

# BOTRIPHNIE BLETHER

May 2026

Dear families,

Welcome to our May newsletter. It has been a busy month in school with lots of motivating learning experiences on offer throughout May. Let's take a closer look and some of this month's highlights and how they are supporting attainment and achievement.



**Average Monthly Attendance data: 91.92%**

## ***Staffing***

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Megan Ritson will be joining Botriphnie School in August as Acting Principal Teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Mrs Ritson will be visiting the school before the end of term to meet the children and begin getting to know our school community. We look forward to welcoming her to Botriphnie.

## **Interdisciplinary Learning**

Our second Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) topic is "The View from My Window." Pupils will be exploring key features of our local area, including the landscape and the places that make our community unique. They will also begin to learn about the range of learning and work opportunities available within the local community.

As part of the planned learning, children will investigate different ways we can find out about the past, using sources such as photographs, stories and local evidence. They will also compare life today with life in the past, developing their understanding of how and why things have changed over time. We have lots of prior learning to build on as we reflect on learning throughout the context of our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration last session.

This engaging topic will help pupils build a stronger sense of place while developing important skills in enquiry, observation and comparison.

## **Curriculum Area and Subjects-**

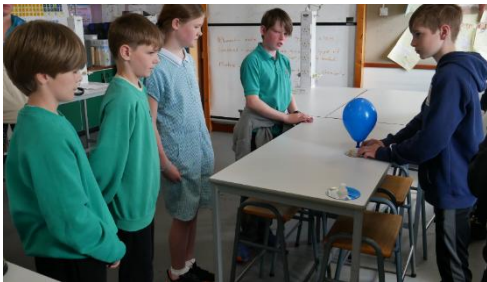
### ***Drumming Workshops***

Thanks to funding from the Youth Music Initiative, our P5-7 pupils are currently taking part in a block of drumming workshops. These sessions are being delivered by Eden, lead facilitator of the Rumble Project with Drumfun and are providing an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop their rhythm, confidence and teamwork skills. Our learners benefit so much from partner agencies, providing an opportunity for specialised input from four in the pit experts in their field.



### ***P6 Science Workshop***

P6 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to the Science Department at Keith Grammar School on Wednesday 6th May. During the visit, the pupils took part in a range of fun and interactive experiments, including making their own sparklers and watching teabags fly into the air!



The activities helped pupils develop important skills such as teamwork, observation, problem-solving and scientific investigation, while also encouraging curiosity and creativity.

A big thank you to Fiona for accompanying the pupils and supporting the trip.

### ***Generation Science Visit***

*"We were learning about electricity. We used generators to race electronic bugs. We learned how to create electricity by turning magnets and coils. We also explored how circuits work and how batteries power different devices. It was exciting to test our ideas and see the bugs move faster when we made more electricity. We had fun experimenting and learning how energy can be used in everyday life."*



### **Ethos and life of the school as a community**

The whole school enthusiasm for Nick Morgan's "No Scotland, No Party" school tour visit this week was a tremendous bucket filler! The children thoroughly enjoyed the lively and engaging performance, with many singing along and joining in throughout the event. One pupil even described it as "the best day ever!"

A huge thank you to Mrs Lawrence for organising the visit and to all the parents and family members who came along to support the event and make it such a memorable experience for the children.



We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Scott Johnston for generously volunteering his time to provide football coaching at Botriphnie. The children greatly enjoyed the session and have benefited from the opportunity to develop their skills and confidence. Here is what Jay had to say:

*"On Wednesday morning Scott, my dad, came in to give us some football coaching. We had to do a*

*warmup first where we had to dribble a ball and when a number was called, we had to do a specific skill. Then we were given football players names and when Scott shouted a player's name we had to go to the corner that had that players name. Next, we split into girls and boys, we had to take it in turns to get our ball passed to us from Scott and then had to try and score in the goal past the goalie. Finally, we moved on to playing games. There was a yellow team, a red team and a non-bib team. I was in the non-bib team. It was great fun and I would like to do it again."*

### **Annual Fishing Trip**

The whole school fishing trip was an amazing success! Here's what Miss Smith had to say...

*"I had to take the time to say a huge thank you to everyone for another wonderful community event this weekend. It was bucket-filling evidence of how we work collaboratively to ensure our school values are at the heart of achieving our vision of 'growing together from acorns to mighty oaks'. Thanks to Mrs Lawrence, we were able to add a new dimension to the experience through partnership working with*





*'Quality Meat Scotland' to provide a Botriphnie Big Breakfast as part of the event. It is fair to say this was a welcome addition! It is lovely to see learners progress with little Toran finding success casting off this year, Keziah and Lexi venturing out on the boats and our new recruits joining us for walk around the Loch. The real magic is watching how much*

*the children enjoy being together where everyone is included, and intergenerational interactions are free and easy. Having had some distance from the school during this session, the opportunity to be with everyone at the weekend was even more special. I found out all*

*about past pupils from Maisie and was delighted to hear about their hopes and aspirations for their future as they find their way in life and fulfill their post school ambitions. I enjoyed meeting our new pupils and felt particularly proud of the nurturing interactions on*



*display, with older pupils working hard to take care of them on our walk. Luna went out of her way to guide Toby and already I could see their connection forming as she embraced the opportunity to mentor younger pupils. The time passes so quickly when we are together and we are so lucky to have such a beautiful place to gather and participate in a range of outdoor activities, promoting positive health and wellbeing. Within our Botriphnie Primary School community, there have been sad and difficult times this session with the loss of important people in our children's lives. Having spent so much time with your children over the last ten years, I know how much their grandparents meant to them all. As I consider*



*'learning for sustainability' and how we aim to ensure our*

*children gain a deep understanding of their part in achieving global goals, I can't help but reflect on the influence of previous generations and how that has helped to shape our vision for Botriphnie Primary School Community. Mr Pirie and Mr Findlay were both proud ambassadors of Botriphnie Primary School and their presence will be missed at our school events. It is a reminder to us all that the greatest gift we can give each other is our time. With that in mind, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for the generous gift of your time. Your commitment ensures that our learners enjoy a wealth of meaningful childhood experiences, enabling them to flourish and thrive.*

One day, they may be parents of the fourth generation of Botriphnie Primary pupils, ensuring the sustainability of the annual fishing trip for years to come. Amazing to think...it all started with a P1 boy with an idea bubble! Thanks to the success of Mathew's dream...the annual fishing trip is now 'up there' with Halloween, Christmas and Keith Show! Mrs Lawrence is working on a video to capture the day. Keep an eye on your inbox."

Miss Smith

### Opportunities for Personal Achievement

- Well done to Torin for demonstrating a 'Resilient Ruby' mindset by taking part in an Adventure Camp with his Scout group.
- We are proud of Keziah for showing a 'Have a Go, Jo' mindset by participating in a rugby tournament in Inverness.



### **Moray Basketball Tournament**



On Saturday 9th May, James, Sinan and Torin proudly represented the school at a Moray-wide basketball tournament. The pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sporting skills throughout the event. A special congratulations to James, who received an additional award in recognition of his outstanding sportsmanship and positive attitude during the tournament. Thank you to Mrs Simmers for

organising Botriphnie's participation in the event and supporting the pupils throughout the morning.



- Lexi has demonstrated a wonderful 'Have a Go, Jo' mindset by volunteering as a Young Leader with Active Schools. Every Friday, she supports an S6 pupil in leading a dance session for a range of primary pupils
- Lexi also demonstrated a 'Persevering Pete' mindset taking part in the Edinburgh Tartan Day celebrations. Pipe bands from all over Scotland attended the event, marching through Edinburgh before finishing at Princes Street Gardens in a parade that lasted an impressive hour.



Fingers crossed the sun will shine for Sports Day. Hoping to see you all there!

Warm regards,

*S. Chalmers.*

Stacey Chalmers  
Acting HT



## DIARY DATES

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** - Holiday

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Sports Day at Newmill park **1.00 pm**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June** - Pyjamarama - Wear PJs to school and donate £1 to Scottish Book Trust

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June** - Parent Council Coffee Morning at Botriphnie Hall 10-12 noon

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thu 25<sup>th</sup> June** - KGS P7-S1 Transition Days

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June** - Trip to Huntly cinema and park

**Tues 30<sup>th</sup> June - Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - P7 Outfit Moray

**Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - Term 4 ends

