



June 2024



Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we are in June and rapidly approaching the Summer holidays. Life is fast and fun filled here at Newmill, with a wealth of learning and school achievements to share with you all this month.

We must start with a big thank you to Dennis Innes who has, once again, made a very generous donation of plants. As a result, Mrs Watt and her class have been busy brightening up our outdoor area. The children very much enjoyed their gardening session and I'm sure you'll all agree the results are bucket filling. We must also say a big thank you to Mrs Whyte whom I caught out weeding around school pavements and Mr Watt who has cleaned our courtyard! We are very lucky to have such committed staff and volunteers. Well done to everyone involved!

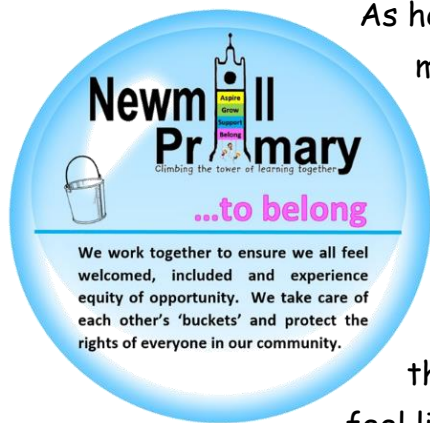
It's all about transitions this month. Our P7s are embracing a range of transition experiences as they prepare for the next stage of their education. Feedback from Adventurous Activity week has been positive, with everyone demonstrating a fab 'Have a Go Jo' Newmill Ninja mind-set. It's a great opportunity to test mind-set and build resilience. They thoroughly enjoyed their time together as we celebrate the end of Primary School with an afternoon tea. We spent some time reflecting on favourite memories which included a range of things from school trips, Christmas Shows to achieving 100% on a maths assessment.



Of course, all children transition to their new class this week which means we've had our four P1s in this week. Once again, they are receiving VIP treatment from their peers. However, all children benefit from the opportunity to build relationships with their 'new' class ahead of the Summer Break. It's an Olympic themed week, kick started with



Sports Afternoon on Monday and then Olympic themed Potted Sports on Tuesday, Netball taster sessions for everyone on Thursday and then our Olympian visit and sports circuits on Friday. At Potted Sports on Tuesday we said a special goodbye to our very own sporting champion....Mrs Henderson. She was delighted to receive so many kind words and gifts to celebrate her retirement. Her final Sports Day was brilliant fun for everyone. Thank you to Gillian Stevenson for coming along on behalf of the wider parent body to present Mrs Henderson with her retirement gift. The children also wanted to say a big thank you for their ice cream...much warmer weather for ice cream this week....I'm so relieved the sun finally made an appearance.



As head learner, it is a real bucket filler to see, hear and feel the motivation our pupils have for transition week. The enthusiasm for, either meeting their new teacher or mixing with a new variety of learners, is enough to keep engagement levels soaring to the very end of term. Mrs Watt has been delighted with how our new P1 recruits have transitioned smoothly, confidently approaching their first week at 'big school'. They've been made a real fuss of in the playground, with a swarm of helpers around to make sure they feel like they belong. Lovely to see so many committing so deeply to using words and actions which demonstrate our school values.

Curricular Skills- If I were an Engineer

Once again, our p5-7 class entered the annual STEM competition and a number found success.

Here are all the proud participants with their certificates, in recognition of their entries.



Opportunities for Personal Achievements- After School Football

Thank you to Shaun for leading football sessions. Many of our pupils have signed up via Active Schools and we are hoping to continue it after the holidays. Here's what some of the children had to say about the experience....

"I really enjoyed it and think I am improving."

Oscar, P5

"We really like it and Shaun is a really good

coach." Marley, P5

"The games are really fun." Elliot, P2



Life and work of the School- Sport for Champions Event

Mrs Wright has been delighted with the support from the whole school community ...thus far we have raised a whopping £1,710. We will include some photos and additional information about the event in the next newsletter.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Well done to Aria who is a double competition winner this term. Here we see her receiving her pedometer as a prize for winning the Active Schools design a poster competition. However, she also took the winning prize in the SEN competition, following the visit we had back in February. As a result, one of the robots will be named 'Haggis' which was her entry.



IDL- P1/2/3 Sharing Event-'Hats Off'

Another wonderful performance from Mrs Watt's class this term. It's amazing to see how naturally the children now embrace every opportunity to perform to an audience. The songs sounded marvellous and the costumes, props and backdrop all made for a memorable event. When the P2 girls were lining up for their



next race at Sports Day, they spontaneously burst into the 'Hot, Hot, Hot' song from the show to pass the time....bucket filler for me and evidence of impact. Once again a big thank you to Mrs Watt, Mr Watt, Jan and Mrs Murdoch for all their support to provide yet another inspiring learning experience for our children.

We also say goodbye to Miss Mackay at the end of term. She's been a great addition to the team this session and we wish her well in the future. She is sad to leave us but looking forward to moving home to Wick and embracing the next step in her career.



Yet another wonderful school year is drawing to a close, and although we are all looking forward to the holidays, there is also a sense of loss as we contemplate our staff members and P7 learners moving on. The children are such an integral part of all our lives and we enjoy such positive relationships in the school that we really miss them. Newmill is such a happy wee school and everyone who comes through the door feels that "specialness." Every day your children are a source of joy and inspiration to us and there is never a dull moment with them around. Thank you for entrusting them to our care.

Have an awesome holiday everyone!



DIARY DATES

- **Friday 28th June**- Sports for Champions Event- More information to follow and last day of term
- **Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th August**- In Service days -Staff back to school
- **Wednesday 14th August**- Pupils back to school
- **Monday 2nd September -Friday 6th September**- Bikeability for all pupils
- **Wednesday 11th September**- School Photos
- **Friday 4th October**- Term 1 ends
- **Monday 21st October** - Term 2 begins
- **Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th November** - In Service closure for pupils
- **Friday 20th December**- Term 2 ends

