



March 2023

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of term...March has certainly been a quick month (although a pretty cold one). Fingers crossed the cold weather is behind us and all the lovely Spring sunshine appears over the holidays.

Developing Young Workforce -Successful Learners

As always, we have a wealth of exciting learning experiences to share with you all, none more than, the swarm of children who ran over to my car on Friday as I came up the road from Botriphne at lunchtime. It was brilliantly bucket filling news...NEWMILL HAD WON the DYW CHALLENGE P1-3 category. The children were buzzing. I'm so glad the class were able to attend the event in person to hear the result as well as the judge's comments. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Watt for all their hard work supporting our learners with the entry. It was a thoroughly well-deserved win...so many 'Persevering Pete' learning superpowers channelled to create the end result and the judges were impressed how the children could talk about the skills they had developed.

Here's what the children had to say...

- *"When doing challenges you need to make a plan of action to manage the team.*
- *Communication is essential so everyone is informed.*
- *It is important everyone is involved, listened to, allowed to share idea bubbles and work as a team.*



- *You need a strong base to hold the structure and to allow it to be free-standing.*
- *The actual structure itself needs to be strong, secure and attached by good quality glue or tape before adding any details or decorations.*
- *You need to keep reviewing your design and be flexible to try out and change things.*
- *Inviting feedback can improve your design. Our mistakes help us learn."*

Mrs Watt is delighted with how the children behaved and conducted themselves throughout the visit. They saved the screaming and cheering for when they got on the bus to come home! Thank you Mrs Nicoll, Mrs Murdoch and Mrs Lawrence for supporting the trip.

The projects will be displayed at the front door entrance so parents in school for interviews this week can see it.

Neighbours-Responsible Citizens

We've been made aware of a few concerns around incidents of vandalism after school. I regularly see children in the playground on their bikes and playing football, especially in the warmer weather. However, I have had a chat with them about being 'responsible citizens' ensuring litter is disposed of correctly and respect is shown towards the school and its neighbours. Unfortunately, there have been incidents of litter, snowballs, sticks and stones been thrown in our neighbour's garden. Some of this may be innocent play but there are very expensive poly tunnels which have been damaged as a result. If your child plays in school grounds out with school hours, you may want to reinforce these messages and make them aware of what to do if they witness any such incidents.

Rotary Quiz -Effective Contributors

We must say a big well done to our Rotary Quiz volunteers. Mrs Jamieson has been working through break times to support a group of P6/7 children to prepare for the Rotary Quiz. We are delighted with their commitment and commend their 'Have a Go Jo' Attitude. Five children will attend the quiz at Keith Primary School on Wednesday 29th March. Mrs Jamieson will be attending and parents will need to transport their children to and from the event. Parents are welcome to stay and watch. Good luck Newmill!

Reading Schools Update

Mrs Wright and the leadership group have been extremely busy working through their Reading Schools Action Plan. World book Day was a great success. Here's what Holly, P7, had to say...
"Yesterday was world book day and our school celebrated it. Let me tell you about it. Our school let us dress up as our



favourite book characters or bring in our favourite books. We did lots of activities like a 'Where's Wally Hunt' and pick and guess the book we were going to play kahoot but we did not have time.

Mr Leitch, the high school librarian, came in to read 'Two Degrees', our class novel, and tell us about some books he thought we might like. He also donated books to each of our classes. It was very generous of him. It was really fun and I hope he comes again soon, we always enjoy his visits.

The wiggly worm we were experiencing was Literacy and English and I think our whole school enjoyed World Book Day.

Each class has been set the challenge of designing a 'Reading Nook' in their classroom. The group wrote me a very persuasive letter looking for some money to buy reading rugs for each reading area and a display unit to start 'book of the week' or 'guess the book'.

Mr Leitch's, the librarian, visits are always a huge hit and he has earned himself yet another 'Over and Above' Certificate for his dedication in supporting our school to achieve Reading School accreditation. I wish he had been able to hear the children's cheer when we shared 'Over and Above' certificated last week. It would most definitely have filled his bucket!

Thank you also to our parental/family volunteers who have been supporting us to get the library up and running again. We appreciate your support and wanted to celebrate this with 'over and above' certificates. They went home in reflection jotters last week.

The group has also arranged an Easter Reading Challenge for the school too. Paper copies of the challenge will go home in bags today.



Rights Respecting School Award

My group have been busy thinking about providing opportunities to talk about rights with family members at home, through sharing our latest philosophy lesson in reflection books. We have been using a weekly children's news article 'Picture News' as a stimulus for these sessions. Please comment in reflection jotters and let us know if you had an opportunity to have a family discussion using the lesson shared. We can then use this as evidence to help us achieve gold status.



Leadership Groups

Learners' feedback so far has been extremely positive and it is very clear they are enjoying the leadership opportunities on offer. My mum leaves Newmill on a Friday afternoon with a full bucket...our language leaders are so enthusiastic and making good progress as a result. The children suggested she get an 'over and above' certificate for being the 'best French teacher ever'. She's been retired for a number of years now so she's delighted with their feedback. Groups will rotate next term.

Pupil Voice

Conversations with classes continue around how they would like to spend their class Christmas Enterprise Profit and I've received some very persuasive letters. In the interest of fairness and equity for all, I have made the decision to 'top up' each class to make sure they have matching budgets. Therefore, P5-7 has opted for a school trip. A few options were explored with the unanimous vote opting for a day of outdoor activities with Outfit Moray, providing an opportunity for personal achievement. After a few calls, arrangements have been made. The whole class will be heading for a day of kayaking and paddle boarding on Thursday 22nd June. Mrs Wright's P3-5 class have a number of requests for extra indoor and outdoor resources. They are still working on the final list with their new budget. More information to follow.



Coronation Celebrations

We decided, as part of the King's Coronation Celebration, both Newmill and Botriphnie will attend a 'Spring Service' at Botriphnie Church led by Minister, Wiekus Van Straaten. The service will take on Friday 5th May at 11.00 am. Parents are welcome to attend. Children will be learning songs for the event.

In the afternoon, we will be making crowns in preparation for the judging event the next day at Newmill Village Picnic.

Arrival at school

Just a reminder to all that there is no playground supervision before 8.40 a.m. We have found more children are arriving before this time.

We are very much looking forward to meeting parents this week to talk about your child's progress, attainment and achievement. Please remember to use the questionnaire issued on Friday, if you would like further support in the form of additional materials/resources and information sessions to support home learning.



Have an awesome Easter Break when it comes.

R Smith

DIARY DATES

- **Tuesday 28th March**- Mrs Watt's Parental Meetings
- **Wednesday 29th March**- Mrs Wright's Parental Meetings and Rotary Quiz at Keith Primary School
- **Wednesday and Thursday 30th March**- Mrs Mair and Miss Smith Parental Meetings
- **Friday 31st March**-Easter Holidays
- **Monday 17th April**- Start of Summer Term
- **Tuesday 25th April**-Parent Council Meeting at 6pm-Newmill Primary School
- **Monday 1st May**- School Holiday
- **Friday 5th May**- Coronation 'Spring Service' at Botriphnie Church, crown making activities
- **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
- **Monday 12th June**- Whole school trip to RAF base, organised by Mr Minnis
- **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June**- KGS transition days for P7