



June 2022

Dear Families,

What a busy month at Newmill Primary School. With so much to share this newsletter could be ten pages long. Let's take a look at some of the June highlights as we find ourselves all enjoying an increasing sense of 'normality'.

### Gardening

We have enjoyed some lovely weather of late which most definitely adds to the enjoyment of so many of our learning experiences this month. All our school trips, Sports Day, the Jubilee weekend and Bikeability were blessed with sunshine. In addition, Dennis Innes has made a very generous donation of a range of plants. As a result, Mrs Watt and her class have been busy brightening up our outdoor area. The children very much enjoyed their gardening session and I'm sure you'll all agree the results are bucket filling. Well done to everyone involved.



### Sports Day

Both schools particularly enjoyed our first joint sports day. It was wonderful to have Botriphnie join us at Newmill Village Park. The weather was perfect and the grass was in great condition. Thank you to all our family members who attended to cheer our Newmill Ninjas on! The children were delighted to receive an ice cream, via Parent Council Funds and it was a lovely finale to a successful afternoon. I must say a special thank you to Demi McLeod and Michael Barron. It was great to not only see former pupils in attendance but so willing to lend a hand. They both helped carry in and put away all the equipment from Mrs Henderson's car. It was a real bucket filler to see them back in school,



undertaking jobs and interacting with staff like they'd never left! *At school we had to go to the park for Sports Day. Overall, it was a really good afternoon. At the end we got an ice cream from Parent Council. It was delicious and nice of them to pay for it.*"

Dylan, P7



### **Jubilee Celebrations**

Our learners thoroughly enjoyed an action packed Jubilee themed day on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and were delighted with the crown making activity, supplied by Parent Council. The sea of red, white and blue was a sight to behold against the beautiful sunny background. More photos can be found on our website at the following link:-

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/newmillprimary/author/gw20mairjody2glow/>

Here's what Abi, P2, had to say...

*"We had an amazing Jubilee day. First we learned about the Queen and her life and completed her timeline. Next we took time to make a card and write a message to her. We got to make a bookmark, suncatcher, badge and coloured the Union Jack flag. On the afternoon, we made our crowns and did a parade around the school. The best part was having the Jubilee pageant. We were entertained with jokes, singing, dancing and even magic tricks. I performed a sword dance. We have decided our next step is to continue our celebrations over the weekend with family and friends. Also we have asked Mrs Watt if we can have another talent show at the end of term."*



**P1-3 Trip** Mrs Watt's class had a fantastic day out to Fochabers for their trip. Once again, the weather was on our side and the children enjoyed a mix of sports and active activities at the park, as well as an indoor afternoon at Fochabers Museum, as part of their IDL study 'Using evidence'. Mrs Watt was delighted with how well her pupils represented our school, with both the bus driver and the museum curator commenting on the impeccable manners on display....well done P1-3...bucket filling news!

## KGS transition

Our P7 learners have been delighted with the transition opportunities on offer this session. They have embraced each and every moment and it's lovely to hear



them so excited about entering the next stage of their education. Here, they are planting some trees for the Queen's Green Canopy at KGS, as part of their Jubilee Celebrations. They enjoyed being part of the Highland Games as it was a great opportunity to get a sense of the whole school, with a variety of year groups involved. I know there are plans to build on this next year...something for our new P7s to look forward to. The children have taken time to reflect on their transition journey this week, prior to leaving with Outfit Moray at 10am. Having reflected on all the opportunities 'The Loft Youth Project' have provided, they decided to send a thank you letter detailing the impact of the transition sessions. The letters filled Sharon's bucket and she asked me to remind them all to sign up for some of the activities within the Summer programme.

We were delighted to celebrate their last official day at Newmill Primary School with an Afternoon Tea. It was a lovely opportunity for all staff to spend some quality time with our P7s...a space to celebrate their memorable events and share funny anecdotes. We were all put to the test...the girls had prepared a staff quiz, testing our knowledge of the year group. I have to say, I think we did pretty well! Luisa played the piano for us all....it was amazing to hear her progress. We presented gifts and, of course, Barron then piped us out. He did so well to perform under pressure...there was quite a crowd outside. It made for a lovely send off. I've already asked if I can book him for next year! I'd like to say a special thank you to Mrs Watt. It was special event for all staff but especially her as a P7 parent herself. She insisted on paying for the Afternoon Teas, as a gift to celebrate Luisa's time at Newmill Primary....we are all very grateful.



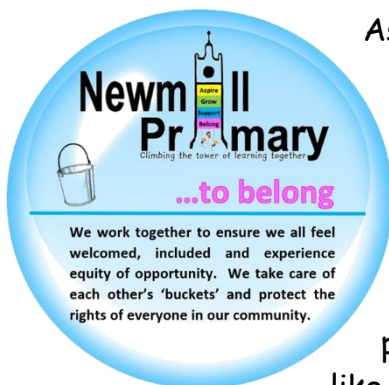
Many of our P7s have indicated an interest in coming back on Friday afternoons. We would welcome that and have already considered roles in which they can continue to inspire, support and lead learning.

### Transition week

This week, P7 enjoy an action packed week of Outdoor Activities with Outfit Moray and the rest of the school 'move up' for the week and enjoy the opportunity to build relationships with their 'new' class ahead of the Summer Break. It has been amazing to hear about their adventures on a daily basis. Every child should be immensely proud of what they have achieved. We have been looking at the skills of a 'Confident Individual' as we think about individual achievements.



*"On Monday and Tuesday we were with Outfit Moray on our activity days. On Monday, we started with Bushcraft (making shelters with tarpaulins, fires and storm practice). Then we went Tyrolean (making almost a zipline out of a rope). Then on Tuesday we went Coasteering (climbing up rocks and jumping into water). We were out of our comfort zones but had lots of fun. Communication and trust was a big part of it. We had to be 'Persevering Pete' to conquer the challenge. We are looking forward to the next challenge of kayaking and paddle boarding next."* P7 Girls



As lead learner, it is a real bucket filler to see, hear and feel the motivation our pupils have for transition week. The enthusiasm for either meeting new teacher or mixing with a new variety of learners is enough to keep engagement levels soaring right through the last week. Mrs Watt has been delighted with how our new P1 recruits have transitioned smoothly, confidently approaching their first week at 'big school'. They've been made a real fuss of in the playground, with a swarm of helpers around to make sure they feel like they belong.

**Bikeability** Well done to all our P6s who passed 'Bikeability 2' this term. They were absolutely delighted with their progress. The rest of the school have been enjoying Bikeability, as part of transition week. Here's what Robbie and Michaela had to say..."*We enjoyed the bike check to see if our bikes were well. We were learning about bike safety and*



*found out if we didn't learn, we could get badly injured. We are developing as Confident Individuals, developing the skill: manage risk."*



**Drum Fun** Everyone really enjoyed having Drum Fun as part of transition week. Here's what Millie M and Milo had to say... *"We learned that drumming is a really good instrument and we were all in flow. It was exciting and now many of us would love to be drummers. We learned how to make different beats on an African Drum.'* We were able to provide this opportunity as a result of community RAGBAG donations. Mrs Jamieson is looking to get it emptied again as soon as possible, ready for anyone having a holiday clear out!

**Wider achievements** I wanted to say a huge well done to all those confident individuals entertaining us in the Stagestars Show. Mrs Mair and I both went to see it and our buckets were overflowing with pride, watching so many of our Newmill Ninjas giving it their all. Well done to all involved.



Yet another wonderful school year is drawing to a close, and although we are all looking forward to the holidays, there is also a sense of loss as we contemplate our P7 learners moving on. The children are such an integral part of all our lives and we enjoy such positive relationships in the school that we really miss them. Newmill is such a happy wee school and everyone who comes through the door feels that "specialness." Every day your children are a source of joy and inspiration to us and there is never a dull moment with them around. Thank you for entrusting them to our care.

Have an awesome holiday everyone!

Rachael Smith

**Diary Dates**

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August**- In Service Day -Staff return to school
- **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August**- School open to pupils-Term 1 begins-please remember children should come to school in PE kits as Mrs Henderson will be in on the first day back.
- **Last week of term 1** - 'Settling In' Parents meetings
- **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October**- Term 1 ends -Holidays begin
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October**- Term 2 begins-school open