

BOTRIPHONIE BLETHER



December 2025

Dear families,

As we begin a new year, we also take a moment to look back on a very busy and enjoyable December. The final weeks of term were filled with learning, celebrations and festive fun and this newsletter shares some highlights from that wonderful end to 2025.

Average Monthly Attendance data: 95.39%

Curriculum

Developing Data Skills Through Digital Learning



Mr Euan Morrison visited the school for two afternoons to deliver engaging, maths-themed digital learning sessions. Pupils explored data analysis using the micro:bit, learning how to record data with the device and then transfer it into Excel for analysis. The sessions helped pupils develop practical skills in collecting, organising and interpreting data, using resources from Mr Morrison's own

website to support their learning: [micro:bit Data and Sustainability - Mr Morrison](#)

Ethos and life of the school as a community

Christmas Fair Success

Our Christmas Fair was a wonderful success, raising a fantastic £567 in total. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Scottish Book Trust Appeal, which works to tackle inequality and help break the cycle of poverty through access to books and reading. More information is available [here](#). The remaining funds will go directly into the school fund, supporting our pupils in their learning and experiences at school.

A huge thank you to all the parents and wider family members who helped, donated, attended and supported the fair - your generosity and involvement made it such a success.

Well done to Erin who correctly guessed the name of the Gingerbread Man - Cookie.



Countdown to Christmas Play

Well done to all our pupils who took part in the *Countdown to Christmas* play. The children performed with great enthusiasm, confidence and festive spirit, making it a thoroughly enjoyable performance for everyone who attended. We are incredibly proud of all their hard



work and teamwork in bringing the story to life.



Panto Trip to Inverness



Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience of watching the *Snow White* pantomime in Inverness. The colourful performances, music and humour made it a memorable outing and the trip was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy live theatre together.

Church Service

Thank you to Reverend Amy Bender for leading our Christmas Service at Botriphnie Church and to Fiona and Torquil for kindly allowing us to use the church. It was wonderful to see so many family members attend the service and celebrate this special time together.



Christmas Party

Thank you to Mrs Simmers and Mrs Henderson for organising and running our school Christmas party. The children had a great time and were especially excited by a visit from a very special visitor, which made the celebration even more memorable.



Opportunities for personal achievement

Sports Leaders



The Sports Leaders held their first meeting, with lots of excellent ideas shared. They have decided to introduce Houses at Botriphnie - Robins, Squirrels and Foxes. Pupils also volunteered to become Problem Solvers in the playground, helping to support others and resolve minor disagreements during playtimes.

Next steps include organising a rota for PlayMakers to lead playground games on Fridays, measuring a mile around the playground so classes can restart the Daily Mile and checking dates for national initiatives that we can celebrate throughout the year.

End of Term Achievements

Congratulations to all pupils who received a Values Certificate or a Silver Pen Licence at our end of term Achievements Assembly. A special well done to the first recipients of our Marvellous Mathematicians Award - Luna, Jay and Ellie-May. These awards recognise the greatest progress in Maths and Numeracy, celebrating the improvements pupils made from their cold (pre-teaching) assessments to their hot (post-teaching) assessments.



PlayMakers Award



Well done to all pupils in Primary 5-7 who have completed their PlayMakers training. They are now trained as Young Leaders in the playground, helping to lead games for younger pupils and demonstrating important skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and leadership.

Keith Library Christmas Competition

All our pupils took part in an art competition organised by Keith Library, decorating their own Christmas trees. The library expressed their sincere gratitude for the effort from both

staff and pupils, commenting that it made a massive difference and that it was lovely to see the creativity of our pupils on display.

Congratulations to Torin, who won the competition for his age group and to James and Llewie, who were runners-up in their respective age groups.

Personal Achievements



Well done to Toran for showing a Persevering Pete Botriphnie Mindset and finishing his first season at Rothies tennis club with two silvers in the club matches for under 8s.

Congratulations to Rosie for demonstrating a Preserving Pete Mindset and receiving her Gold Award at Brownies.



Lachlan demonstrated a 'Have a go, Jo Mindset as he took part in his first golfing competition.

Warm regards,

S. Chalmers.

Stacey Chalmers

Acting HT



Diary Dates

- **Monday 5th January - Friday 6th February** - Jack Levy - Student placement P4-7
- **Thursday 15th January** - Glasgow Science Centre visit at school/Parent Council Meeting 6 pm
- **Friday 23rd January** - P7 Rural Transition sessions begin at The Loft 5:30pm to 6:30pm
- **Tuesday 2nd February** - P1 and P7 Dental Inspections
- **Wednesday 11th February** - Scottish Opera for P6/7 pupils
- **Thursday 12th February** - In Service
- **Friday 13th February and Monday 16th February** - Mid Term Holiday
- **Friday 27th March** - Term 3 ends