

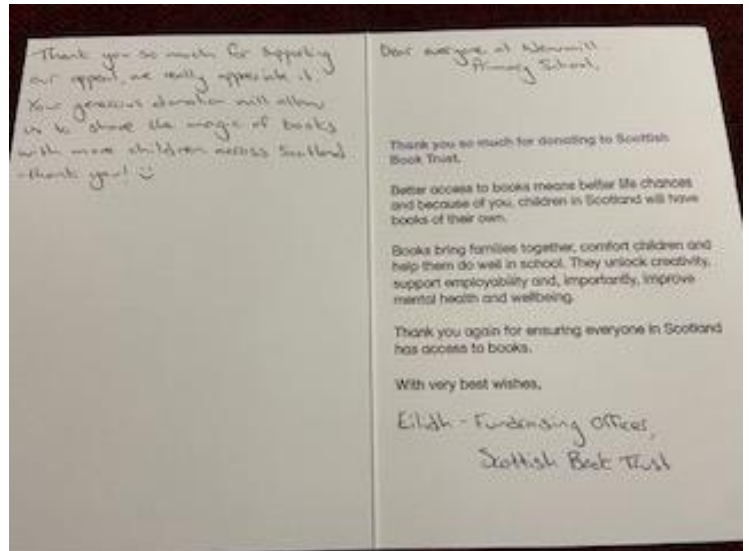


February 2024

Dear families,

February is passing in a flash. The days are stretching and the temperatures most definitely rising which is lovely to see. Here at Newmill Primary we have had a busy time with plenty to share with you all.

We received a thank you letter from Scottish Book Trust. The card has been shared with each class to remind them of how the money, donated on Christmas Jumper Day, is helping children across Scotland access the world of books.



Life and work of the School-Playmaker

We must say thanks to Amanda Walker and our Playmaker Leaders. They have started to deliver playground sessions at lunchtime. Our Wellbeing Ambassador Leaders are now working on a schedule of games and activities for lunchtimes. We are hoping to invite our new P1s from Newmill Nursery in the near future.

Fruity Friday continues to be a great success...our fruit bowl is empty on a weekly basis. Next, our Wellbeing Ambassadors are looking to conduct a survey of playtime snacks and consider if we would like fruit to be available more regularly.

IDL- Scottish Opera

I had the privilege of escorting our pupils across to Keith Primary for the opera last week. Most were as high as kites as they rehearsed throughout the short bus journey. For others, the thought of the day ahead was weighing heavily on their shoulders...performing to an audience is not



for everyone. I enjoyed reading through their reflections of the learning experience. I was struck by the Newmill Ninjas Mindsets towards the event. Regardless of how nervous they felt, the whole group was determined to demonstrate a Newmill Ninja Mindset. I feel very proud of them all and I know Mrs Mair left school on Thursday with a very full bucket! Here's a flavour of what P6 had to say about the experience...

"I have had a remarkably busy and wonderful week at school. My highlight was Scottish Opera. Thursday was a big day for the Primary sixes as it was Scottish Opera and I was so nervous. Before we went on the bus we had our snack. We took the bus to Keith Primary and started rehearsing for the real thing. We had lunch and practised even more. Eventually, we start to perform to the rest of Keith Primary School and we were all in costume (they were so hot!). I had to 'manage my emotions' when we performed in front of an audience. I really enjoyed it. Steven was a tremendous help. He is funny and made the experience extremely fun!" Freya, P6

"On Thursday, we went to Keith Primary for Scottish Opera. Our leader was Steven and he was kind. I had to persevere to do Scottish Opera because it was out of my comfort zone (Miss Smith gave us a pep talk). I had to 'take creative risks' to develop that skill on the 'confident individuals' flower. When I saw the parents coming in for the final performance I started to get really nervous but I set myself a challenge and did it. I wondered where Mrs Mair was so I could ask to opt out but I surprised myself. Robbie and I would like to do it again next year. I think the Scottish Opera team supported everyone and made them feel like they belong. They are also great at the skill 'evaluate the team'. I think next year's P6s will enjoy it as much as we did." Michaela, P6

Life and Work of the School- Newmill Coffee Morning

I was similarly impressed with the mind-set of P5 and P7 who were in school with me that day. We set to the task of creating some persuasive letters. We talked about what we needed to include as a group and the children then set to writing the letters. They used pens and demonstrated a real 'Persevering Pete' Newmill Ninja Mindset towards creating letters to encourage a range of businesses to contribute towards the event.

Andrew, P7, set to creating a letter to persuade you all to send in as many items as you can. He is sure that the addition of some scots words will persuade you all give generously. What I really liked about the letter was hearing how important the event was as a 'good day out'.

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing tae 'you in the hope you wi'd be able to support our wonderful wee Primary School. Let mi' explain... we are pupils at Newmill Primary School, and we are going to be hudi'n a coffee morning on Saturday 23rd March to raise money for our school. This is our first coffee morning since the covid 19 pandemic. We win't tae' mak a big comeback. This is in the hope tae' be een o' the best

coffee mornings we will hold, at least that is our goal. Please help us in achieving this and send donations to our school, Newmill Primary School, any time from now to 22nd March.

We are trying tae' get a' parents and community members tae' try go tae' the coffee morning too. This is in hope tae' draw a big crowd. We wi'd be afa grateful if abody was generous enough to provide these supplies, it is easy enough if everyone donates something. This can be achieved by giving stuff as simple as chocolate, cakes, raffles and items for the bottle stall. As I said, the things you will give us will be appreciated, as they will be supporting all our pupils.

As a gye wee school we are currently relying on only forty-eight families. This means there is not enough for a good coffee morning. This is why we are expecting you to send donations and also contacting local businesses for support. My friends have been busy writing letters all morning. This will severely impact our school if you do not donate. We will be deeply embarrassed if we do not get donations, so please donate to our school.

As a pupil from Newmill Primary I remember going to two of them in the past. Each one was so good and remarkable. Please donate to bring back a great day out for Newmillers. I personally do not want to wait for the next time to go to another one, this is my last year, and it would make my P7 year memorable.

Thank you for taking your precious time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Davidson on behalf of the pupils of Newmill
Pupils of Newmill Primary.

Thus far, we have booked Paddle boarding for P4/5/6/7 with Outfit Moray. Mrs Watt has decided to stick with an Outdoor Learning theme and is organising a day of Outdoor Learning at Newmill Woodland area for P1/2/3. I have been able to make a saving in my school budget this financial year and we are in a position to purchase a container to replace the small shed in the playground. This will help us to provide more outdoor learning opportunities as we build a stock of wheeled toys, loose parts play and resources to support break times and Fresh Air Friday. We have also been able to continue to purchase reading books to update our reading offer. At the start of the school year, we asked parents for their priority in terms of Parent Council Funds and you opted to fund trips. I'm delighted that, as a school community, we have been able to purchase everything on our 'wish list' for this session, to support the delivery of high quality learning and teaching, in addition to more opportunities for personal achievement.

Curricular Skills- Reading Schools- WORLD BOOK DAY EVENT

We are going to be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March as we have Rugby sessions booked on Thursday 7th. This is to ensure Mr Leitch can attend. We know how motivating his inputs are to help us explore the following big questions:-

- *What helps us to choose books?*
- *How do we know our choices are developing our reading skills?*
- *Do you have a Persevering Pete mindset when it comes to reading?*

As part of the event, children have the opportunity to dress up as a book character or come along in their PJs, ready for some story time.

Developing Young Workforce Event- Wednesday 28th February 11-12pm

We are delighted to announce a new partnership. SSEN Transmission and Ross Robots will be visiting P6/7 next week to share an exciting new competition. The format of the day visit is: 11am- Introductions and overview of SSEN Transmission and Blackhillock Substation - Rob Whytock

11:15am- Project Innovation presentation - Tania Shaw

11:30am - Robot presentation and demonstration by Ross Robotics - Dominic

11:50am - Naming Robot Competition and session close - Rob and Tania

More information to follow from our pupils within the next newsletter.

Life and work of the School- Rotary Quiz

We have four pupils eager to represent Newmill Primary at this year's Rotary Quiz. Mrs Jamieson's lunchtime group has dwindled to four regular attendees which has made selecting a team very easy this year. Bay, Mia, Molly, Lucia will be attending the Rotary Quiz. Mrs Jamieson has agreed to transport the children and accompany them to the event. Parents are welcome to come along and support. We wish them the best of luck!



Warm regards,

R Smith Headteacher

DIARY DATES

- Thursday 29th February and Thursday 7th March- Rugby sessions for P5/6/7 9.15-10.15
- Friday 8th March- WORLD BOOK DAY celebrations -start donations for Newmill Primary
Coffee Morning -Option to dress as a character or wear PJs
- Monday 4th March -Rotary Quiz at KPS at 1.30pm
- Wednesday 6th March- P7 transition Event at KGS from 9.30-11.30am -parents to pick up children from Newmill Primary at 9.15. Miss Smith will meet all children in KGS car park and take P7s into KGS for 9.30. Miss Smith will meet children from KGS reception and escort out to parents after the session. Please be in the car park for 11.30 to collect.
- Wednesday 13th March- Dentist visiting P1 and P7
- Thursday 14th March- Parent Council Meeting 2-3pm in school
- Saturday 23rd March- Newmill Primary Coffee Morning
- Thursday 28th March- Spring Break begins
- Monday 15th April- Summer Term Begins
- Friday 19th April- Childsmile Varnish Newmill
- Monday 6th May- May Day Holiday
- Wednesday 8th May 2024- Science Fair at KPS for P6 children
- Thursday 16th and Friday 17th May- In service -school closed to pupils
- Monday 3rd June- School closed-holiday