

BOTRIPHONIE BLETHER

October 2025



Dear families,

I hope you had a relaxing and refreshing holiday break. As October winds down and the last of the autumn leaves begin to fall, let's take a moment to reflect, share a few updates and get ready for what's ahead. Here are some of our highlights — and what's coming next.

Curriculum

Restart a Heart (RSAH) Live CPR Session

On Wednesday, October 1st, pupils participated in the Restart a Heart (RSAH) Live CPR Familiarisation Session. This engaging and interactive event introduced them to life-saving CPR techniques and the proper use of defibrillators. More than just learning vital skills, our pupils are now ready to share their newfound knowledge with their families, becoming ambassadors of life-saving action in the community.



Bonfire Safety Visit



On Monday 27th October, we were delighted to welcome Stuart Mount, a Community Safety Advocate, to our school for an informative presentation on Bonfire Safety. We discovered that you need to be five years old to hold a sparkler and that sparklers can burn five times hotter than a BBQ! We also learned that you must be 18 years old to buy fireworks.

Stuart reminded us how important it is to think about animals during firework displays, as the loud noises, bright colours and smoke can cause them distress.

Through this session, we developed important safety awareness skills, including how to plan and enjoy bonfire celebrations responsibly, recognise potential hazards and make sensible decisions to keep ourselves and others safe.

Interdisciplinary Learning - Macduff Aquarium Visit



"Today Macduff Aquarium came to show us invertebrates (animals that don't have a backbone). They had starfish, different types of crabs and sea urchins. We also saw shark eggs, crab eggs and lobster shells.

We learned that starfish have eyes on the ends of their arms, one starfish had 13 eyes! The starfish also had little suckers. Its mouth and bottom are in the same place. We learned that a sea urchin has a bottom on the top of it (where we thought the head was). A basking shark is 10m long. We watched a video of a lobster moulting and coming out of its shell that was too small for it."

Thank you to Matthew for his idea bubble to visit the aquarium and for Parent Council for making this come true.

Opportunities for personal achievement

Football Festival



Pupils joined Newmill Primary for an exciting Football Festival, where they developed key skills like teamwork, communication, coordination and sportsmanship. A big thank you to Mrs Simmers for organising this fantastic event and giving our kids the chance to play, learn and enjoy the game



together. Lots of 'Resilient Ruby' Mindsets were displayed when not even the rain could dampen their spirits!

Achievement Assembly

We are delighted to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our pupils who recently received their Pen Licences and Value Certificates. The Pen Licence is awarded to pupils who have shown exceptional effort and skill in their handwriting, marking an important milestone in their learning journey. Alongside this, our Value Certificates recognise learners who consistently demonstrate our core school values — community, support, creativity and success — both in and out of the classroom. Congratulations to all our award recipients for their outstanding achievements and commitment to excellence! Keep up the great work!

Individual Pupil Achievements



- Lachlan - demonstrated a Persevering Pete mindset when he passed swimming and is now in the 3rd group of stroke development
- Lexi - is displaying a 'Have a go, Jo' mindset as she is learning to play the tenor drum.
- Rosie - has shown a Persevering Pete mindset

and has become a Sixer in Brownies

- Llewie and Torin - demonstrated a Preserving Pete mindset when they completed Airfix models, which took them months to build.
- Charles - Have a Go, Jo as he is learning to build an engine with his granda.
- James - Have a Go, Jo as he built a new workbench with his brother Charlie



Ethos and life of the school as a community - Blythswood Shoebox Appeal



This month, our school was proud to take part in the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, supporting children and families in need across Eastern Europe and beyond. Pupils filled shoeboxes with thoughtful gifts such as toys, toiletries, stationery, hats and scarves. Each shoebox will bring a little joy and comfort to someone who might not otherwise receive a gift this Christmas.

Through taking part, our pupils developed their sense of empathy, compassion and global citizenship, learning how small acts of kindness can have a big impact.

Warm regards,

S. Chalmers.

Stacey Chalmers

Acting HT



Diary Dates

- Monday 27th October - Sharon Henderson 4-week dance workshops begin
- Friday 31st October - P5-7 Playmaker Training begins. Halloween Party 6-8.
- Monday 10th November and Tuesday 11th November - In Service Closure
- Thursday 13th November - School Nurse to do P1 pupil height etc
- Thursday 13th November - Parent Council AGM 6pm
- Friday 5th December - Panto at Eden Court
- Thursday 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch
- Tuesday 16th December - Christmas Fayre and Nativity 1.30 - 3 pm in school hall
- Friday 19th December - Christmas Party