

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER



June 2025

Dear families,

The bucket filling is never ending at Botriphnie... what an amazing month! As ever, it's been a busy one but the highlight has to be our big birthday celebration on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Congratulations to all our families....you made the event a day to



remember.....a real Team 'Persevering Pete' effort! I think the children were a little surprised by the crowd and we were all surprised when the CD decided to speed up...they demonstrated great Resilient Ruby Mind-set and continued with the show. A special mention to Ros for her hard work researching and presenting Botriphnie's 150 year profile in so many creative ways. We have the timeline up in school and will make sure to keep everything safe for the next big birthday! The celebrations continued into last week with a surprise delivery from the Reverend Wiekus Van Straaten. Our buckets were overflowing with a special cake and card. Thank you to Wiekus for this lovely gesture. I'm delighted to include a reflection from Mrs Gordon Duff....

## Reflection from Priscilla Gordon-Duff

*As the Lord Lieutenant indicated on Saturday I am very proud to be associated with BPS. So much is achieved by the BPS staff, pupils and parents, with a clear sense of working together. The event on Saturday was a shining example of the time, effort and skills that so many contribute to make BPS a success educationally and an institution that the whole community is clearly very proud of. Thank you to everyone who put in many hours to enable us all to come together to celebrate.*



*I have been/continue to be associated with the School in a number of roles: member of the community, parent, and grandparent. I enjoyed forging new links with the pupils as Chairman of Drummuir 21 and spending happy times with them walking, planting trees, exploring St Fumac's Well and watching the 'jelly hedge' flourish. I have now retired from that role and was delighted that Freya returned to play St Fumac's Air so beautifully for us on Saturday.*



*I wish the new Chair, Eleanor Bradford, well and hope that D21 and BPS will continue to work together in the Drummuir outdoors whilst I enjoy reading the Blether and reflect on how much enthusiasm and energy is generated anew in a building that holds 150 years of memories."*

### **Life and work of the School as a Community** **-Outdoor Fun**

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Fishing trip this year. Once again, a great time was had by all, with a mix of activities available. Mrs Lawrence has kindly put a selection of videos together to share a wide variety of outdoor pursuits throughout the term.

- The first captures a snapshot of the outdoor skills our children are developing through partnership working with Earthtime.

[https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EbWSNCKL9cNFrZyK9XgBGdgBsrVIMarborKNGa\\_4SXMA](https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EbWSNCKL9cNFrZyK9XgBGdgBsrVIMarborKNGa_4SXMA)

- The second captures the Fishing Trip on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

[https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EQ-hRkPj3l9NgXS62nmNKzoBG5wxus\\_IGcilaxSMG1ebEg](https://1drv.ms/v/c/901d2edf10c05407/EQ-hRkPj3l9NgXS62nmNKzoBG5wxus_IGcilaxSMG1ebEg)

- The third captures Sports Day and, yes, the teacher's race is included much to my dismay! I have a feeling Mrs Chalmers might give Mrs Simmers a run for her money next year. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n7B\\_hbd5-1ElxtiVdYb4NeB2jV9ReaTb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n7B_hbd5-1ElxtiVdYb4NeB2jV9ReaTb/view?usp=sharing)



**Opportunities for Personal Achievement** – I am delighted to have so many children approach me with a personal achievement for the 'Blether'. It's been a busy month on the achievement front....

- Well done to Torin Lloyd who has a new area of interest to share with us all....*"I am proud of my first attempt at an airfix model. It is a Mustang 51. I've had to be Persevering Pete as it is quite fiddly. I've decided this is my new hobby and next I aim to save up to buy the Lancaster and Wellington Bomber."*
- Well done to our Tae Kwon Do Team- Amélie, Torin, Llewie, James and Charlie all demonstrated a real Resilient Ruby Mindset towards the competition at the weekend. As a result they were awarded the following: Bronze for Charlie, Torin, James and Amelie. Gold for Llewie!
- Well done to Kelly Gordon. I was super impressed with her Independent Isla Mindset....setting herself the solo challenge of completing an 18 mile Kilt Walk.
- Well done to Chae Pirie for demonstrating a real Have a Go Jo attitude, volunteering to share a poem with real sentimental value to celebrate 150 years of Botriphnie...a great role model, with a very supportive fan club!
- Well done to Toran Harris...he is sprinting through the learning pit with his new passion...playing tennis. In the last month, he's started lessons, joined a club, become the proud owner of a tennis racquet and played his first tournament...winning silver medal!
- Well done to Demi and Thomas who were able to share that they are both working through the learning pit with swimming progress. Thomas has demonstrated a 'Have a Go Jo' mindset to starting swimming lessons and Demi is determined to swim lengths faster. Both have been practising at weekends.



## **Bikeability**

Bikeability is booked for the whole school on the first week back. We have a programme of events arranged involving each age group. The P6/7 children will be heading to Dufftown on Wednesday afternoon and Mrs Stewart will be sending info home today. The team will assess P5 road skills within Drummur on Wednesday. They will then decide who they will take to Dufftown on Thursday morning from the P5 group, based on their assessment of ability. They have to make sure it is safe to do so. On Friday, all children will have the opportunity to challenge themselves on the ramps and smoothie bike.

## **Life and Work of the School- Leavers**

Yet another wonderful school year is drawing to a close, and although we are all looking forward to the holidays, there is also a sense of loss as we contemplate our learners moving on. We wish Charlie all the best in S1 and hope he enjoys the video Mrs Lawrence has put together from us all to wish him well. I happened to receive one of Mrs Lawrence's videos this week ....huge bucket filler! The children are such an integral part of all our lives and we enjoy such positive relationships that it can be difficult to imagine a day without them and their news. I have felt overwhelmed with the kind wishes as I head off to a new challenge next session ...it is a real privilege to be Headteacher here and hard to enter the Learning Pit as a newbie but... as Sarah Johnston said to me this morning..."If Charlie can do it, I'm sure you can"....pep talked received! Botriphnie is such a happy wee school and everyone who comes through the door feels that "specialness." Every day, your children are a source of joy and inspiration for us all. Thank you for all your support throughout this busy term. We sincerely wish you and your children a relaxing, fun filled Summer Break.

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Headteacher

## **Diary Dates**

- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June-** Whole School Trip to Trampoline Park, Inverurie
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June-** Last Day of Term
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August-** In Service Closure
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August-**In Service Closure
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August-** Children Back at School- Bikeability for all children this week.
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August-** Parent Council Meeting at 6pm
- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September-** Coffee Morning
- **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept -**Flu Immunisation

