



May 2023

Welcome to Summer Term! The weather has been typically Scottish...I'm hoping for a month of sunshine in June! Newmill Primary continues to be a hive of activity as our calendar and school diary is jam packed with exciting learning opportunities across the school.

It was a real bucket filler to welcome parents in to meet with teachers to discuss individual learner progress and achievements just before the holidays. This time, we provided written reports in advance as a result of parental feedback via our questionnaires; with the aim of providing parents the opportunity to ask questions around aspects of the report to gain a full and accurate picture of their attainment and achievement to date. We always have such a great turnout which supports partnership working to ensure all our learners reach their full potential as they continue to climb the tower of learning. Thank you for your support. Teachers tell me that parents have a much better understanding of the numeracy and maths data provided and how we are using assessments to measure progress and plan next steps. This is something we will be exploring further as an ASG at Keith Primary on Friday 12th May with a numeracy themed 'moderation' event where we aim to continue to develop our ASG approach to raising attainment via a focus on learning, teaching and assessment.



Mrs Watt and Mrs Murdoch have been climbing the tower of learning. They will both be attending a 'Play Pedagogy and Early literacy' event in Elgin, as part of our professional development activities planned for the In Service days. The aim being to gain a stronger understanding of how to:

- Enrich the implementation of play pedagogy in your class
- Provide practical tools to support the implementation of play pedagogy
- Explore ways to improve literacy outcomes for young children

Mrs Wright, Mrs Mair and I continue to focus on raising attainment in literacy. We will use the day to work through our school improvement action plan with a focus on further developing our spelling and grammar programme.

ROTARY QUIZ

First, a look back to the end of last term. Well done to our quiz team. They thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Keith Primary to take part on the Annual Rotary Quiz and came third in the event. Mia was our substitute on this occasion but was armed with a notebook, taking notes with a view to being more than prepared next year. Thanks to Mrs Jamieson for accompanying the children at the event.



CROSS COUNTRY

We must also say a big well done to our Newmill cross country participants. Thanks also to their parents for taking them along. Certificates were awarded in school at the end of last term.

TRANSITIONS

Transition arrangements are always a key theme throughout term four as we welcome our new intake, as well as, prepare our P7s for the next stage of their education.

I am delighted to report, our new intake has been visiting on a regular basis and are settling in well to the life and work of Newmill Primary School, as a welcome addition. Last week they met their buddies and enjoyed some quality time building relationships in the woodland area. I know my P6 children were absolutely buzzing on return. It's great to hear how they benefit from this leadership opportunity. Here's what Lucia and Jake had to say....

"This week I met my buddy! He liked to run about and play tag. It was super fun playing with all the little ones and I'm excited for them to come to school."

"On Tuesday we went to see our buddies with Mrs Watt. First we got to know their names. My buddy was so fun to play with. We played for a long time but it felt so quick. We tidied up and took our buddies hand. I learned that my buddy liked football, just like me. I really enjoyed it and we get to see them again next week. I really like being a buddy."

Our P7s received their leavers' hoodies at the end of last term thanks to Parent Council and have been enjoying wearing them to school over the past few weeks. Looking forward, we have English, Maths and French teachers visiting from KGS. In addition to the three day transition programme, they have also been invited to joining KGS Highland Games event. Mr Patterson, PE teacher at KGS, has also been in contact to arrange training sessions for the event. Our P7s enjoyed a tour of the school last Friday, courtesy of our partner agency 'Keith Loft Project' and have been enjoying weekly Friday night sessions to meet peers from other schools, in preparation for finding out their new S1 classes shortly. We are confident there will be a 'kent face' within whatever class they join as the connections formed at the Loft stand them in good stead for the future. We welcome P7s to stay in school on Friday 23rd June from 3-4.30pm for an afternoon tea to celebrate their last official school day before embarking on adventurous activity week.

RETIREMENT We will also be celebrating Mrs Nicoll's contribution to Newmill Primary School as she prepares to retire at the end of term. Mrs Nicoll has been going 'above and beyond' for Newmill Primary for over twenty seven years in a variety of roles: dinner lady, cleaner and most recently pupil support assistant and we can't quite imagine life without her. In the meantime, we are making the most of our final weeks together...there's certainly a lot to look forward to.

CORONATION

We were delighted to welcome Dr Harrington to school last week, representing Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, to talk about the Coronation.

"Today Dr Harrington came to talk to us about the Coronation. Dr Harrington told us that the King will be crowned with his wife on Saturday 6th May. On Saturday the King will go up to Westminster Abbey to be crowned. There will be lots of parties for him. He wants the ceremony to be smaller than his mother's coronation. There is a stone that will come up from Edinburgh to London to go under his throne. The king has been to many different places in Scotland, including Banff, MacDuff, Aberlour and Ballindalloch. There are lots of special foods that will be prepared including coronation chicken and spinach and broad bean quiche. I am very excited for the Coronation." Ashley, P5



It wasn't quite the coronation celebration we were expecting and I know our learners were disappointed we didn't make it to Botriphnie Church for the Special Service we were all looking forward to. However, there were representatives from the Keith to Dufftown Railway at the service who have suggested putting on a train in the future to transport our pupils to the church in Drummur. That would be an awesome experience and something that I will look into. However, looking at the diary dates below it may be difficult to squeeze anything else in this term. It may be best to aim for August. More information will follow when arrangements have been made.



SCOTTISH OPERA Well...it's fair to say this event was a huge success. After weeks of preparation, everything came together at Keith Primary school on Wednesday 10th May as all the children sang and danced their hearts out. Thank you to all our parents who came along to provide an audience for our learners...it's not always easy to take time away from busy schedules during the school day. There are some children who absolutely thrive performing to an audience, and

others who would rather shy away from the experience. However, each and every one of them demonstrated a Newmill Ninja 'Have a Go Jo' Mind-set and demonstrated they are developing as confident individuals as a result. Mrs Mair was really proud of how they conducted themselves: listening well to process multiple instructions whilst demonstrating high standards of behaviour...bucket filling stuff! It's fantastic to be able to provide these opportunities once more and involve families too. Thank you to Mrs Mair for all her hard work preparing our learners...it's her passion and I know she will be looking forward to next year already. I know many of our learners will be too as I believe some could hardly sleep on Tuesday night with all the excitement. Mrs Mair took her car over whilst I accompanied the class on the bus. There were 'shout outs' to Mrs Mair throughout the bus on our journey there...lovely to hear them so appreciative of their teacher!



PEN LICENSES

Certificates to those going 'over and above' demonstrating commitment to our school values were awarded just before Easter as were pen licenses. I have to say the excitement around gaining Bronze, Silver or Gold Pen licenses is quite something at assembly times. It's lovely for us to see how this pupil led initiative is motivating learners to improve their presentation of work. This term saw the first 'platinum pen licences' awarded and this added to the excitement. Some of our P7 learners were awarded a special pen in recognition of their outstanding commitment to consistent high quality presentation of work...what an amazing achievement ...well done to all and thank you once again to parents for supporting this initiative via funding.



IF I WERE AN ENGINEER STEM COMPETITION

We have done it againsix of our pupils have been shortlisted for the final of this competition. P5-7 undertook the Engineering Project with Mrs Wright within Term 2, with entries submitted in December. Whilst we were out at Scottish Opera, Mrs Wright received an email to say Tyler, Allana, Molly, Eilidh, Lucia and Jo have all been shortlisted. This is short notice but the children (and families) are invited to attend an exhibition of entries at Robert Gordon University from 2pm on Tuesday 16th May, with an award ceremony taking place between 5-7pm. Last year, Lexi was shortlisted and went on to be regional winner. This year, we have everything crossed that one of our pupils may be overall winner which means their invention will be made into prototype. We understand

this is very short notice but would be more than happy for any families to attend if circumstances permit. Please contact us if you are in a position to take your child along.

With so many dairy dates below, please take a moment to digest the information. We look forward to seeing you all soon at some of the upcoming events.

Warm regards,



Headteacher



DIARY DATES

- **Thursday 18th May** English teacher visiting P7 at Newmill (Botriphnie joining) and P6/7 Rugby session with Active schools 11.40-12.20
- **Monday 22nd May**-P6/7 Rugby at Newmill-Botriphnie joining
- **Wednesday 24th May**-P1 parental information session 3-4pm
- **Friday 26th May**- Maths teacher from KGS visiting then P7 to KGS for Highland Games training session 10.45-12
- **Friday 2nd June** -KGS Highland Games Training Session for P7 pupils 10.45-12
- **Monday 5th June**- Holiday-school closed
- **Tuesday 6th June**- Sports Day at Newmill Park-Botriphnie joining 1.30pm start -Parents welcome to join
- **Monday 12th June**- Whole school trip to RAF base, organised by Mr Minnis-children will need to bring a packed lunch from home or order in advance from the Canteen
- **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th June**- KGS transition days for P7
- **Wednesday 21st**- New P1 parental appointments with Mrs Watt -am
- **Wednesday 21st pm**- P7 event online 'Off tae the Big School' session
- **Thursday 22nd** -P5-7 Paddle boarding with Outfit Moray
- **Friday 23rd June**- P7 to attend Highland Games at KGS
- **Friday 23rd June**- P7 Leavers afternoon tea 3-4.30pm Jo and Barron to pipe out
- **Monday 26th June**- Friday 30th June- Newmill Transition week- all children into their new classes

