

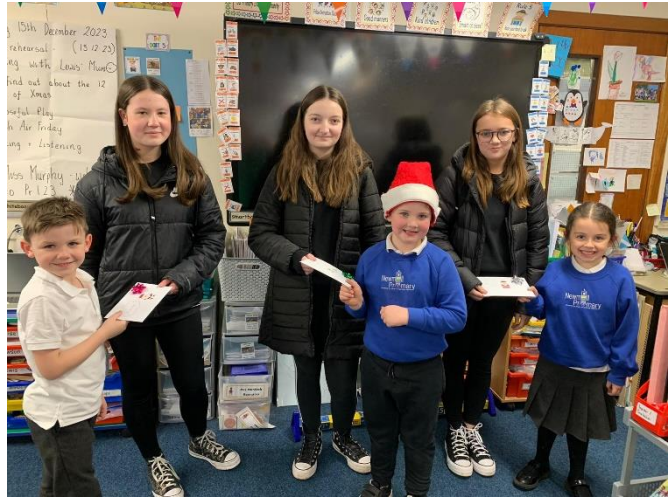


January 2024

We wish you all a very Happy New Year and sincere best wishes for 2024. January is passing very quickly indeed and the Christmas holidays now feel like a distant memory.

Let's start with a look back to the end of last term. We must say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting Mrs Watt's nativity.

Once again, it was a wonderful turn out and great to see so many extended family members, keen to be part of our Christmas Celebrations. It was another bucket filling performance. A total of £200.32 was raised for 'Fresh Air Friday' resources...thanks to everyone for their generosity. The plan is to order some more wheeled toys for the playground. I've been able to save some money this year to purchase a container for the playground to replace one of our sheds. This provides a longer term, larger solution to support our outdoor play provision.



We must also say a big thank you to our Fresh Air Friday girls who return to support play. Jo, Luisa and Mya continue to head straight to Newmill Primary on a Friday afternoon. Their commitment is appreciated. The children really look forward to seeing them and it means we can offer a wider variety of play experiences. Thank you girls.

Warm welcome

We welcome back Miss Grant to P1-3 throughout this term. Miss Grant joins us on work experience from Moray College (HNC Childhood Practice). The children really enjoy having her support. Here's what Jaxon had to say... "Miss Grant is pretty good at reading and she is creative. She has been



helping us make some Roman Craft items and it was fun. I really like having her in class."
We also welcome two new families: Henry and his family and Lacey, Amy and Harrison and their family to Newmill Primary School. We are delighted they have joined our school community. I must congratulate their classmates ...I've witnessed first-hand some very nurturing interactions as they aim to make sure all our new recruits quickly feel like they belong here in our wonderful wee school.

STEM

We were delighted to welcome Mr Morrison from Moray Digital Team to support some technology lessons. Mr Morrison came to P3/4/5 and Mrs Wright was able to then do it with P5/6/7. Here's what Colton had to say...

"Mr Morrison came to teach us how to use microbits. The challenge was to make a Christmas Picture then connect LED lights with wires to the micro bits and place them within the picture. We had to download the Microbit App and programme it to light up."



Reading Schools



Mrs Mair wanted to highlight Scottish Book

trust competitions. Last month, Mrs Mair won a book. Anyone can enter us...follow link below. It advertises different books to win each month.

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/topics/competitions>

Classes are delighted to be reading the books they were gifted at Christmas. Here's what Oscar and Jacob wanted to say about 'Olly Brown, God of Hamsters'...

"Thank you for the books. We love the book and we are really thankful because it is so funny. Everyone in the class like it. We cannot wait to see what happens next."

In P5-7, we are four chapters into 'Escape to River Sea' and the feedback thus far has been positive. It's such a gift to have a brand new chapter book per pupil to explore together.
"I really like how many different themes have been introduced. So far, there has been war, separation, evacuation, wild animals and new visitors as we follow Rosa's journey at Westwood Manor". Molly, P6

Our 'Reading Leaders' are working with Miss McKay to plan a 'World Book Day Event' for the whole school to enjoy, in line with our Reading Schools Silver Accreditation Journey. Many idea bubbles have been shared, including involving parents. We will let you all know as soon as we have a final plan.



Opportunities for Wider Achievement

Mrs Wright continues to run 'Art Club' on a Monday at break time and so far this term the children have been creating mosaics. The children thoroughly enjoy the opportunity and are most definitely in flow throughout their sessions.

Leadership Groups continue to meet on a Tuesday afternoon. Rights Leaders are helping to choose which of the Rights Assemblies to explore next from UNICEF website. They are also helping to refresh 'the wall'. Fresh backing paper and some additions were required. One of which is a 'Rights Rabbit' to help our school community learn

about children's rights, putting them into practice every day. Our aim...to be a Rights Respecting Schools where children's rights are promoted and realised, with adults and children working towards this goal together.

"As a community leader, I have been working with Freya and Mrs Whyte to create Ambassador rotas to make sure everyone gets a turn of leading play in P1/2/3 and leading in the lunch hall by helping with cutlery. Next, we need to organise 'Playmaker' sessions in the playground now that we have completed our leadership course." Aria, P6

Interdisciplinary Learning

Our IDL this term is based around the big idea of 'Using Evidence' as we explore the following key questions:

- What defines a key event in a country's history?
- How do we find out about the past?
- Are all sources of equal value, or are some more important than others?
- Why do we conduct research?
- How can we present our research?
- Why do human rights need to be protected?
- What are the qualities of a responsible citizen?

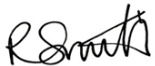
We have been using the context of ' Vikings' to explore the above as our P6s prepare for a Vikings themed Scottish Opera in February. Mrs Watt has been exploring 'Romans'. There will be a chance for each group to share learning with each other nearer the end of term.

Playground Fun

Mrs Murdoch and Mrs Whyte were impressed with 'Persevering Pete' attitudes last week. They held an exciting playground competition to see who could win the best snow sculpture. There was some great teamwork on display. In the end, Rhuary was crowned winner with his amazing snow seat!

However, the snowy weather isn't so much fun for adults.... making a decision about closing a school is one of the most challenging decisions for a Head Teacher. There is a myriad of considerations to take in to account. Part of the challenge is that, for everyone who questions a late opening or a school closure, there is someone else questioning why we open in such conditions! Essentially, we have a duty to our learners, to parents who need to attend work and to those entitled to free school meals. Consequently, the school will be open if it is at all possible to do so. Please remember, the final decision around whether you feel it is safe for your child/ren to travel to school sits with you....you know your roads best. I have everything crossed that the snow is behind us for this winter.

Warm regards,



Headteacher

DIARY DATES

- 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
- Thursday 29th February and Thursday 7th March- Rugby sessions for P5/6/7 9.15-10.15
- Wednesday 6th of March- P7 transition Event at KGS from 9.30-11.30am
- Wednesday 13th March- Dentist visiting P1 and P7
- Saturday 23rd March- Newmill Primary Coffee Morning
- Thursday 28th March-Spring Break begins
- Wednesday 8th May 2024- Science Fair at KPS for P6 children

