

BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER



August 2025

Dear families,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Summer Holiday filled with sunshine, laughter and magical memories with your children. We are delighted to welcome you all back to Botriphnie for Session 25/26 where we are all feeling reenergised and ready to support our wee people on their journey from acorns to mighty oaks! A special welcome to Elsie and Ellie and their families as they are now officially in P1...let the bucket filling begin!

First a look back to the end of last term....

Curricular Skills- Outdoor Learning- Pond Dipping

The whole school enjoyed an afternoon of outdoor learning within the last week and I think the photo of Jay sums it up nicely. It's a real strength of our school...children's passion for outdoor learning! Both Mrs Milne and Mrs Simmers deserve a huge thank you for the work and time they have dedicated to reorganising both sheds. Mrs Milne is now able to lay her hands on all outdoor learning equipment and our children are reaping the benefits. They thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon exploring pond dipping kits to identifying pond life. On the last afternoon, the whole school treated Mrs Simmers to her first trip to Loch Park and she was drawn instantly to the wonder of the setting...we are so lucky to be surrounded by such beautiful outdoor spaces. The children, were of course, quite at home and enjoyed some time together at the Loch, on the swing, in the green area playing games and at the fire pit making popcorn. Thank you to Loch Park for allowing us to use their fire pit and facilities and to Mrs Lawrence for bring down the materials. It was a lovely way to end the term and Charlie's last day in our care! It is truly a magical scene...watching them all interweaving, enjoying a range of different company as they walked along to Loch Park, spotting the



nature along the way....wonderful childhood memories! As I watch them all at home in our community woodland, I am confident they are developing the breadth of skills that will allow them to become agile, adaptive learners and citizens, equipped to navigate personal, social and environmental challenge as young people.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement- Bikeability Success!

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for showing a fantastic 'Have a Go, Jo' Growth Mindset during last week's Bikeability sessions.

Our Primary 5-7 pupils took to the roads and learned how to navigate traffic safely, gaining valuable skills to help them cycle confidently and responsibly in a range of environments.

Meanwhile, our Primary 1-4 children focused on mastering their basic cycling skills, including balance, control, and safe riding in off-road settings — a great foundation for future cycling adventures!

Overall, the children had a brilliant time, and the skills they developed go far beyond cycling. From building resilience and focus to strengthening problem-solving abilities, Bikeability has helped support our learners both on and off their bikes.

Well done to everyone who took part!

IDL- Diving into our Ocean Topic

This term in IDL, our pupils have been diving deep into the fascinating world of the ocean! They've been exploring the rich and ever-changing diversity of marine life, developing their understanding of how living things are connected both locally and globally. As part of their learning journey, the children have been investigating a variety of ocean habitats and have brought their discoveries to life by creating vibrant 3D fish tanks in the Adventure Room. It's been a hands-on, imaginative way to explore the wonders of the underwater world!

Play Pedagogy - Adventure Room Antics



At Botriphnie, we believe that play is powerful. Through play-based learning, our children explore, create, and make sense of the world around them. Whether it's building with blocks, role-playing in the home corner, or investigating the outdoors, play helps develop critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills—all while having fun! Our Adventure Room is rich in playful opportunities that support each child's curiosity and growth.



Opportunities for Personal Achievement

- Well done to Rosie and Amélie who have been demonstrating real 'Persevering Pete' mind-set towards swimming Club. Both girls performed so well at their Summer Gala gaining the following:-

Butterfly- Rosie won Silver and Amélie won Gold.

Back Stroke- Rosie won Bronze and Amélie won Silver.

Breast Stroke- Rosie won Silver and Amélie won Gold

Front Crawl- Rosie won Bronze and Amélie won Gold

Individual Medley- Rosie won Silver and Amélie won Gold



- Thanks to Llewie and Torin for sharing their fabulous airfix models they have been building at home.
- A big well done to Amélie, Lexi, Luna, Erin and Rosie, who took part in their very first violin lesson this week! With bows in hand and big smiles on their faces, they made a fantastic start to learning this instrument. We're so proud of their enthusiasm and can't wait to see their musical talents grow over the term!



Head Lice Reminder

As the children are back together in the classroom and in the playground, it is time to start checking your child for head lice on a regular basis.

Within most schools at any one time, there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. Infection levels remain fairly constant, but if you could inspect your child's hair at least once a week throughout the school year, not only would we be very grateful, but also the spread of infection would be minimised.

If you suspect your child has head lice, please report any incidences to the school. Detection and effective treatment of any head lice outbreaks is key to reducing the problem.

Treating head lice is not difficult. For further advice, consult your pharmacist or doctor or local health visitor. You can obtain more information from

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/skin-hair-and-nails/head-lice-and-nits>.

Warm regards,

S. Chalmers.

Stacey Chalmers

Acting HT



Diary Dates

- Saturday 13th September- Coffee Morning
- Tuesday 16th Sept -Flu Immunisation
- Friday 10th October- Term ends
- Monday 27th October- Term 2 starts
- Monday 10th November and Tuesday 11th November- In Service Closure