Our pupils were confident individuals and embraced the opportunities, interacting well with staff and peers. Here's what some of our pupils had to say...



"Today Botriphnie and Newmill did 'Empathy' day. First we got split up into groups. Next we went to Mrs Watt to read 'The Suitcase'. After that we went to Miss Smith. We read 'Between Tick and Tock'. I played football with the boys. After snack we went to Mrs Mair to read 'Odd Dog Out'. We read these books because it was empathy day. My favourite book was the suitcase. I felt happy. It was awesome. Empathy is like when you feel someone's feelings. I felt like a Curious Carly."
James, P5

"First we got into the bus to Newmill. When we got... (Oh, wait! Did I say who was going? ...Botriphnie). We came into a hall. All of the Newmill people were sitting there.

Next we split up into groups. I was in group 4. First we did the book 'Odd Dog Out'. It was awesome. Then it was the next book and then break. I played football.

After that, we read two other books. I kind of liked them. After all the books we did an activity. All of the activities were my favourite. It's almost my best day ever.

Finally we were just in time for lunch. We had lunch. (I had a packed lunch.) I will go to Newmill again soon but right now I'm not and I have been working hard on empathy.

At last, we got back and I wrote this reflection about empathy. I worked and I worked and worked and worked all day long. And I will see you again, of course." THE END Toran H, P3

My favourite part was seeing everyone and listening to the books. I already knew about empathy but I think celebrating it helped me know a bit more." Charlie P7

After our event, I headed to Ordiquhill Primary School to deliver a professional development session for staff, sharing information about Reading Schools and how the focus has supported our literacy attainment journey. Working with other schools and leading professional development sessions are part of the mandatory actions within the action plan. Thank you to Ros Harris for organising.



Life and Work of the School- Promoting Rights

We have a new member of our school community to introduce ...Ria the Rights Rabbit. Her role is to support us in our journey to putting children's rights at the heart of school policy and practice here at Botriphnie Primary School. We have to say a huge thank you to Lisa Nicol (a parent at Newmill) for making this wonderful character for Botriphnie. We were looking for a way to make UNCRC articles even more meaningful to our learners and Ria the Rights Rabbit fits the bill perfectly. P5-7 will be joining Newmill Primary for some workshops focusing on successful learners in Rights Respecting Schools in March.



Life and Work of the School as a Community- School Improvement Agenda

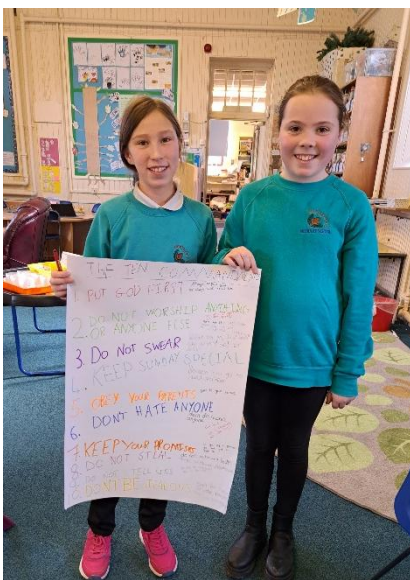
Our focus during the recent In service day was twofold: we continued to develop our approach to writing, tracking progress between 'cold' and 'hot' assessments, as well as, some input in the afternoon about how to support us as we embark on a journey to begin digital profiling. We have a long way to go. However, a member of the LearnTech Team in Moray supported us to move from zero to two in the learning pit. We hope to have digital profiles set and in action with all pupils by the end of term. I can talk through them at the next Parent Council Meeting.

Curricular Skills- RME at Botriphnie Parish

The whole school thoroughly enjoyed two sessions with Reverend Wiekus Van Straaten at Botriphnie Parish.

"The first session we discussed how we can use our tongues to either use them to make people feel happy or to hurt others." James, P5

Rosie shared the following reading at the end:-



James 3:10-12 Praises and curses come from the same mouth! My family, this should not happen. Do good and bad water flow from the same spring? My family, can a fig tree make olives? Can a grapevine make figs? No! And a well full of salty water cannot give good water.

"In the second session we learned about Moses and the ten commandments. We even watched a video about it when we came back to school. We used a poster from the church to help us. Some of our mums and dads made it. Amlélie and Lexi decided to make a new poster at lunchtime on return from the church."

Thank you to Weikus for his time. The children listened and responded so well during the session this week...it was really bucket filling!

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Charlie- "A big well done to Charlie who has been demonstrating a real Curious Carly Mindset "So this was at the farm and we were metal detecting and we found this half crown. It is a coin as old as my great granny which is much older than my mum."

Charlie has also been learning to make date loaf with his granny. Luckily for Miss Smith he cut up too many dates so they needed to make two. Miss Smith scored!

Erin - "Every year I lamb a ewe but this year I learned to lamb triplets. I would say I had to be a real 'Persevering Pete' because it was hard to get the lambs out. I have been feeding them as well and looking after them but they are so cute so I enjoy it."

Keziah-Keziah has been demonstrating a real 'Have a Go Jo' Mindset towards trying new things. As a result, she is making great progress in Rugby at the weekends and is developing her musical skills with Mr Friday. Well done Keziah!

Life and work of the school as a community - Learning for Sustainability with the Big Blue Bus

Torin and Charlie visited the big blue Mrs Lawrence to find out more about they provide and how we can help. They were made to feel very welcome and learned lots. They came back to school and created a report to share with the rest of the school. They returned with a big bag of food for £2.50 and lots of ideas about what we could cook with the items. Here's what the boys decided Botriphnie Primary need to do next within their report....



"What can we do to help?" We could donate warm cosy jackets. We could also donate food for the Moray Food Bank. We are going to help serve the customers from Drummuir on the Big Blue Bus!"

So far, they considered a dress as you please day in return for food Donations or old jackets. More information to follow.

Life and Work of the School as a Community-Reporting

Annual reports will be in reflection jotters on **Friday 28th February**. There will also be an opportunity to meet with us later in the term to discuss the report. A letter providing an option for a



bus with the service



phone call or face to face meeting will be in reflection jotters alongside reports. Please complete and return to school by **Thursday 6th March** to ensure we find times to suit all families.

Life and Work of the School as a Community- **Adventure Room Antics**

The whole school has been learning about 'forces' within the Science wiggly worm this term, Mrs Lawrence has provided lots of opportunities to explore this further in fun adventure room challenges. I think you will love the video she put together - just click on the link below.

Earlier in the term we all enjoyed some 'Irn Bru' scones as part of Scots Week celebrations.



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Life and Work of the School as a Community- **Celebrating Millstones**

We all gathered to surprise Mrs Henderson on her last day at Botriphnie. It was an emotional moment...I know Botriphnie Primary has a special place in her heart, a feeling that is mutual. After forty years as a PE legend, she deserves some rest and relaxation and we all wish her a well-deserved retirement.



- **Friday 21st February-** Active Schools 3-3.45
- **Friday 28th February-** Active Schools 3-3.45
- **Friday 28th February-** Individual Reports out in reflection jotters
- **Wednesday 5th March-** P7 transition event- Swimming Gala
- **Friday 7th March -**Active schools 3-3.45
- **Wednesday 12th March-** Whole Day Rights Respecting School Workshop at Newmill P5-7
- **Friday 14th March-** Parental Meetings
- **Saturday 22nd March-** Moray Cross Country at Gordon Castle -Email Mrs Stewart if your child wants to enter
- **Friday 28 March 2025-** **Provisional** date for P1-4 going Bike ride to Loch Park with Outfit Moray and P5-7 going to winding Walks in Fochabers. Last day of Term 3 -Easter Holidays begin
- **Monday 14 April 2025-** Summer Term begins
- **Friday 18th April-** Good Friday holiday
- **Wednesday 7th May-** Generation Science Workshops for P1-3 and P4-7 at Botriphnie Primary School
- **Monday 28th May 2025-** Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School for P6 and P7 pupils
- **Saturday 14th June-** 150 years of Botriphnie Primary School celebration- info to follow