



January 2023

Dear Families,



I hope that January is treating you well and that the various bugs that are around are not affecting you too badly. They seem to be working their way through the children. It's a nuisance but there's not a lot we can do.

It's hard to believe that we are already almost at the end of January and I am delighted to see that the days are beginning to stretch out. January is generally an event free time in terms of our school diary which provides a great opportunity to put all our efforts into routine everyday learning experiences and take an in depth look at pupil progress. Throughout the term, teachers will be working with learners to complete an attainment overview which will be included in reflection jotters at the end of this term. Based on parental feedback, via last term's questionnaire, we will be issuing these via reflection jotters on **Friday 24th March**, ahead of parental meetings within the last week of term.

Christmas Show and Fayre

Before sharing information about the term ahead, I must, as usual, look back to last term and reflect on the awesome performance given by all our children at their Christmas Events. For many, this was their first time presenting to an audience. They managed their emotions brilliantly and the performances were clear evidence they are all developing extremely well as confident individuals. Huge thanks to all staff and children for their total professionalism and diligence! Everyone made such a positive contribution and it was great to see parents and family members back in school again. In total, the children made a profit of £736.00 ... an amazing amount of money...a huge heart-felt thanks from us all!

The children worked hard on their business teams to produce some lovely items to sell at the



Fayre. Each class will be sharing an evaluation of the process, as well as how they intend using the profits to enhance learning experiences.

Here's what Lyla had to say....

"Primary 3/4/5 presented a Christmas Show and Fayre on the 21st of December at Newmill Primary School. We were as busy as a bee hive! Mrs Mair helped us with the show and Mrs Wright and Mrs Whyte helped us with the crafts. We did it for

IDL to raise money for our class. I felt nervous because I had never done a show at school before and haven't done a show in a while and excited because it was my first time. We raised £220. Lots of adults came to watch the show."



Christmas Jumper day

Thanks to everyone for supporting Christmas Jumper Day. Community Cards were made and delivered. Thank you to Mrs Watt for helping out with this. The wintery conditions made it difficult to involve our learners this year. We were able to send £31.51 to Scottish Book Trust, supporting them to provide books for those without.



Carol Concert and St Thomas Chapel

Thanks to family members who joined us at St Thomas Chapel on the last day of term. It was wonderful to hear the children from Botriphnie, Newmill and St Thomas share some songs with each other. Our learners looked really smart and performed well. They all enjoyed the chance to visit St Thomas Chapel. It's such a lovely building and we were so lucky to have a view of the wonderful nativity scene from our seats. Thank you to Mrs Byrne for organising for us to be part of the service. It was a very special way to end a great term.

Librarian Visit

We were delighted to welcome Mr Leitch to Newmill Primary once again. This time, he visited each class with a 'genre' exploring activity. The children absolutely love his visits and they most definitely support our plans to enhance our school's reading culture....the enthusiasm and buzz he creates is infectious. Let's take a look at what our learners had to say...



"Today Mr Leitch visited us to help us learn about 'genres'. 'Genre' is a word to describe different types of books. Some different genres are: comedy, horror, history and fantasy. My favourite genre is mystery. We played a game called 'Guess the Genre' where we picked out an envelope which had three key words and a book inside. We guessed which genre the book inside was and I got 9/11. I was in flow and I was a successful learner."

"Today Mr Leitch came to visit. He is a librarian at Buckie and Keith. He helped us recognise genres of books. He was making us 'Curious Carly' and helping us develop the literacy and English wiggly worm. At the beginning of the lesson, I was at three in the pit because I had connected my ideas. Now I'm at four because I know what it means and all the genres. I demonstrated a 'Curious Carly' and 'Independent Isla' Newmill Ninja Mindset." Logan, P4



Celebrating success-Our Summer Reading

Challenge certificate arrived last term.

Well done to Lyla, Eilidh, Brodie, Adelle, Michaela, Jo, Finlay and Mia for their efforts.

IDL- This term our whole school focus is to

explore Sustainable development goal 13, with a focus on developing as responsible citizens.

Big Idea: **CHANGE** Appreciate that WE are creating the history of the future and, as such, we can identify ourselves as catalysts for change.

S.D.G. Climate Action 13

Rights focus- Article 29 (goals of education) Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Big Questions to guide our learning:-

What is Climate Change?

How do changes in one part of Earth's systems affect other parts?

What is the impact of climate change?

What can we do to help Climate Change?

Can humans survive and thrive without using up the resources of the planet?

Curricular areas we will combine:-

- Science
- Technology
- Social studies



Learners are already in flow and asking lots of 'Curious Carly' questions. We are using the class reader, supplied by Parent Council, as a 'hook' and feedback so far has been very positive. Here's what some of our learners had to say...

"In IDL time, we have been listening to 'Two Degrees' by Alan Gratz. It's a really cool book and is spilt into parts. So far we have read two parts. One about a girl in a wildfire and one about a boy who lived near the Arctic Circle. I actually really like it and would recommend it to all ages apart from very little kids. It really good because you get information about Climate Change but to listen to a great story too.

After we read Akira's story we learned more about

Wildfires. Now I know there are three types of wildfires, crown fire, surface fire and ground fire. "

Finlay and Marcus

"The book is really good and fun reading it. I keep imagining being in the story and it makes me feel quite sad to think about what is happening to the planet. The only bad thing is each story ends on a cliff hanger and you have to wait to hear how the story is going to end."

Dexter

Leadership opportunities

I would just like to say a big thank you to our S1s who come back each Friday from the school bus to support 'Fresh Air Friday'. Last Friday, Ella More (S4) surprised us with a visit and a kind offer to help in classes. It's a real bucket filler to welcome them back through our doors, with a continued focus on supporting all learners and climbing the tower of learning together.



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Smith".

- **Friday 10th and Monday 14th February**- Long weekend -school closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 28th March**- Mrs Watt's Parental meetings
- **Wednesday 29th March**- Mrs Wright's Parental meetings
- **Thursday 30th March**- Mrs Mair and Miss Smith Parental meetings

