



October 2022

I hope you all had a lovely time during the holidays, whatever you were up to. I can hardly believe we are approaching November! We may have only been back to school for a week but we already have so much to share!

We must start with a warm welcome to Hamish and Callum. We are delighted they have joined our school community. They arrived full of smiles and raring to go on Monday. I must congratulate their classmates ...I've witnessed first-hand some very nurturing interactions as they aim to make sure both boys quickly feel like they belong here in our wonderful wee school.

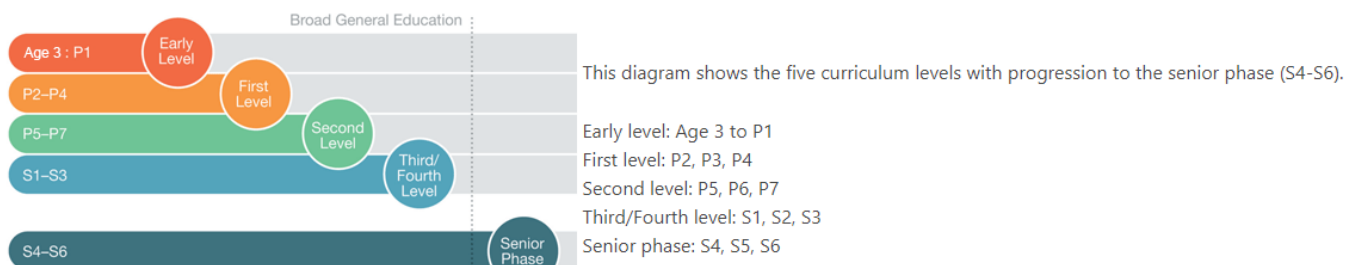


Partnership Working-Parental Involvement and Engagement

It was a real bucket filler to be able to have parents back in school at the end of last term. We were delighted to welcome ALL parents for either a face to face or telephone call to share each child's progress, attainment and achievement. As part of our school improvement focus, we have made some changes to our reporting format, to provide more detailed information around each child's progress within Early, First and Second Curriculum for Excellence Levels (reminder below). Teachers shared information collated within reports at the end of last term. A written version of this information will be shared in reflection jotters this **Friday-28th October**. As a school, we are committed to supporting parents to actively engage in their child's learning and request your views to evaluate the impact of our

Curriculum levels

There are five curriculum levels - Early, First, Second, Third and Fourth - in the **broad general education** (from early years to the end of S3).



improvements and help identify next steps. A survey link will be shared via email. Our aim is to ensure parental and pupil views are at the heart of our approaches.

Parent Council Update

It was great to see so many people in the school hall for our recent Parent Council AGM and fantastic to be able to appoint a full suite of Office Bearers. The Chair's report highlighted the benefit the group provides to the children of Newmill Primary. We appreciate the commitment of each and every member and are proud of how partnership working is improving outcomes for all our learners. Please remember Parent Council Minutes can be found on our school blog. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/newmillprimary/home-page/parent-council/>

Donna Shepherd (PC Chair) also shares a quick summary of the latest meeting within Newmill Parent Council Facebook Group to make sure all parents are aware of the achievements, current focus and how to support Parent Council.

We must say a big thank you to Ashley for organising Newmill Pumpkin Hunt for the children...we have quite a few entries handed in to school. It's such a fun activity for families to enjoy during the holiday period.



Mrs Jamieson is in the process of organising Newmill Primary School Tea Towels as a Christmas Fundraiser. This was suggested at our last Parent Council Meeting. As a Parent Council, we are very aware of the current cost of living crisis. As a result, Mrs Jamieson is asking for order numbers in advance. Please do not feel any pressure to purchase- we will only purchase the requested amount. Mrs Jamieson has sent an email and form home containing information on Wednesday. Turnaround dates are tight and are set within the form and email.



Reading School Accreditation-

Parental Support We were absolutely blown away by the support for the Scholastic Book Fair earlier this month. A whopping £403.97 commission was awarded to us on the basis of our school spend. We must say a huge thank you to Mrs Jamieson for organising and supporting the sale of books. This will help make sure all learners have access to updates reading material, relevant to their needs



interests and experiences. Looking ahead to Christmas, the children were able to identify authors and titles they would like to explore further via whole class novel study in term three, funded by Parent Council Christmas Gift. Pupil led selection and votes were key in selecting our novels. It was great to have the Book fair in the school hall to discuss genres, authors and how to select books using the blurb as well as the front cover.



IDL-'World Of Work'

Our whole school Interdisciplinary Study has been carefully planned with a focus on the Wellbeing Indicator 'Achieving' through a focus on 'The World of Work', looking to develop our children's creativity and employability skills via an apprentice style business challenge. Discussions have already started around possible business projects within each class.

This IDL will combine the curricular areas Health and Wellbeing and Social Studies, with a cross curricular focus on 'Money' within numeracy and Maths. We are looking to identify business partners to talk to learners, sharing their own 'World of work' stories. We would also like to offer parents the opportunity to come in to school to talk about their career.

Letters have been sent home-please indicate if you would be willing to talk to your child's class via the form provided.

Some of the P3s have popped into visit this week to tell me about an exciting letter they received. It was a challenge from 'SpaceBoy' ...to learn about the 'World of Work' and report back to him. A copy of David Walliam's new book 'Space Boy' arrived with the letter for the children to learn about his work too. The boys *'think the book is amazing.'*



Health and Wellbeing- Friendship Focus in our P5-7 Girls Group

Mrs Wright's Mighty Girls' Group is up and running and our learners tell us they are benefiting from the experience. Here's what they had to say...

"Mighty Girls is about keeping friendships and how to solve problems with your friends. It is every Monday. We can sit anywhere we want and we sit somewhere new each week. Mrs Wright said we should try to pair with people we wouldn't normally sit or play with and explore new questions."

Bay and Molly

*"On Mondays we go to a friendship group with Mrs Wright. This week we explored different partners by playing a cue card game. We also explored the following quote:
A real friend is one who walked in when the rest of the world walked out." Thea, P5*

Lost Property

We have a significant amount of school jumpers in our 'Lost Property Box'- please come into school on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning (when Mrs Jamieson is here) if you have missing items. It is very difficult for us to help children if they don't have a name on their jumper. We would encourage all parents to make sure school items are labelled. We would like to ask for your views on PE clothes. We are now in a position where we could return to children bringing PE kits to school, rather than wearing on the day. We will have a question within the Parental Questionnaire mentioned above.



Catering Assistant

Moray Council are on the lookout for a Relief Catering Assistant at Newmill Primary School. Please contact Debbie on 01343557063 if you are interested.

Remembrance Day

Poppies will be available from Monday. Wellbeing Ambassadors will circulate classes selling poppies on a Monday and Friday until Remembrance Day. Pupils can bring donations at any point within this time.

**P7 Rural Transition dates and times at THE LOFT
5.30 -6.30pm**

- Nov - 4Th, 11Th, 18Th & 25Th
- Dec - 2nd

Warm regards,

Rachael Smith, Head teacher

- **Wednesday 9th November**-Library Van visiting
- **Monday 14th November**-In-service closure
- **Tuesday 15th November** -In service closure
- **Thursday 15th December**- Christmas Lunch
- **Friday 9th December**-Community Themed- Christmas Jumper Day
- **Tuesday 20th December**-Christmas Party Day
- **Thursday 22nd December**- Last Day of term
- **Monday 9th January**- Term 3 begins

