



October 2023

Dear families,

Welcome back! We are delighted to have a cold, but calm week weather wise to support Bikeability. Thank you to our parental volunteers for supporting. Bike checks were completed, with every bike looked over by the technician on Monday. We are delighted that Outfit Moray are able to take our P6/7 cyclists into Keith on Thursday/Friday, giving them opportunity to apply the skills they are currently developing. All P6/7 children will be able to attend one session in Keith this week. We are so pleased to report every child will access cycle training at some point throughout the week, thanks to Outfit Moray. It's fantastic to be able to include the whole school in our focus on the Wellbeing indicator 'SAFE'.

Here's what Jake, P7, had to say...

"This week we are taking part in Bikeability. Our instructors are Lil and Michelle. On Monday, they tested our skills and checked bikes. On Tuesday, we went out on the roads in Newmill. We are focusing on Bikeability 2 and if we cover all the moves and behave we can go to Keith to practise later in the week. In my opinion, Bikeability is really fun and calming. I am really excited for the week ahead of us."

Reading Shed We must include a huge thank you to Mr Watt as a priority this month...the children are absolutely delighted to see their designs come to life on our Reading Shed. He most definitely deserves an 'Over and Above' Certificate for applying maximum effort to the design. He's been out in the playground on a daily basis painting a variety of well-loved characters. The shed looks fantastic and so



does our school entrance. The reading leaders have created a Reading Recommendations Wall at the entrance and would be delighted if parents also were able to share some recommendations.

Open Night

It was a real bucket filler to have such a fab turn out for our Open Evening at the end of term. We were delighted to launch our Interactive Wall to help support parental understanding of the curriculum we provide here at Newmill, 'The wall' helps our learners make sense of the skills for learning, life and work they

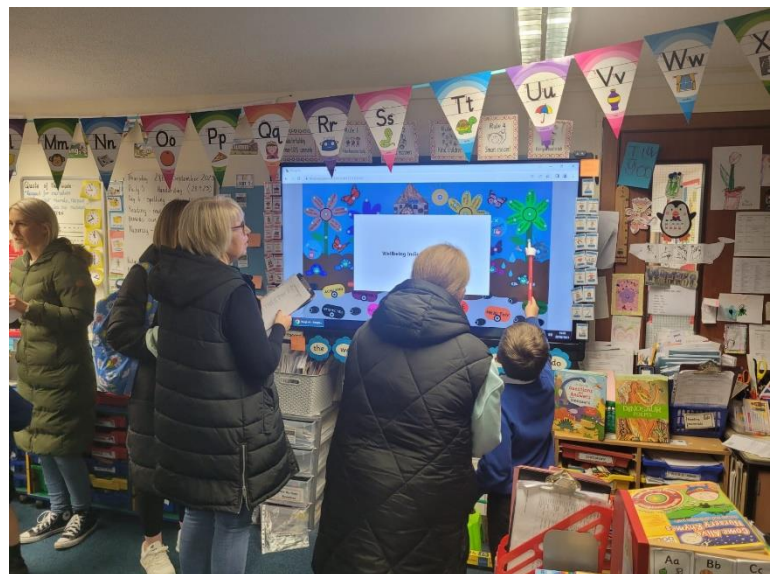


are developing. Please remember it can be accessed at any time, on our Glow Blog site.

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1649528943151153154>

We hope you all enjoyed taking part in all the activities on offer and that they helped support a clearer understanding of what your child experiences here on a daily basis, as well as, how to support further at home.

"Yesterday my mum and brother came to the open afternoon. I was sharing learning with them which is a part of being a successful learner. We were exploring questions with each activity. My brother did the maths assessment by himself. He got them all right because he is in the top class in maths at KGS. My mum did the writing task using the describing bubble. Then she did the spelling tasks. She found it hard but she started to understand. We all did 'the wall' together. We used the interactive wall to answer the quiz. We all found it cool." Amanda, P5. We were absolutely blown away by the support for the Scholastic Book Fair last term. A whopping £430.99 commission was awarded to us, on the basis of our school spend. We must say a huge thank you to Mrs Jamieson for



organising and the parents who volunteered to take orders at the Open Evening. This will help make sure all learners have access to up to date reading material, relevant to their needs interests and experiences. Looking ahead to Christmas, the children were able to identify authors and titles they would like to explore further via a whole class novel study in term three, funded by Parent Council Christmas Gift. Pupil led selection and votes were key in selecting our novels. It was great to have the Book Fair in the school hall to discuss genres, authors and how to select books using the blurb, as well as the front cover.

Choices are as follows:-

- P1-3- Dear Chocosaur buy Chae Strathie
- P3-5 Olly Brown, God of Hamsters by Bethany Walker
- P5-7 Escape to River Sea by Emma Carroll



Thank you to the Reading School leaders who were on hand, making the most of the open night to as an opportunity to involve parents in our Reading Journey. Here's what Lucia (P7) had to say, following the event....

"Yesterday, I was an effective contributor after school helping at the Book Fair. I was persuading parents to volunteer to be a guest reader for each class. We also asked for feedback around the new reading books we have been using last term."

Book Taster Tuesdays

Thank you to our parents who have signed up for 'Book Taster Tuesdays'. Today, we welcomed Ashley Inglis in P3-5, Debbie McKay in P1-3 and Jason Wright shared a recording with P5-7. The tasters most definitely worked as a hook. We now have a list of P5/6/7 learners keen to borrow 'The Vanquishers' by Kaylenn Bayron! We really appreciate parents taking the time to model reading habits and develop positive dialogue around reading.



P1 BOOKBUG FAMILY BAG and P2/3 Parents-READ, WRITE, COUNT Bags

Mrs Wright has organised for Stephen Leitch to visit school on **Tuesday 31st October** to 'gift' P1 Bookbug Family Bags and the P2/3 Read, Write Count bags. During this time, he will showcase what is in the bags, read one of the stories and then parents and their child/children can participate in one of the activities in the bag, based upon the book. All parents of P1/P2/3 children are welcome to join us in Newmill Primary School Hall between **9.15-9.45 am** for this event.

Library Trip

P3/4/5 and Botriphnie Primary enjoyed a fantastic trip to Elgin library on the last week of term. I was delighted to receive the following email from the class on their return. The staff at Elgin Library were very helpful and the children were delighted with the workshops on offer.



Dear Miss Smith,

P3/4/5 would like to tell you about our trip to Elgin Library and Waterstones yesterday. P3/4/5 had a great time and would like to thank you, Mrs Wright, and Mrs Jamieson for organising the trip.

P3/4/5 did an excellent job using their 'Resilient Ruby' learning superpowers to 'manage risk' and keep safe while on the school trip. They represented the school well.

One of our favourite activities was colouring pages which when paired with an app, brought their pictures to life. P3/4/5 wondered if this was something we could get in school (pretty please)? P3/4/5 feel this resource would link in well with the expressive arts wiggly worm, and support article 31 which promotes play and art.



We also really enjoyed the iExplorer books which when used with an app, brings the pages to life. We feel these books would support reading for enjoyment and practice our Curious Carly skills when exploring the different environments."

'Over and above' recognition - promoting a value based curriculum

We recognised and celebrated those going 'over and above' demonstrating commitment to our school values at the end of last term. Learners were able to self-assess their progress towards identified targets, to decide whether their words and actions were worthy of recognition. I was really impressed with the level of honesty, with some of our learners able to recognise they would need more time to meet their targets. We will begin target setting this term and share with you all via reflection jotters.



Pen Licenses

Pen Licenses were awarded at the end of last term. This pupil - initiated incentive is still strong, with learners demonstrating great motivation to achieve their targets. Thanks again to you all for supporting via Parent Council Funds.

St Andrew's Day Event

We would like to welcome all parents to a St Andrew's Day Event on Thursday 30th November. Debbie McKay is working with P5-7 next week to record the Gaelic Film they have been creating. The children would like to share the final video with you all at a showcasing event. Ideally, we would like to hold it in the Village Hall to accommodate more people and make use of the stage. However, we need to organise a projector for the children to show their video. This is something we are working on, as the plan is for all classes to present at the event. If we can get technology in place, it will be the Village Hall. Failing that, it'll be in the school hall, aiming for a 1.30pm start. We will keep you posted, with more exact details in November.



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Smith'.

Head teacher

DIARY DATES

- **Tuesday 31st October** - P1/2/3
Read, Write Count Event -
Parents welcome to attend 9.15-
9.45am
- **Monday 13th Nov and Tuesday 14th November** - School Closed
In service Days
- **Thursday 30th November**- St Andrew's day Event - all parents welcome - venue to be confirmed
- **Friday 8th December** - Christmas Jumper Day
- **Thursday 14th December** - Christmas Lunch
- **Tuesday 19th December** - Christmas Party Day for all classes

