



November 2023

Dear families,

Another wonderful month full of motivational and exciting learning opportunities for our learners.

Once again, we are so appreciative of all our partners who support this. This month, learners have benefited from a variety of partnership expertise supporting us to climb the tower of learning together. This month included Mr Leitch (KGS Librarian), Outfit Moray, Debbie and Alastair, Amanda Walker from Active Schools and Reverend Amy Bender. Thank you to everyone.



Today's Aim:

Raising the Profile of Reading with families through sharing learning and supporting our pupils to become successful learners.



Reading Schools Update -Family Learning Event

Thank you to Mrs Wright and Mr Leitch for organising a fantastic gifting event for P1/2/3 Bookbug Bags. It's great to be able to provide family learning opportunities to raise the profile of reading, promote partnership working and support our pupils to become successful learners. The children certainly enjoyed the opportunity to explore their gifts and learn how to use the resources. We hope parents left with some practical ideas about how to promote reading to improve outcomes for children. Thank you to parents attending. We all understand how difficult it can be to attend events. Therefore,



we have added the slides used at the event to our school website under 'recent posts'. This makes sure everyone has the chance to access the information.

Mrs Wright arranged for P1-5 to take part in an 'Authors Live' Event as part of our Reading Schools Journey. This week it was Benji Davies and the children took part in a drawing lesson as part of the event. They were most definitely in flow...the room was silent.



The author's voice was the only one to be heard. Ask your children about it. They may even be able to give you a drawing lesson.

Curricular Skills- Leadership Opportunities

Amanda Walker has been delivering 'Playmaker' sessions with our p5/6/7 class. All children have the chance to begin their Sports Leaders journey which is a recognised pathway they can continue on at KGS, providing opportunities for personal achievement.

"Amanda, for Active schools, came on Thursday to teach us how to be Playmaker leaders. She is going to come in every week for the next five weeks. We discussed what makes a good leader, for example, kindness, fairness and communication."

Harlo, P6

Interdisciplinary Learning -St Andrews Day Event

Of course, we have our St Andrews Event to look forward to at Newmill Village Hall on **Thursday 30th**

November at 1.30pm. We cannot thank Debbie and Alastair enough for the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful learning experience. The children have learned so much from their knowledge and expertise. Our learners report being 'in flow' throughout the two days producing our Gaelic Film. Here's what they had to say...



"On Monday, we all took part in making a movie. I played an old man. The movie is called 'The man who saved Gaelic'. I was 'Have a Go Jo' because I have never acted in a movie before and I was excited for my part. We had to set up the hall like a party and brought in some background characters from other classes. On Tuesday, we edited the film. We added all our scenes together and added music. We then added all the credits." Ezra, P7

"We are also practising a Scottish Song called 'Wild Mountain Thyme'. I really enjoyed it and I am excited to sing it to parents when we show them our Gaelic Film on St Andrews Day." Millie P6

Thank you to all parents, I know many of you have been supporting rehearsal of lines and songs at home.



Opportunities for personal achievement
-Bikeability Update We must say a huge

thank you to the team from Outfit Moray who delivered Bikeability at the start of term. Lots of certificates have been awarded, with some pupils learning to ride their bike, others passing Bikeability level 1 and P6/7 achieving Bikeability 2 standard. Whatever their starting point, everyone participated with a 'Have a go Jo' Newmill Ninja Mind-set, with determination to demonstrate commitment to our school value 'grow'. Well done everyone.

'This week we have been very busy. We all took part in Bikeability. Everyday, we went out in groups and the instructors taught us how and when to indicate, where the squishy zone is, u turns, etc. I was an effective contributor when we went to Keith. I felt nervous as there were a lot of cars but I just went for it.' Millie, P6

Curriculum Areas and subjects- In Service

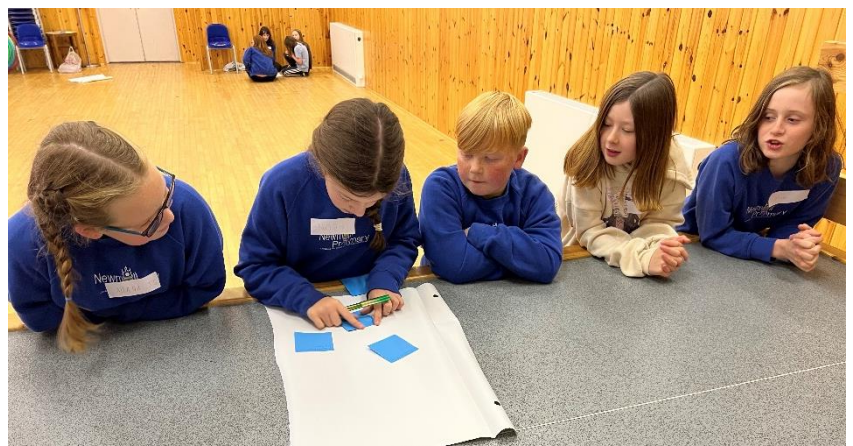
The whole staff team has been demonstrating a Newmill Ninja Mindset and we were most definitely in flow, working on different aspects of our School Improvement Plan on our in Service Days. Support Staff joined First Aid Training, whilst teaching staff at Newmill met together. Our main focus was developing our writing curriculum, based on our professional development training last session. We have been working on implementing an 'Explicitly Teaching Writing' approach after participating in five online learning events last year. At the end of last session, we purchased resources to support this approach and staff have been trialling them since the start of session. We invested in a video to help us learn more about the resource and how to make best use to raise attainment. The video gave us some amazing idea bubbles about how to improve our school approaches, as well as how to develop ASG approaches to support more robust professional judgement and moderation of standards for the benefit of learners.

Curricular Skills - Religious and Moral Education - Reverend Amy Bender

The children talk so positively about their visits with Amy. This week, they explored the theme of 'Thanksgiving' and it's been lovely to hear about the things they are thankful for.

"On Wednesday, Amy Bender came in to talk to us about all saints day. That day is on the 1st November where all the saints are celebrated. She also talked about how St Andrews' bones were moved to St Andrews (the place)." Ashley, P6

"This week Amy Bender came in to teach us more about St Andrew. I had some Curious Carly questions to ask. It was very interesting and I really enjoyed it." Millie Mo, P6



Ethos and life of the school as a community - Right Leaders

We are very proud of our Rights Leaders. They were able to lead on and deliver a 'Rights Respecting Remembrance Assembly.' Once again, they all demonstrated commitment to our school value 'Support' and developing as responsible citizens. Teachers report our Rights Respecting Schools Leaders

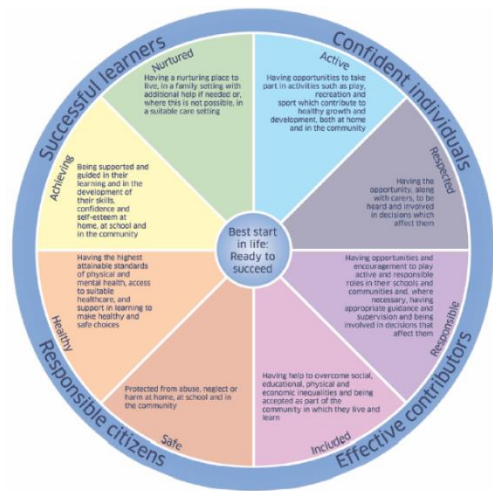
demonstrated a real 'Independent Isla Mindset' towards delivering a Rights Respecting Assembly to commemorate. A lot of courage went into speaking in front of everyone and they represented us so well. Our Rights Leaders have decided to use key themed events, using Rights Respecting School resources and activities in our journey towards gold status. Last week, we took part in 'Anti Bullying' week, with themed activities. Each week, we aim to find out more about as many different UNCRC articles as we can. This week's focus supported our bucket filling ethos. We read a lovely story highlighting the importance of valuing each and every one of us as unique individuals.

As part of our journey to gold, we have recruited 'Lead Wellbeing Ambassadors'. They will work with me to develop further opportunities and initiatives to promote wellbeing, through a focus on wellbeing indicators. All children have been evaluating and assessing their wellbeing, using the wellbeing indicators throughout November. Conversations with learners around wellbeing wheels thus far indicate that some learners feel they could eat more healthy foods. As a result, my first task with 'Wellbeing Ambassadors' is to organise to have fruit available to support this. We are initially looking at a 'Fruity Friday'. More information to follow, after my first official meeting with the group.



Our second task is related to the wellbeing indicator 'Achieving'. Thus far, some of our Lead Ambassadors have written a persuasive letter to ask for Mrs Jamieson's support in preparing a team for the Rotary Quiz in Term 3. Pupils have led on this and included P6 and P7 in the training sessions, looking ahead to next year. Training sessions start at lunchtime this week and a number of pupils have signed up to be involved.

Our third task focuses on the wellbeing indicator 'included' where we start to think about transition to secondary school. We have news from Sharon at 'the Loft' to let us know when transition sessions start. P7s have been asking. The Loft Youth Project are looking at starting P7 Rural transition from **Friday 19th of January 5.30 - 6.30pm every week up until Easter Holidays**. Next, Mrs Wright and I would like their support in preparing a 'Reading Schools' themed transition event in partnership with Mr Leitch for all P7s within the ASG to attend.



In addition, based on parental feedback through Parent Council Questionnaire, we are working with Parent Council and Outfit Moray to provide opportunities for all classes to be 'ACTIVE' through the organisation of adventurous activities for all classes within term three.

Attendance

You may have read in the press that school attendance across the UK has dipped since COVID. We, at Newmill Primary, are no exception. Over the next few weeks, we will be sending out letters, in line with attendance policies, to some parents around attendance and late comings.

There are many reasons for high absence rates. In some circumstances, there are supports we can offer to improve attendance. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement - Martial Arts Taster

Each class welcomed Vikki from Sansum Martial Arts to school for a taster session on Wednesday 15th November. She talked about what to expect from her classes and the children took part in a variety of activities. You will find leaflets and a card in bags, which entitles children to a free session. Classes are in Keith, at the Longmore Hall on a Monday, if you are interested in taking up the free session.

Please find diary dates below. Looking ahead to parental events, Scottish Opera is earlier this year for parents looking to arrange time off to attend.



Warm regards,

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

Headteacher

DIARY DATES

- **Thursday 30th November** - St Andrew's day Event
- all parents and community members welcome.
1.30pm start at Newmill Village Hall.
- **Friday 8th December**- Christmas Jumper Day
- **Wednesday 20th December**- P1/2/3 Nativity performance at Newmill Village Hall at 9.am - Parents welcome
- **Thursday 14th December**- Christmas Lunch
- **Tuesday 19th December**- Christmas Party Day for all classes
- **Friday 22nd December**- Christmas Concert at St Thomas Chapel - 9.30am start. All parents welcome to join us. Last Day of Term
- **Monday 8th January** - First Day of Term 3
- **Friday 19th of January 5.30 - 6.30pm every week up until Easter Holidays**- P7 transition sessions at 'The Loft'
- **Friday 9th February and Monday 12th February** -School Closed - long weekend
- **Thursday 15th February**-Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School-pm performance

