



May 2022

Dear Families,

It has been fantastic to see so much sunshine this month; helped to remind us all we are, in fact, in the Summer Term. Newmill Primary continues to be a hive of activity as our calendar and school diary have a refreshing pre-covid feel! I had the privilege of accompanying P6/7 on their IDL trip to Fort George last week. I found the whole day bucket filling: the singing and chatter in the bus, the excitement and enthusiasm for the learning experience and the nurturing relationships on display between peers. It was a real pleasure to accompany them.

*"On Thursday our class went to Fort George. We split into two groups. One group looked outside around the Fort first. The other group went to the museum first. In the museum there were so many cool things. You could see badges, guns and uniforms. You could search up your last name and see how many medals had been won. All around the Fort were cannons. After we investigated everything we had our lunch and had a look in the gift shop. I would go again. I think I was developing the skills of an effective contributor: 'build team strengths' and 'get involved'." Lexi, P7*



P6/7 were delighted to welcome back Mr Leitch, KGS Librarian, this term as part of IDL study. Mr Leitch designed a Scottish History Quiz, in which learners had to use their 'finding evidence' skills to carefully select information from a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Our learners really enjoy Mr Leitch's lessons. We are so lucky to be able to work in partnership with him. I know our P7s will be on the lookout for him throughout transition days. Here's what Leah had to say ...

*"Today Mr Leitch (the KGS Librarian) came in. He showed us a website with a tour around the library. There are lots of clubs and study areas at KGS. There are books to click on to find out more. After this we got some books and crosswords. We had to find information in the books to complete the quiz. It was really fun and I was in flow."*

The P4/5 trip to the Highland Folk museum was of equal success, with all class members demonstrating a real Curious Carly Mindset throughout the day.



You could feel (and hear) the excitement from the moment P4/5 entered the school and it was still evident after a long day. Thanks to all staff accompanying for extending the school day so our learners could get the most from the experience. Here's what Jake Barclay had to say...

*"It was the best trip we've had so far. Last week P4/5 travelled to Newtonmore to the Highland Folk Museum. The best part was the school when the man told us how they lived in the past. Did you know you were not allowed to write with your left hand. You could be slapped in the knuckles with a wooden ruler for this."*

### **P1/2/3 trip**

Mrs Watt has made arrangements for her class to visit Fochabers Museum as part of our IDL on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. They plan to make a day of it and spend some time at the park over lunch. I really hope they benefit from the same great weather we enjoyed last week. It makes a huge difference. Children will be able to take a packed lunch from home or order one from school. A slip will be in bags next week outlining choices. Please keep an eye out and return asap.

### **George Gartly**

We were delighted to welcome George Gartly into school to kick start our IDL earlier this term. He spoke to the whole school, sharing his knowledge of Newmill's history. Here's what Barron had to say...

*"This week George Gartly visited the school to talk about Newmill's history. First he talked about primary and secondary sources. Then he spoke about the most famous person from Newmill. His name is Gordon J Bennett and he was famous for the newspaper the 'New York Herald'. He is also one of the characters in the Greatest Showman. Finally, we asked him some questions and got really interesting answers. The whole school were 'Curious Carly'-explore questions."* Barron, P7

### **Young Engineer**

Mrs Wright was delighted to share some very exciting news with her class, following their entries to the Young Engineers competition last term. Many pupils were awarded 'merits' and 'distinctions' for their designs. All certificates were shared in reflection jotters. However, this year we also secured a winning entry. Lexi Simpson, with the entry titled "No Waste Jar" was awarded winner of the National Competition. Her trophy and certificate will be sent to school shortly. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done Lexi! Photo to follow in our next newsletter.

### **Wellbeing Ambassadors**

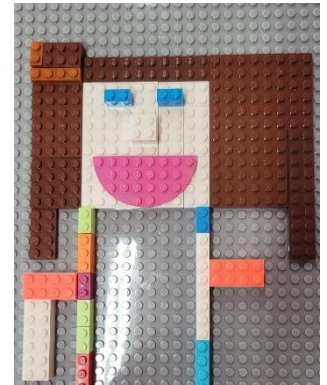
Our Wellbeing Ambassadors are up and running and contributing positively to the life and work of the school, promoting wellbeing entitlements through a variety of roles. Here we can see Millie being interviewed for the



post, as part of the initiative. The group has a dedicated wall space where they can access rotas and information to help remind them of their commitments. It's a real bucket filler to see the developing young workforce in action, promoting wellbeing for the benefit of all.

### Bikeability

As you can see, the diary is overflowing at the moment with visits, dates and engagements. However, we have managed to book 'Bikeability 2' for P5/6. This will take place during the three days when P7 are visiting KGS, as part of their transition. All P5/6 will participate. Outfit Moray will bring bikes along but there is an option to bring your own one from home. For pupils bringing their own bike, they need to take them to and from school on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June.**



### Lunchtime Lego Club

Lego club is a big hit, with a group of thirteen attending. Thank you to Mrs Wright and the Wellbeing Ambassadors for giving up their time to support. This week, the children have been creating 'selfies', with the aim of putting on a competition for the rest of the school.

### Hawick Ball

We must say a big thank you to Connor McWilliam, Rugby Development Officer, for leading Hawick Ball sessions for all P4/5 over the past few weeks. They have thoroughly enjoyed it. Here's what some of the children had to say...

*"Today we took part in Hawick Ball with Connor. He was our coach. The whole school had a 'Have a go Jo' Newmill Mindset. We were learning a name game. We split into two teams. We had to try and get from one side of the hall to the other. The person with the ball could not move but the rest of the team could. We had to think of different strategies to get the ball from one end of the hall to the other. We all want to go back again and try next week."* P4/5 reflection



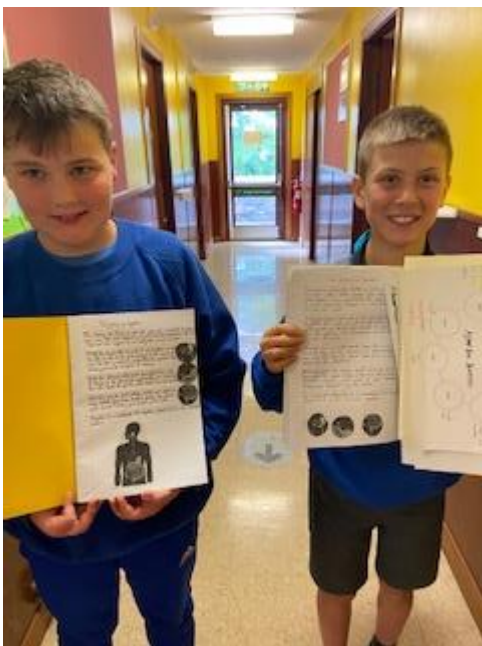
As part of the Active Schools offer, there has been an opportunity to participate in a Hawick festival. This will be on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at Keith Astro Turf from 1.30pm-2.30pm.** P4/5 were given the choice as to whether they would like to attend. It was an overwhelming ...yes! The bus has been booked.

### Sports

This year, we will be having Sports Day at Newmill Village Park on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm.** Botriphnie will be joining us for the event. Parents are welcome to come along and watch. Please note- you may want to bring something to sit on. Fingers crossed for good weather! Parent Council has arranged for an ice cream van to pop along to school at 2.30pm, with an ice cream for everyone as a treat. We will be having an early lunch. Those who occasionally go for home lunch may wish to stay in school with the change to normal routine.

## Transition week-last week of term

Arrangements for our end of term transition week is well under way. After a lovely face to face information session with our new P1 families this week, we are looking forward to welcoming our new additions for weekly transition sessions, as well as 'transition week'. Like last year, all classes will 'move up' with our P7s away on their Adventurous Activity week with Outfit Moray. This year, we have decided to use the money the school has received via RAGBAG to provide our learners with an extra special learning experience. We have booked 'Drum Fun' and all our new P1s right through to our current P6 will have the opportunity to enjoy the event on Monday of transition week. Bikeability has also been booked, with all pupils from P1-4 involved over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that same week. As predicted, we will need to split P3 and P5 next session with the following classes: - P1-3 (Mrs Watt), P3-5 (Mrs Clayton), P5-7 (Mrs Wright). Parents of children in P3 and P5 will receive letters shortly to let them know which class their child will be in next session.



## Staff Training-School Improvement

It was a real bucket filler when these two arrived, on behalf of their class, to share a proud moment this week. As part of our In-service, all teachers were able to participate in some fantastic professional learning, all the way from Australia. The title was 'Explicitly Teaching Writing' and we were all desperate to try out some of the things we learned with pupils. Great to see it is already having an impact! With more training ahead, this will form part of our school improvement journey next session.

*"We were creating an explanation text using the context of the digestive system. Mrs Wright tried something different this week. We used a new describing bubble template to help us plan what we were going to write. We used the bubble planning sheet to think through all our ideas and then created paragraphs from*

*our notes. I found this much easier. I felt like I knew exactly what to write and didn't repeat facts. It was a good feeling."* Brogan, P7

Have a lovely weekend,

## Diary Dates:-

- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**- Long weekend/school closed.
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**- sports afternoon at Village park 1-2.30.
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**- KGS transition days and Bikeability for P5/6
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June**- P1-3 trip
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June** -Hawick ball Festival for P4/5 at Keith Astro Turf from 1.30pm-2.30pm.
- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June**- Newmill Transition week-all children in new classes for four days with 'Drumfun' on Monday and Bikeability Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.