



**August 2023**

**Welcome**

Just like that... we are back and session 23/24 is well underway. I would like to start with a very warm welcome to a new school year at Newmill Primary School. The first weeks back are always such an exciting time as we catch up with each other again after our Summer Break. I hope you had a great time, whatever you were up to.

It's been a bucket filling start of term...everyone seems to have transitioned well and appear very much at home, already demonstrating many Newmill Ninja qualities. Having just been out with the children at playtime, I'm blown away by the nurturing interactions on display...our P6/7 are commendably prioritising our new recruits and leading games and activities to make break times fun! Once again, we are reaping the rewards of 'transition week' at the end of last term ....with all learners interacting well with their peers and in the green zone, ready to learn.

One of our P6 pupils stopped for a moment after break, turned to me and said... 'I think that went well, don't you?'



She was referring to the game of 'Duck, Duck, Goose' she had just organised, with many pupils, across all ages, joining in...fab leadership skills and great to hear them reflecting on playground experiences!

We must also say a big welcome to Miss MacKay. Our learners enjoyed meeting Miss MacKay during transition week. It was kind of her to make the time to spend two days with her new class. We are in a fortunate position at Newmill...Miss MacKay has the opportunity to shadow Mrs Wright for the first few weeks to familiarise herself with how we do things to ensure continuity in learners' experiences. We are delighted to have her here at Newmill Primary and are determined to do our best to support her to climb the tower of learning with us all.



Let's start with a look back to the end of last term.

Well, it was fair to say Mrs Nicoll left Newmill Primary for the final time with her bucket overflowing. She was most delighted with her gifts to mark the occasion. Thank you to Alison Barclay for taking the time to come to school and present them on behalf of the parent body. We are sure to see Mrs Nicoll in school at some point in the future. I'll be taking her up on her offer to help out at Sports Day but, in the meantime, we wish her a well-earned rest. I know she has a lot of plans for her retirement.



### **If I were an Engineer Competition Success**

I must say a huge apology to Allana. She wrote me a fantastic reflection on return from her trip to Aberdeen, following our success with the 'If I were an Engineer Competition', in June. I forgot to include it in my last newsletter. It was a fab opportunity for Newmill Primary School and we were so glad so many of our pupils were able to attend and see their work on display. Thanks to family members for supporting transportation. We hope you enjoyed it too. Here's what Allana had to say...

*"If I Were an Engineer" is a platform that is teaching kids that engineering can be designing something simple and showing kids that it is a really fun job.*

*This week Molly, Lucia, Jo and I went to Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen for ``If I Were an Engineer`` awards ceremony. Eilidh and Tyler were also shortlisted.*

*In class we had to interview an engineer and use our own ideas to design a new product that solved a problem.*

*My idea was a dog collar that tricked the dog into walking further by hanging a treat or ball in front of its face.*

*We got to look at other people's designs. This included Molly, Lucia, Jo, Eilidh and Tyler's. We got to watch the awards ceremony.*

*My favourite entry was the watch that told you how you were feeling.*

*We all got a certificate to celebrate being part of the competition.*

*I am looking forward to next year. I don't have an idea yet but it was really fun so I am going to try my best to do even better next year.*

*Global Goal number nine is linked to 'If I were an Engineer' because it is all about building new things and being creative. I am so thankful I got the chance to go to Robert Gordon University and see my idea on display.*

### **Active Schools Sessions**

Amanda Walker visited Newmill Primary on the first day of the new session to tell our children all about the Active School sessions available this term. This includes the Junior

Jog sessions held here in Newmill. Thus far, we have eleven pupils signed up. If you would like your child to attend, please contact Amanda Walker at Active Schools. Many of our P7 pupils were interested in the Rugby Sessions, led by a PE teacher at Keith Grammar School. Other children were interested in dance and basketball sessions. All families should have received both a paper and electronic copy of events. There's still time to register for any of the sessions.

### Water bottles

We must also say a huge thank you to Rhona Patterson for gifting a water bottle to each of our Newmill Ninjas on return to school. The weather has been lovely lately and they've come in extremely handy!



### Flu Vaccines

Consent forms went home last week. Many have been returned already....thank you. Please take time to complete and return forms as soon as possible. A date of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September has been set for flu vaccinations within Newmill Primary School. However, we do not have an exact time yet. Please contact us if you would like to attend the vaccination with your child to support administration. We know the vaccine can cause some learners to feel anxious and a parent can make all the difference in providing the comfort required to be brave.

### Wellbeing Ambassadors

We have a whopping thirty three children who have applied to be 'Wellbeing Ambassadors' keen to support our school in a variety of ways :buddies, dining hall support, leading playground games, supporting play in P1/2, recycling, litter picking, library leading, to name but a few. It's bucket filling to see their enthusiasm for supporting the life and work of Newmill Primary and we are looking to appoint 'Lead' Wellbeing Ambassadors to help work out rotas and organise how we can make the most of our enthusiastic work force!



You may have already noticed we have a new logo at the head of our newsletter. We received the fantastic news, over the Summer period, that we have been accredited with Reading School Status-Core Level. We made the announcement this week and our learner's watched the video from Ross MacKenzie, a



children's author. He congratulated us on all our hard work building a reading culture here at Newmill Primary School.

This was a great way to kick-start Leadership groups this term. This will take place on a Tuesday afternoon 2-3pm with all children from P3-7 assigned to one of the following Leadership Groups for the rest of this term.

- Language Leaders
- Rights Respecting Leaders
- Community Leaders
- Reading Leaders



On the topic of 'Reading Schools,' Mrs Jamieson has kindly organised to hold a Scholastic Book Fayre in school again this year. This will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. Last year we were able to use the commission to support new library books for all and the children agreed on class novels for use in school throughout Term 3.

### Reporting

Reflection jotters are the main vehicle for continuous reporting, providing an opportunity for regular information and feedback around learning experiences and progress. We are delighted to see so many parents signing and commenting on a weekly basis—they provide a fantastic tool for home school communication, supporting all learners. We continue to embed our Newmill Ninja Mindset, so please celebrate when children mention that they have found something challenging and need more practice - this is clear evidence they are learning. Just a wee reminder - it is really important reflection jotters are returned to school on a Monday morning and are well looked after. Over the session, the information builds a picture of progress and next steps in learning, providing rich evidence of attainment and achievement. Over seven years, they tell an awesome story of their time at Primary School.



### Diary date-Drop in Open Night

Looking ahead, a date has been set to welcome parents in to school. We have opted for **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September as our Open Night with a drop in option anytime between 3-5.30pm.** This will be a chance to visit school with your child/ren for a tour and take part in some learning activities. Jotters will also be available to view and Scholastic Book Fayre will be in the hall.



## Interdisciplinary Learning

Finally, we been delighted to welcome some familiar faces into school, in a new capacity. Debbie MacKay (Lewis' mum) is a drama teacher and working with the whole school to learn Gaelic. So far all children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Gaelic through games and songs, something which we will continue to practise in school. We will be taking part in seven workshops between now and Christmas and look to involve you all in the final showcasing event. More exciting details to follow. In the meantime, here's what Mia, P5, had to say....

*"Yesterday Lewis' mum, Debbie, came to school to teach us Gaelic. We were playing a game where we had to get into a group of a Gaelic number. Also we were tractors and motorbikes. Thinking about the wall, I think we are exploring the big idea of equality as we learn about other cultures to be a responsible citizen."*

We are on this journey together and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks, as we work hard together to ensure Newmill Primary School continues to be a magical place where we all 'climb the tower of learning together'.

Warm regards,



Headteacher

## DIARY DATES

- 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August- Gaelic Workshops
- 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September- Scholastic Book Fayre
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September- Flu Vaccinations in school
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Family Open Evening 3-5.30pm
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October- Last day of Term
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October- First day of Term 2
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November- School Closed In service Days

