



February 2023

Dear Families,

February has most definitely flown past...must be a sign we have all been in 'flow'. Our Newmill Ninjas have been putting their learning superpowers to the test and have so much news to share. Let's take a look...

Leadership opportunities

Our Friday afternoons have been transformed with the whole school involved in mini leadership projects. We have P1/2 leading playful learning experiences via 'Fresh Air Friday' and P3-7 in mixed groupings leading the following school improvement groups:

- **Language Leaders** with Mrs Smith
- **Rights Leaders** with Miss Smith
- **Reading Leaders** with Mrs Wright
- **Self-Directed Learning Opportunities** with Mrs Mair.

All groups have been busy creating an action plan to guide their sessions. Our reading group are leading activities on World Book Day -2nd March. They have also kick-started 'DEAR time' where we drop everything and read when we hear the bell ring throughout the school. Rights Leaders have been keeping up to date with Global Affairs and organised the dress as you please day in response to the disaster in Syria and Turkey. A total of £112.00 was donated to UNICEF's appeal on Friday. Thank you to all parents for their support-our learners loved coming to school in their PJs. Having just been in all classes, I'm delighted to see them learners channel their Newmill Ninja Learning superpowers, despite their attire! Next, we look to creating an action plan to achieve Gold Rights Respecting School Award. Groups will rotate on a six weekly basis. It's brilliant to be able to welcome parents in to support



the work of Leadership Groups. Thanks to those who have volunteered. Please remember if you would like to be involved you must see Mrs Jamieson to arrange a PVG check.

Family Learning Opportunity

It was lovely to invite parents into school last week as the P5-7 girls shared information about the focus of their work with Mrs Wright; learning how to build and maintain empowering friendships. All families received a set of handouts to support with the aim of building a shared language and approach, based on up to date research and theory. Thanks to everyone for their support and well done to the girls...they were able to share their learning well.

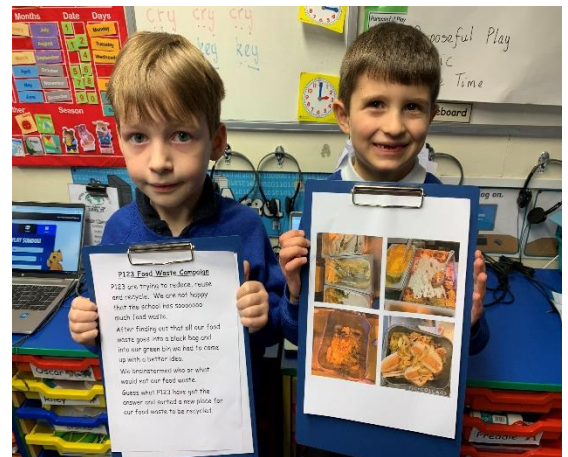


IDL Update

P123 Food Waste Campaign

"P123 have been learning about the 3 rs - reduce, reuse and recycle. We have been monitoring the food waste in the canteen and we were not happy! So we explored what we could do. We brainstormed who or what would eat our food waste. PIGS - yes pigs!!! Although we are happy now our food waste is being recycled we still want everyone in the school to think about what you are putting on your plate and try to eat it all - don't just take a nibble and throw it in the bin! P123 have put up posters in the dinner hall to remind everyone."

Rhuary & Jack



Energy Workshop

As part of our IDL, we arranged for Lindsey Jackson, an energy technician with Moray Council to visit and present a workshop, with a variety of different experiments, to help us learn about energy. I think we were all very surprised to learn about how much it costs to run the school. All children were in flow...lots of hands on practical experiments to help them through Newmill's Learning Pit.



"On Tuesday we were learning to understand and name types of energy and recognise and compare renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. We got a visit from Lyndsey and

Perry, they work for Moray Council Energy Department and they showed us how energy works. The wiggly worms focus was science, literacy and numeracy. At the start of the lesson I was one in the pit but now I'm definitely two. Harlo, P5

DYW project-Big Build

The whole school has been involved in a Developing Young Workforce (DYW) Event- named 'Big Build'. The children have to recreate a local or Scottish Landmark from recyclable materials. Their idea bubbles have filled the school...with a number of construction projects underway. We are very lucky indeed....Mrs Watt has managed to persuade Mr Watt to come and help with the construction process and our learners are appreciating his idea bubbles. So far, P1-3 have constructed Newmill's Clock tower, P3-5 are constructing the Duke of Gordon's Monument on Ladyhill, Elgin. P5-7 are aiming to construct Eilean Castle by Kyle of Lochalsh. Photos to follow in our next Newsletter. We will arrange for the creations to be on display during Parental Meetings in the last week of term.



Developing Young Workforce

We have been fortunate to welcome some visitors into school throughout February. Visitors are so exciting for the children. They not only help us learn about the range of career options but help them make sense of how the skills they are developing in school will support them in the future.

Thank you to Hannah Manchester for coming into talk to P1/2/3 about her job. The children were most definitely in flow. Here's what Finlay and Oscar had to say....

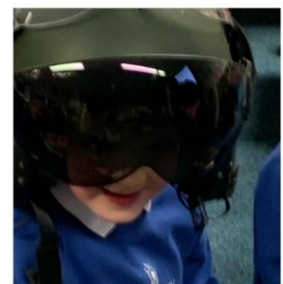


PIC•COLLAGE

"Ezra's Mum, Hannah came into P123 to speak about her job. She told us who she works with, who/what she has to deal with and about animal cruelty. Hannah let us try on her uniform and feel animal skulls. We learned that the police have different jobs that they do to keep people and animals safe. Also that cruelty to animals needs to stop. It was interesting to hear how Hannah had to deal with criminals." Finlay and Oscar

Thank you also to Stuart Minnis for visiting each class in the school. Our learners thoroughly enjoyed hearing about life in the RAF. Here's what our learners had to say...

"Stuart came in to school to speak about his job. He told us about his job and showed us a powerpoint. The best part was seeing the jets he had flown. Stuart described where he had visited and about searching for Russian submarines. He showed us his uniform and we got to try on his helmet. We learned that we have to be good at Maths to do his job." Jacob



Fundraising Success

Well done to these three siblings for their family enterprise project to raise more money for Fresh Air Friday resources.

Scottish Opera

I'm delighted to announce that P6/7 have the opportunity to join in with P6 pupils across the ASG to take part in a musical performance organised by Scottish Opera Theatre Company. This year's theme is **Creepy, kooky, giggly and goofy** - *The Curse of MacCabbra Opera House* is filled to the brim with goosebumps galore.



Located in a gloomy Highland Glen, the long forgotten MacCabbra Opera House's doors are creaking open ready to welcome a new generation of young performers. Come with us if you dare; meet the mysterious Madame Dee Parton and struggling writers Compo Zerr and Libby

Retto as they race to finish their new masterpiece before the clock strikes midnight! Please check dates below as the final performance will take place on the afternoon of **May 10th**- parents are welcome to attend. However, there is a lot to be done before the final performance. Mrs Mair has a list of songs and a learning resource pack ready to make sure our learners are prepared.

Please take a minute to check through the diary dates below...lots to look forward to in the months ahead. Thank you for returning parental meeting slips. Exact interview times will be in reflection jotters on **Friday 3rd March**. We would appreciate if you could initial to let us know you have noted the date. All teachers are having one to one learning conversations with teachers and constructing reports. These will be presented via reflection jotters on Friday 24th March, ahead of parental meetings.

Looking forward to seeing you all then.



DIARY DATES

- **Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 1st March**- School closed to pupils
- **Thursday 2nd March** -World Book Day celebrations-either dress as book character or take your favourite book to school.
- **Friday 3rd March** -P6/7 to take part in a HWB session delivered by SONAS-Botriphnie joining
- **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
- **Friday 31st March**-Easter Holidays
- **Monday 17th April**- Start of Summer Term
- **Monday 1st May**- School Holiday
- **Saturday 6th May**- Newmill Picnic -Coronation Theme
- **Monday 8th May**- Coronation Holiday
- **Wednesday 10th May**-Scottish Opera Performance-P6/7
- **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th May**- In Service -school closed to pupils
- **Monday 5th June**- Holiday-school closed
- **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June**- KGS transition days for P7

