



August 2022

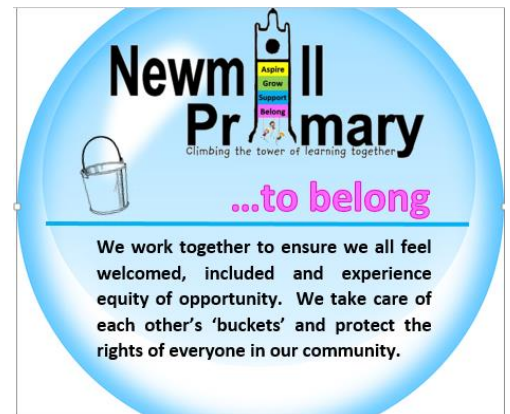
Dear Families,

I would like to start with a very warm welcome to a new school year at Newmill Primary School. The first few weeks are always such an exciting time as we catch up with each other again; raring to go after a long Summer Break. We must start with a warm welcome to Mr Woodcock, our new P1 group, as well as, Hunter and Harlow joining P5. We are delighted to welcome you all to Newmill Primary School.

Transition Week

Transition week was a great success. Our P1 learners were made very welcome and settled in beautifully. Here they were on the last Thursday, tucking into their lunch. Mrs Watt is delighted with how much they have remembered from transition week ...it's fair to say...routines are well established and we are only three weeks in...that's what I call 'road to awesome' learning!

Starting school is something they've all been thinking and talking about for some time now. I'm sure they were a little nervous as the big day finally arrived. They have all managed their emotions brilliantly. I was super impressed to have some children volunteer for a newsletter reflection...clear evidence their wellbeing needs are being met here at Newmill. They already have the confidence to volunteer to come along to my office so we can talk about school life...amazing! Here's what Niamh and Kaiden had to say about starting school...



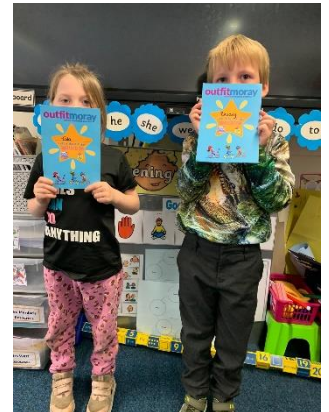
"I like school because I like learning to write something. We were writing about nears this week and I was underwriting." Kaiden

"I like school a big bit. I really like 'Fresh Air Friday. We do some sports and also make dens and some ladies come to school to help us. They are really nice." Niamh

Let's take a look back at some of the learning experiences at the end of last term...

Transition week

"Overall, I really enjoyed transition week. I liked it because it was fun having the new P4s in our class. I liked all the games we played to get to know each other. The bikeability was really fun but at the same time it could be hard. I found it quite hard going round a corner especially on the downhill part of the playground. It is hard to keep your balance. I've been sitting beside new people and I feel as though I've met new people even within my year group. It makes me think that I need to listen to people more and give people more chances sometimes. It's nice being older in the class because the younger ones look up to you a bit." Thea, P5



Bikeability

Thank you so much to Outfit Moray for providing cycle training for the whole school. The children spoke so positively about the experience and have made great progress. It never ceases to amaze us all how quickly they progress, with the expert support of Outfit Moray. Many achieved Bikability 1 and some Bikeability 2. We even had some progress from non-cyclist to beginner...well done all!



Musical Success

We were delighted to be an audience for Mr Friday's P5 percussion group. On the last week, they performed a small concert to the whole school and we were super impressed with the progress they have made. Here's what Ezra had to say...

"We have been learning to play tuned percussion instruments with Mr Friday. We have learned two songs which we performed to the whole school.

They were called 'Suo gan' and 'Les Buffons'. I was a confident individual. I managed my



emotions well and was happy to perform. I'm pleased I can read music and play a new instrument."

Reporting

We are delighted to be able to offer face to face settling in Parental Meetings at the end of this term. However, we are aware the option of a phone call suits some parents better. Therefore, we will be issuing forms, with a choice of face to face or phone call. Please check bags tonight. In preparation for the meeting, teachers will be working with an updated Termly Reporting Template. Our aim: to enable parents to fully understand their child's learning and how to work in partnership to support progress. Therefore, we will be providing more detailed information about progress within a level, strengths and next steps. Teachers will talk through this at Parents Meeting and a copy of information shared will follow in reflection jotters.

School Improvement

As a staff team, we are refreshed and raring to go. The start of a new session is always a time of optimism and hope for the months that lie ahead and everyone in the school community is looking forward to taking part in all the learning experiences and opportunities Newmill Primary offers. It's that time of year again when I can't help but fondly remember my Granda, at the ripe old age of 98, reminiscing about his school days and have lost count of the amount of times that he would tell me how happy he was at school saying "School days are just great, Rachael!" I often think of this and how privileged I feel to have never left school as schools, are indeed, magical places...walls that surround the future! I know I speak for all of the staff here at Newmill when I say we aim to make sure all the children who pass through our doors are left with fond memories of a magical time.

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Wednesday 31st August**- Parent Council Meeting in School at 6pm
- **Tuesday 27th September**-Mr Woodcock and Mrs Wright-P5-7 Parental Meet
- **Tuesday 5th October**- Mrs Clayton's P3-5 Parental Meet
- **Thursday 7th October**- Mrs Watt's P1-3 Parental Meet
- **Wednesday 5th October**-Newmill Flu Vaccine
- **Friday 8th October**- Term ends
- **Monday 25th October**- Term 2 starts
- **Monday 15th November and Tuesday 16th November**- In -Service closure