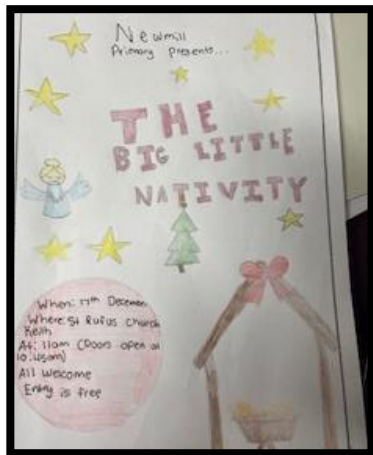




November 2024



Dear Families,



Here we are already at the end of November, with Christmas rapidly approaching. As I write this I can hear a Christmas Song Practice in the hall...always a bucket filler! This year, the whole school is involved in one performance which we will showcase at our Christmas Service at St Rufus Church. The time of 11.00am has been confirmed, with doors open from 10.45 am. Parents are also welcome to attend our annual Carol Concert at St Thomas Chapel on the last day of term. Service will start at 9.30 am. We are delighted to be able to work in partnership to provide these opportunities for our families.

### Staffing update

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mrs Wright on a full time, permanent basis at Principal Teacher here at Newmill Primary, following Mrs Clayton's appointment as permanent Head teacher at Rothiemay. Congratulations to both!

### Welcome

Some of you may have heard your children talking about Miss Riddell. We are delighted to welcome her to the Newmill staff team here as a teaching student. She is with us for a few weeks this term then back again later in the session. She has been thoroughly enjoying her time with the Newmill Ninjas in P1/2/3. We also welcome Joshua and Benjamin to our school community. The children have been working very hard to make sure they feel welcome and included.



### Life and Work of the School- Reading Schools- Promoting reading within the Community

It's been a busy month for our Reading Leaders, with so many events to coordinate.



Here's a flavour of the variety of reading events this month.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in our 'Spooky Story Hunt' around the village. We were delighted with the number of entries. The children enjoyed 'marking' their entries and deciding on the winners. Thank you to Ashley Inglis who helped present prizes. We wanted to thank our kind community neighbours for their support and recognised their commitment with an 'Over and Above' certificate for their commitment to our school value 'Support'.



During Book Week Scotland, P3456 used this year's theme 'HOPE' to inspire them during poetry writing. Firstly, they used the poem 'Me' by Shapna Haddow from 'The Book of Hopes' to create a free verse poem all about the things they like about themselves. The pupils were very creative and used Mrs Wright's poem as a WAGOLL (what a good one looks like) to support their writing.

Additionally, P3456 wrote narrative poems about 'hope', using Pie Corbett's 'Story Time' poem as a stimulus. As our topic was 'hope', pupils had to use personification and give hope human qualities before creating their poems. The results were fantastic and some of our pupils shared their poems at assembly. I have shared some examples of the poems created within this newsletter. It is fair to say my bucket was



overflowing with the quality. I noticed Lyla managed to squeeze the 'tower of learning' into her poem. The poems are definitely clear evidence the whole class was inspired and is climbing the tower of learning together...road to awesome learning! Please take time to read their efforts.

#### ME

I love me I love the way I use  
my hands to do handwriting  
write, write, write  
I love my blue eyes and soft  
skin  
I love my loving heart and  
smart brain  
But sometimes there are days  
when I'm not sure I love me  
as much as the day before  
So on those days  
I squeeze my eyes shut  
I take a deep breath in  
And I blow that thought  
away, away  
So far away  
And I hug my arms around me  
and squish me hard.  
Then  
I jump and I yell I am ok and I  
hug myself so tight and I  
remember just how much  
I LOVE BEING ME

By Jacob, P4

## Reading School- Book Week Scotland - Author's Live Events

"We joined an online Author's Live event. We joined Axel Sheffler. He illustrates for Julia Donaldson so he showed us how to draw a gruffalo, a mouse, an eagle and a penguin. We also had a chance to try to be an illustrator. I was 'Have a Go Jo' and gave it my best shot. I thought my drawing turned out well. Even the P1/2/3 drawings looked good and they are very little. Overall, I would say it was a 7/10 learning experience. It would be even better for him to come to school." Adelle, P5

"On Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, we joined Author's Live event with Jacqueline Wilson. She spoke about when she was little and when she decided she wanted to become a writer. She was told by her teacher that she would never make it to be a writer. She didn't let them stop her and she spent a lot of her spare time writing stories. She also spoke about how all her books are different and that all her characters have different personalities. For example, 'Tracy Beaker' and 'Tess'. 'Tess' is the main character from her new book 'Star of the Show'. It is about a girl who is left on the streets and has always dreamed of being a star of a show. It is set in Victorian times. She also told us she has a new illustrator. Her new illustrator is called Rachael Dean as Nick Sharatt has decided to take more time to work on his own books. I really enjoyed this experience and found it interesting because Jacqueline Wilson is one of my favourite authors." Mia, P6

## Opportunities for Personal Achievement - Summer Reading Challenge Success

Children completing the Summer Reading Challenge at Keith Library were presented with their certificates at an assembly this month. Well done to them all.

## Parent Council AGM

We had our parent Council AGM earlier this month. Just a reminder to all, the minute of the meeting can be accessed on Newmill Blog within the 'Parent Council' tab. Thanks to everyone who attended and in particular, our Office Bearers, who are continuing in their roles for another year. A date of **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 6pm** has been set for our next meeting.

## Life and Work of the School - Celebrating Success -Over and above Certificates and Pen Licenses

Children were presented with over and above certificates this week at assembly. We all read a fantastic book called 'Try' by Rob Burrow and Kevin



Sinfield. It was a story about friendship, kindness and what heroes are really made of. Lewis MacKay noticed the pictures of heroes were the exact same colours as our school value bubbles. It made us wonder if our school values would help guide us all to become heroes. Something we will return to next week.

### Life and Work of the school- Choir

We have a growing number of children who have opted to join Mrs Mair's choir in Leadership sessions. We were all so inspired by the songs they shared with us earlier in the month. The choir are currently working on their Christmas Set and have been asked to attend Turner memorial Hospital to spread some Christmas Cheer, they will also perform at both Christmas Services within the last week.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to Shelley and Amanda (canteen). It was a bit of an assault course attempting to enter the school building last week and Monday morning as a result of the snow. It made getting lunches delivered quite a challenge. They both took the time to shovel paths...over and above certificates are most definitely coming their way. Jaxon informs me that Sarah and Amanda have been gritting the car park first thing in the morning too...your support is very much appreciated...bucket filling stuff. Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events,

Rachael Smith, Head Learner

### DIARY DATES

- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Jumper Day- Community Christmas Card Focus
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Service and St Rufus Church, including whole school Nativity performance at 11am. Doors open from 10.45 am.
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas Party Day for all pupils
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December-** Christmas concert at St Thomas - all welcome starts at 9.30am
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January-** First day of Term 3
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January -** P7 trip to 'The Loft' in Keith for the first transition session 2-3pm. Parents Welcome to attend.
- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February-** School Closed for In-Service
- **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday 17<sup>th</sup> -** School closed for February long weekend
- **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025-** Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School for P6 and P7 pupils

### **HOPE**

Soundlessly, Hope feel through my fingertips. Elegantly, Hope polished my peaceful heart. Inquisitively, Hope scrambled up the Tower of Learning. Joyously, Hope cleared the negative thought from my mind. Courageously, Hope believed in my heart. Gracefully, Hope soared through my thoughts. Cheerfully, Hope made me optimistic. Enthusiastically, Hope made a change for the better. Merrily, Hope fills my head.  
Lyla, P5