



June 2023

We must start with a big thank you to Dennis Innes. Once again, he has made a very generous donation of a range of beautiful plants. As a result, Mrs Watt and her class have been busy brightening up our outdoor area. The children very much enjoyed their gardening session and I'm sure you'll all agree the results are bucket filling. Well done to everyone involved...the hanging baskets are a lovely welcome as you enter the school.

Celebrating Success

Well done to Mrs Watt and Luisa who won the Charles Murray Scots Poetry Competition. They won the inter-generational category. They have supported the event annually for many years now and have quite a talent for creating Scots poetry.



Sports Day

Sports Day was a huge success for our learners. The whole school brought their 'Have a Go Jo' Mindset and participated fully in the afternoon of events. The weather was perfect and it's a real bucket filler for me to see both schools together, benefitting from the shared experience. Thanks again to Parent Council for organising providing ice creams on return to school...well received by all!



KGS links

We've been delighted to welcome a variety of KGS staff to Newmill Primary throughout the term. Our P7 learners have participated in a wealth of learning experiences to support a smooth transition: Highland Games training, visited the inclusion base to meet the Guidance Team, took part in literacy activities and received letters from S1 pupils and a maths teachers meet. In addition, the whole of 5-7 were delighted to welcome Mr Garner to teach us some French. Newmill Primary pupils have supported transition sessions at the Loft throughout the session. Many of them enjoy also 'Tens to Teenz' weekly sessions. As a result,

they are familiar with many of their P7 peers throughout the ASG and thoroughly enjoyed their transition days last week. Here's what Jo had to say following the Highland Games Practise Event...

"Today we went to KGS to practise for the Highland Games. I was extremely excited to see the people from Keith Primary. At half past ten my mum picked up Anna, Cameron, Holly and I and we drove to KGS. When we went in, we saw Leah, Luisa, and Mya outside. We went to the grass and waited for Keith Primary School to come. When they came, we were put in four groups. I was in the second group. I knew most of the people there but there was a lot of new people. I was a confident individual and I learnt to build team strengths with new people.

Firstly, we went to the station with Miss Smith and Mrs Ralphs where we learned to throw a thing as far as we could. My partner was Kezia, and we were not the best at it to be honest. We were also doing a plank and some other fun things where we had to work together.

Secondly, we went to the tug of war. This was my favourite one! This station was with Mr Turner. He also knew my brother because he teaches him. My group for this was Edith, Khianna and Nathan and we won every time! I was an Effective Contributor and worked well as a team.

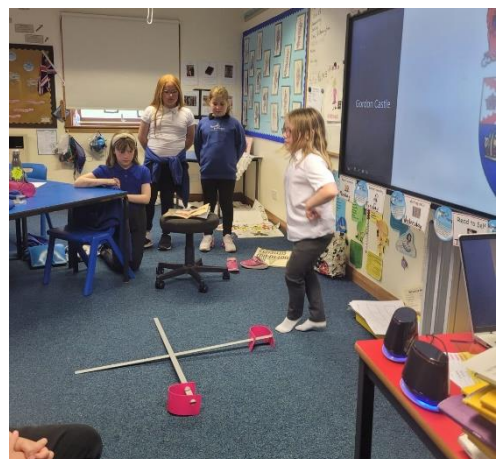
After that, we went to Mr Patterson's station where we were doing long jump. My next step in it is to remember to do a better starting run. I got three points out of six. I was a successful learner because I am not sure if I could do that before.

Finally, we went to Mr Tyldesley's station where we were running. My partner was Khianna and I had to go on her shoulders. Then we did the wheelbarrow race, but I dropped her before we got to the finish line.

I am really excited for the Highland Games, and I learnt a lot of new things."

Listening and Talking Achievements

Mrs Wright and Mrs Mair have both requested a big shout out to learners demonstrating an outstanding effort to prepare and present solo talks throughout this term. It has been wonderful to hear them talk so passionately about their hobbies, talents and interests. Many went to great lengths to take in props and PowerPoints to support delivery and hold audience attention.



Class compositions - As you are aware, in order for us to comply with Moray Council Policy which states that composite classes must not exceed 25, we need to consider carefully class compositions.

To comply with this policy, it is necessary to split P3 and P5 once again this year. For parents of learners in P3 and P5 in August, letters will be in bags on Friday 23rd June to confirm class allocations. Once again, we have been allocated an NQT and I'm delighted to welcome **Miss Katie McKay** to our staff team. As it stands, classes for next session, are as follows:

- P1/2/3-Mrs Watt
- P3/4/5- Miss McKay and Mrs Wright
- P5/6/7-Miss Smith and Mrs Mair

Of course, there will be an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other, build community and relationships during transition week...where everyone 'moves up'. Our new P1s join us for most of the week and our P7s embark upon a week of adventurous activities with Outfit Moray. Miss McKay is keen to meet us all and will be joining us for both Wednesday and Thursday of transition week activities.

Transition week learning experiences

Health and Wellbeing is the focus for transition week and learning experiences to support this have been mapped out. We are delighted to welcome Sharon Henderson on **Monday 26th June** to provide dance sessions for each class. Each day will start with a whole school 'wake up, shake up' session in the playground led by Mrs Wright. We will be setting the scene for an awesome year of progress and achievement in learning next session with a focus on 'relentless routines' and 'non-negotiables' as we explore class expectations, behaviour and build relationships. The aim is to create a classroom culture of mutual respect and co-operation to maximise learning time and cultivate Newmill Ninja Mindsets across the school, ready for a strong focus on learning from day one in August. During transition week we will be delivering assemblies created specifically to deliver important safeguarding messages to primary aged children. I have shared information below. Please visit the website below if you would like more information.

NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme

I am pleased to inform you that we are participating in the **NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. programme*** this term. *Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Values based Curriculum- Over and Above Certificates -Wider Achievement Focus

Thank you for your support in helping us recognise and celebrate wider achievement this term. It's been really interesting to read about all the wonderful skills for learning, life and work that are being developed outwith the school day. It really filled my bucket to read your family discussions and how you were all able to identify and name the learning attitudes (Newmill Ninjas) that are supporting skill development in a variety of different contexts.

We are going to celebrate those who go 'over and above' demonstrating their commitment to our school values at an assembly in the last week of term.

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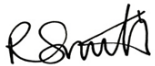
To celebrate and share their learning over the term, P123 will be performing a musical 'You are Special'. They are hoping for an outdoor theatre performance on Friday afternoon. I've heard the singing throughout the school over the past



few weeks and am really impressed with how their musical talents are progressing. This will be their third show this session. They are confident they will make you all proud with a musical sharing a very strong message supporting each other to celebrate how we are the 'Same and Different.' They've already had some positive feedback... our neighbours came to thank them....they heard outdoor rehearsals while they were out in the garden...it was the most beautiful singing and made their day....bucket filling feedback!

It's hard to believe we are once again approaching the end of term...time certainly flies at Newmill Primary. Thank you to all our families for their continued support and have an awesome Summer holiday when it comes!

Warm regards,



Headteacher

DIARY DATES

- **Wednesday 21st June**- New P1 parental appointments with Mrs Watt - am
- **Wednesday 21st June 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
- **Monday 26th June- Friday 30th June**- Newmill Transition week- all children into their new classes
- **Friday 30th June** - Last day of term
- **Tuesday 15th August**-School opens to pupils
- **Friday 6th October**- Last day of Term
- **Monday 23rd October**- First day of Term 2
- **Monday 13th Nov and Tuesday 14th November**- School Closed In service Days

