



August 2024

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to a new school year at Newmill Primary School. The first few weeks are always such an exciting time as we catch up with each other again; raring to go after a long Summer Break. We must start with a warm welcome to our new P1 group, as well as Ava joining P2. We are delighted to welcome you all to Newmill Primary School. We also welcome Mrs Sue King to our teaching staff team for the term ahead. Mrs King will be replacing Mrs Henderson teaching PE on a weekly basis.

Opportunities for Personal Achievements-Competition Winners

A huge congratulations to Molly Scott who won the Keith Show's competition to 'Design the 150th Anniversary Catalogue Cover.' I was delighted to be able to join Molly at Keith Show where she was presented with her prize from the Stoltman Brothers and Junior Vice Chairperson, Shirley Mitchell. However, I'm delighted to share with you that her prize is a school trip to a local farm, kindly organised by Royal Northern Countryside Initiative and sponsored by Keith Show. We do not have any further details to share at this point. I'm not sure if the trip will be for the whole school or just her class. We will let you all know as soon as we have more information. Well done Molly!



Aria was delighted to receive her prize after winning the Blackhillock robot naming competition last session. It arrived at the start of term and she loved her very own Lego Walle kit. Newmill seem to be smashing local competitions at the moment. Fingers crossed for lots more this session.



PE – Just a reminder of class sessions this term. I know some families have asked for clarification. Information can be found in Homework Folders.

- P1-3 - Mondays and Tuesdays
- P3-6 Tuesdays and Fridays
- P6/7 Mondays and Tuesdays and

In addition, we have 'Bikeability' booked for week beginning 2nd September and aim to involve all learners over the course of the week at some point. As always, parental volunteers to support are welcome. Please email admin should you have some availability to support throughout 2nd- 6th September.

There will be a bike doctor in school on Monday 2nd September. He will be available for bike checks. If you wish your child's bike to be checked over please ensure it is brought to school on that day. However, children do not have to bring bikes. Outfit Moray will provide.



Life and work of the School- Sport for Champions Event

We must say a big thank you to Mrs Wright for organising our very first 'Sport for Champions' event on the last day of term. The event was a huge success. It was a motivating, engaging learning experience which held our learners in 'flow' till the very last minute of term. Here's what some of our learners had to say...

"It was a good way to end the term. Isla is an Olympian Athlete. She skis at Olympic Level but she can also ride a unicycle. She can also juggle. She practises these things to keep balance and concentration. We all got to take part in athletic activity stations. We did push ups, mountain climber and spotty dog. I enjoyed the activities but they were tiring. I had to push myself to keep going. I definitely demonstrated a 'Have a Go Jo Mindset'. Colton, P5



"It was really kind of Isla Ward to come in and tell us about Sports for Champions. I now know that Isla Ward is an Olympic skier and started skiing when she was six. Her mum and dad took her to learn to ski. She took part in her first competition when she was twelve. Isla Ward can juggle and ride a unicycle at the same time. This



really help her develop her balance and concentration. I thought it was a great afternoon. I enjoyed taking part in the stations. My favourite was the push ups. I would like to be an Olympic runner one day. I'm going to keep on biking regularly to strengthen my leg muscles and practise running." Jacob, P4

Of course, we must also say a huge thank you to all of our families for their fundraising effort. We raised a huge amount of money. This will not only support sporting champions of the future but also Newmill Primary School. Mrs Wright and Mrs Mair are currently engaging with some professional development around developing Play Pedagogy throughout P4-7. As part of this, we will need to purchase some new resources. More information will follow as our practice develops.



Life and work of the School- Transitions

We have confused visitors to school this week...as our P7s already have and are wearing their 'Leaver's Hoodies'... we are jumping ahead of time with 2025 splattered on the reverse. It was unanimous in the P7 parental poll. All parents indicated it would be a good idea to get maximum use of the transition gift by celebrating their very first day of P7. I think it helps us all remember to make each day count, as the group encounter many learning experiences for the last time throughout school session 24/25.



Life and Work of the School- Reading Schools Gold

We are determined to achieve our Gold Status before May 2025. During the holidays, I was able to organise our next event. On Thursday 5th September we will



welcome an author visit for the whole school day. Stuart Reid is a Scottish writer and the author of the 'Gorgeous George' series of children's books. Botriphnie will join us for the event. Stuart will host two assemblies and three creative writing classes during his day with us. Our 'Reading Leaders' will be meeting soon to plan some activities to support our 'Reading Schools' journey.

IDL-Creativity is Contagious

This term our IDL focuses on combining literacy and expressive arts wiggly worms to explore the concept of 'creativity'. As part of our IDL study, we will be celebrating 'International Dot Day' together with Botriphnie Primary on Friday 20th September. More information to follow once arrangements have been confirmed.



Life and Work of the School- Reporting- Please note there is an Open Evening this term within diary dates below. We look forward to seeing you all in school soon.

DIARY DATES

- Wednesday 28th August- School Photos
- Monday 2nd September -Friday 6th September- Bikeability for all pupils
- Thursday 5th September- Author Visit -all children to participate in creative writing classes.
- Friday 20th September- Dot Day
- Monday 30th September- Flu Vaccine
- Thursday 3rd October- Open Evening -all families welcome 3-5pm
- 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

