



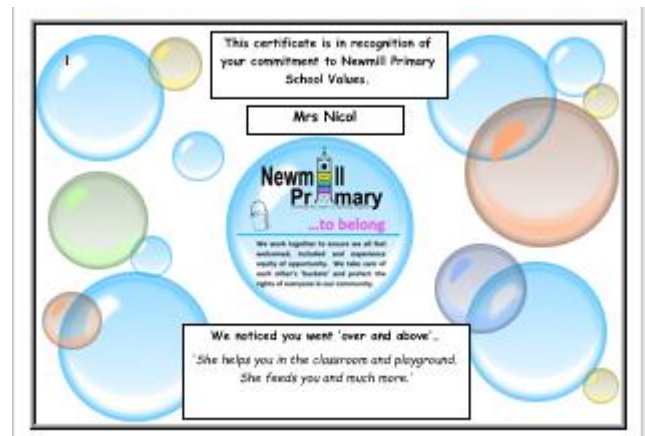
November 2022

Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and surviving the gloom of November and the darker nights. I can't believe that we are already more than half way through the month and got a shock yesterday when someone mentioned that we only have four weeks of term left after this one. However, our Christmas preparations are well under way which is exciting for us all. Each class is busy finalising their business ideas and preparing for their class Christmas Fayre. ! Let's take a look at the term so far...

### Values based Curriculum

We decided to switch things around this term and kick start the term with our 'Over and Above' recognition Certificates. As a staff team, we were impressed with some of our learners...they demonstrated a real Newmill Ninja Mind-set, as they reflected on their target. The levels of honestly were to be commended, with some



reporting they did not achieve their target and opted to review it at a later stage. As a school, we decided to recognise the commitment of our Parent Council Office Bearers with an 'Over and Above' Certificate as they embark upon another session maintaining their roles. I have a feeling there may be more adult votes ahead, as learners benefit from a steady stream of parents and visitors, supporting us to provide motivating learning experiences across the school.

### World Book Week Celebrations

The whole school enjoyed a book themed day of fun activities on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November to celebrate World Book Week. We must say a special thank you to Jo, Lucia and Anna for their fab idea bubbles and Mrs Wright for helping them organise their ideas and bring them to life.



*"To celebrate World Book week we had a 'Lorax' colourful themed day. As part of the event we had a book swap. Everyone was able to pick books to keep. Some people got quite a few. Anna, Lucia and Jo presented an assembly about the main themes within the book/movie. The theme was 'deforestation' so it was a good idea to recycle books. We also celebrated the Colourful Lorax trees with an art activity planned by the girls. We had a guess the teachers book quiz to complete and found out we all have new books to study in our classes next term, thanks to Parent Council." P5/6/7*

Mr Leitch, KGS librarian, was unable to come along to our World book Day celebration but he has arranged to join us on Christmas Jumper Day with a 'Guess the Genre' Activity for each class. Our learners absolutely love his lessons and activities so we are very much looking forward to celebrating the world of books with him once again. P3-5 also made a decision on our Lorax themed day...this year they would like to donate to Scottish Book Trust. On their website we learned that "Too many children in Scotland do not have books at home. Books bring magic, comfort and joy. Donate now to give the magic of books to a child." Any donations received on Christmas Jumper day will go towards this good cause.

### **Digital Learning**

*"On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November Ewan came it to teach us how to use Micro bits. A micro bit is basically a little rectangle with twenty five lights. You can make animations with these lights depending on what buttons you press. We made a blinking smiley face and a smiley face moving to a sad face and a square that shrunk. I was a confident individual and was able to follow the instructions to make the animation. Next, I'm going to share this and use the micro bits in coding club. I'm going to extend coding club (Wednesday lunchtime) to invite P4s now that we have all had the training." Ezra*



### **Developing Young Workforce- World of Work presentations**

We are delighted to welcome parents in to school for a variety of different reasons this term. We are grateful to everyone who volunteered to give up their time to come and talk about their career pathway. This provides a real meaningful context for learners to make connections between the skills we are developing in school and how this relates to the world of work, using 'the wall'. At a recent Parent Council meeting, we discussed the terminology used in school to describe our curriculum, including the skills and attitudes we are developing for learning, life and work. Mrs Mair and Mrs Wright have been working with learners to produce an interactive 'wall' to help support us on our journey to develop a shared language, understood by all, across the whole school community. P5-7 will be showcasing this, along with many other things, at their event on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. I am looking forward to sharing it at our next Parent Council Meeting.





*"Jaxon's auntie Cheryl came into speak about being a nurse. We asked her lots of questions. She told us all about her job and what she has to do. I think she has to work long hours. Nursing is an interesting job but you have to like blood."* Oscar

### **IDL Update -Wold of Work**

All classes have been learning to work cooperatively as a business team and our school is a hive of activity, as learners participate in associated business enterprise activities in preparation for class Christmas Fayres. Here's what our learners had to say...

*"We only have four weeks left until our Christmas Fayre. We have been very busy coming up with good idea bubbles for this event. This week, we had Beth and David come to show us how to make wooden Christmas Decorations. We loved woodwork. It was really fun. We especially liked the painting, decorating and drilling. The end result was spectacular. Everyone made their own unique decoration. We think parents will be very impressed. We would like to say thank you to Beth and David for this fantastic opportunity."* Freya, P5 and Logan, P4

*"Today we were learning to make cool things with wood. We were basically learning how to join things together like a joiner. It was fun and cool. I think parents won't believe we made them but our names are on them so they will know. We really like ours. The end result is pretty cool.*

*We have been practising our words a lot to present our Christmas Play. We would say we are between two and three in the learning pit with this, probably closer to three because we are all remembering more of our lines and song words."* Jacob and Jack, P2

*"Today at 9.05 my class went into the hall to take part in some Christmas Crafts for our Christmas Fayre. First we had to sand the wood to make it smooth. Next we had to drill the Christmas tree and base together. After that we painted our trees. It was great fun!"* Bay



## In- Service Training

The whole school attended staff training at Keith Grammar School on Monday of In Service. The focus was the launch of The Moray's Nurture Principles for all. We took part in a range of professional development activities and evaluated our own practice at Newmill, against the six principles of nurture to decide on our next steps. It would be great to share the principles and discussions around this at a Parent Council Meeting in the future.

I've included the diary dates below, with some updates to the letter earlier this month. We very much look forward to seeing you all in school over the next few weeks.

Warm regards,



Rachael Smith, Head teacher

## DIARY DATES

- **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**-Christmas Jumper day - all children are welcome to wear something festive. This can be a jumper, t-shirt, a bit of tinsel, headband, whatever they have at home. This is a community themed day, where we take time to think of others at Christmas. We will be making and delivering Christmas Cards for the community and any donations will go towards Scottish Book Trust as mentioned above.
- **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - P5-7 Christmas Fayre 2-3pm-**all parents welcome**. We understand some parents may have work commitments. Please feel free to invite extended family members in your place. Learners will start to present at 2pm. All pupils will all be performing a musical piece, those who volunteered will be sharing a song. Learners have also selected to showcase green screen reports as well as their craft sale.
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - School Christmas Lunch
- **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec** - P1-3 Christmas Fayre 2-3pm-**all parents welcome**. We understand some parents may have work commitments. Please feel free to invite extended family members in your place. Please arrive for 2pm otherwise you may miss presentations.
- **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party Day** - all children to come to school dressed in clothes of their choice. Please note normal school uniform is also absolutely fine. There will be a P1-4 Christmas Party and P5-7 party.
- **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** - P3-5 Christmas Fayre 2-3pm. We understand some parents may have work commitments. Please feel free to invite extended family members in your place. Please arrive for 2pm otherwise you may miss presentations.
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** - at 9.30 Whole school to St Thomas Chapel for a Christmas Service -Please note this is a provisional date. Both schools will be performing songs. Parents are welcome to join the service. Last day of term -school closes at usual time.
- **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January**- Term 3 begins

