



September 2024



Dear Families,

Another month has passed in a flash with so much to share with you all. Let's take a look at a selection of learning highlights throughout a very successful September here at Newmill.

### Opportunities for Personal Achievements-Bikeability

Once again, we must say a huge thank you to Lil and Michelle from Outfit Moray for a fantastic week of cycling. All pupils participated in cycling at some point throughout the week. Please see Newmill Blog for updated photos. The Friday ramps and Smoothie bike were a real hit with all classes.



*"What a day! Today we took part in a Bikeability session. We had big ramps and seesaws. I was Persevering Pete because it was tricky. We made smoothies. I had bananas, blueberries, strawberries, oat milk and mango juice in mine."* Mia, P5

*"On Monday and Tuesday, Bike ability supported us a lot and helped us identify issues with our bikes. On Wednesday and Thursday, everyone set themselves a challenge cycling in Keith. We all managed risk to cycle around Keith. The best part was cycling down Mid Street. On Friday, we embraced rocking ramps which definitely made us invite feedback."* Amanda, P6

### Life and Work of the School- Reading Schools Gold

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, Botriphnie joined us for an exciting event. The whole school met Stuart Reid....a real life author! Everyone had a great time ...Stuart was very entertaining. He talked to everyone about his books and led three creative writing workshops. He certainly created a real buzz about reading and writing....a memorable experience for all learners. Here's what some had to say...

*"On Thursday, we had an author visit. His name was Stuart Reid. He is now one of my favourite authors. Stuart was very funny when presenting. He definitely had a Have a Go Jo*

*and Independent Imaginative Isla Ninja attitude. I loved his energy and personality. I loved it!" Millie Mo, P7*

*"This week I really appreciated our author visit. Let me tell you more. We welcomed Stuart Reid. He has taken creative risks such as leaving his office job to become a full time author. He has been an author for twelve years." Allana, P7*

*"On Thursday, we had an author come to visit us. His name was Stuart Reid. He is the author of 'Gorgeous George' series. He has nine books. It takes him three months to plan, one month to write and one month to edit and publish. A lot of people got to be volunteers as we recreated scenes from his book. He has a lot of funny things in his books." Mia, P6*



I loved Fraser's, P1, take away from the event..."*Stuart said write down your ideas and dreams to help you write stories."*

We look forward to providing more story writing opportunities next term with a literacy and expressive arts IDL focusing on further exploration and depth of understanding of the concept 'Creativity'.

### **Life and work of the School as a Community-Reading Leaders Update- Competition Time**

Mrs Wright and the Reading leaders have been working with Ashley Inglis to create a Halloween Competition with a Reading twist. More information to follow shortly on how children can enter. Reading Leaders have organised prizes as part of the competition. It would be great if parents could email us some photos of children participating in our Halloween Hunt during the holidays so we can add it to our Reading School evidence bank.



**Reading School -IDL -Dot Day celebration** Thank you to everyone for a great effort to celebrate International Dot Day. Thank you to Mrs Wright and our Reading Leaders for organising. A wealth of creative learning experiences were on offer and our children thoroughly enjoyed the event. Thank you to Amanda and Shelley for judging the 'make your mark and see where it takes you' competition. Riley took first place with a dot he turned into a turtle. Jaxon came in second with his dot that turned into a scooter. Sadie came third with her dot





that turned into a flower. Well done to everyone. The entries are all around the hall. We will leave them there for all parents to see for our open evening.

Here's what Aria, P7 had to say....

*"On Friday, it was Dot day! My favourite part was everything. In Miss Ward's activity, I drew a bow. In Mrs Watt's class we learned about pointillism art technique. Pointillism isn't my favourite way of painting. When we were baking cupcakes, I was so tempted to eat everything and run!"* Aria, P7

### **Curricular Skills- Religious and Moral Education with Rev Amy Bender**

We are delighted to work in partnership with Reverend Amy Bender on our Religious and Moral Education curriculum. This term Reverend Bender will be working with P6/7 with a focus on 'kindness' and 'forgiveness'. She will use stories as a starter for discussion and debate. Here's what some of our learners had to say so far...

*"On Wednesday, we had a visit from Reverend Bender. We learned about different perspective and she read us a story called 'Ish'. It's about a person who created an Ish drawing. Amy then linked it to a story from the bible called 'The Good Samaritan'."* Lucas, P6

*"On Wednesday, Amy Bender came into talk to us about what perspective means. Sometimes we see things from our perspective but not others. She spoke about being a good neighbour. What she means is that you have to be good and do a good deed for anyone, even a stranger."* Thea, P6

### **Curricular Skills- Outdoor Learning Opportunities for all**

Thanks you to Mrs Mair for working in partnership with Dorenell Ranger Service, based in the Cabrach, to organise outdoor learning sessions at our community woodland area for all classes. The sessions focus on:

- \* Nature Connection
- \* Practical Conservation
- \* Sustainability and Renewable Living





There was a real buzz in the school after the first session last week. Here's what some of our learners had to say.

*"On Thursday, Rangers from the Cabrach came to visit. We got a clipboard, pencil and a sound map and we sat in silence for five minutes to record what we could hear. There were so many different bird sounds that I could hear. We split into two groups. Our first activity was to find hidden things. I was a Persevering Pete with this because it was hard to find them but I found a tennis ball, a*



*clothes peg that was green, a little glass cup, a rubber duck, a little chair and a dinosaur. Next we did some animal tracking. Soon after, we learned about different trees playing a game." Ashley, P7*

### **Life and work of the School as a Community- Rights Leader Update**

We have a new member of our school community to introduce ...Rosie the Rights Rabbit. Her role is to support us in our journey to putting children's rights at the heart of school policy and practice here at Newmill Primary School. We have to say a huge thank you to Lisa Nicol for creating our new school character. We were looking for a way to make UNCRC articles more meaningful to our learners and Rosie the Rights Rabbit fits the bill perfectly. There has already been a bit of an argument over which class she visits first.



### **Life and Work of the School- Reporting -Open Evening -Drop in open Evening -Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 3-5pm**

We have been busy preparing some activities for you all to participate in, to showcase daily learning experiences at Newmill. Pupils will take on the role of teachers and lead activities focusing on:-

- **Spelling-** A chance to take part in an 'uplevelling' activity. Children will explain.

- **Numeracy- Addition and Subtraction** -there will be a chance to test out your skills and try out some of the strategies we use to support addition and subtraction.
- **Reading**-there will be a chance to look at some of our newly purchased Reading resources and some information available about guided reading.
- **Writing**-Children will be sharing their 'Smeds and Smoos' story map or pieces of writing.
- **'The Learning Pit'** we aim to showcase our new interactive learning pit and have a quiz prepared for you all to take part in.
- **IDL**- A chance to take time to view Art work on display.
- **Scholastic Book Fayre** will also be available. Children will have the chance to view books in advance within school time and it will be open from 3pm-5pm as part of our Open Evening.



We look forward to seeing you all in school next week. Please note below there are further opportunities to support the life and work of Newmill Primary School through Parent Council. Our AGM will be on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2.15-3pm in School Hall. Hope to see some of you there.

Rachael Smith  
Head Learner

### **DIARY DATES**

- **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September**- Flu Vaccine
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**- Open Evening -all families welcome 3-5pm
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**- Term 1 ends
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October** - Term 2 begins
- **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**- Newmill Primary School Parent Council AGM 2.15-3pm in School Hall
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**- In Service closure for pupils
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**- Term 2 ends

