



March 2025



Dear Families,

March is passing in a flash as we rapidly approach the end of term. It has been another busy week for our Newmill Ninjas. There is a real partnership theme to this month's newsletter with teachers organising many visitors to school to share their expertise and enhance learning experiences.

We welcome back Miss Alicia Riddell in P1/2/3 as student teacher. The children are delighted to have her back in class. Miss Riddell will be with us until the end of term. Mrs Watt intends to celebrate her last day as a member of permanent full time teaching staff with a 'Grand Concert' on the last day of term at 2pm.

Curricular Skills- PE- Active Schools Cross Country

Best of luck to all our pupils registered to take part in the Cross Country at Gordon Castle later this month. Please remember P1-3 can turn up and participate without the need to register in advance. Thank you to Mrs Simmers for volunteering to be team leader at the event and support our Newmill Ninjas to demonstrate their very best 'Have a Go Jo' Mindset towards the event. Please see message below from Mrs Simmers:

"For any pupils who may be interested in further developing their basketball skills and to make parents aware of 'Moray Mavericks' Basketball Club by sharing their website address: www.moraymavericks.com When I contacted the club they advised me that they don't currently have any space left at U10s and U12s age groups so have a waiting list but there will be a lot of players moving age groups by the summertime."

Ethos and Life of the School as a Community- Rights

We continue to plan opportunities to ensure our children have a thorough knowledge and understanding of UNCRC

rights. Last Wednesday, we booked Andy McKechnie to inspire our pupils with a motivational assembly and workshops around the topic of rights. Here's what Logan, P6, had to say...



"On Wednesday, we had a visitor called Andy who was very interesting. He talked about the UNCR rights and famous people like Muhammad Ali who refused to fight the war against Vietnam which meant he was stripped of all his boxing titles. He also talked about Rosa Parks who is famous for campaigning against racism. He was a professional speaker in front of thousands. He was very funny and got us to do a show in front of the whole school. I had to manage my emotions as I felt silly but once it was over it was really good. I hope he comes back."

IDL- The Cultural Classroom -Gaelic Focus

We must say a big thank you to Debbie MacKay who has been in school visiting all three classes for the past three Tuesdays. This has provided a fabulous opportunity for all learners to build on their previous Gaelic learning. Here's what some of our learners had to say....

"We had a visit from Debbie and she taught us the days of the week in Gaelic but I was one in the pit but I used a 'Have a Go Jo Mindset and persevered even though the work was tricky."

Lucas, P6



"This term we have been learning Gaelic words with Debbie. We have been learning how to introduce ourselves, say the days of the week and count to 12. Debbie also read the "Dear Zoo" story in Gaelic. We had to guess the animal names in Gaelic. The best part was playing the Gaelic games." **Rosie, P3**

IDL- Cultural Classroom- French sessions

We must also say a big thank you to Miss Begou from Keith Grammar School for visiting each of our classes for some specialist input. It is so important for our pupils to meet teachers who will provide opportunities to progress as language learners as they move to secondary.

"Mrs Watt asked Luisa's French teacher Miss Begou to come in and talk about French culture. We asked her lots and lots of questions. Miss Begou told us about French food, sport, education, holidays and the Eiffel Tower. The best part was when she showed us her huge map of the world. We could point to Scotland and France."

Innes M, P2



Ethos and Life of the School as a Community- Providing Wider Experiences We have been delighted to see our pupils enjoying a wide range of extracurricular activities throughout the term. They include: Rotary Quiz, Lego and K'nex Club, Coding Club, Chess Club and Friday Book Club.

Rotary Quiz- Well done to Allana, Harlo, Michaela, Mia and Abi who are representing Newmill Primary at 'The Rotary Quiz' this year. It takes place on Wednesday 19th March. Regardless of the outcome, we are very proud of the 'Persevering Pete' Mind-set they have displayed throughout the term. They have practised Tuesdays and Wednesdays on a weekly basis throughout the term. I even spotted them huddled in the cloakroom at lunch asking each other questions. Good luck and enjoy! Thank you to both Mrs Jamieson and Mrs Mair for supporting their preparation sessions.

Chess Club -*"Every Friday we do chess club. We have been learning how to play chess. Did you know in chess white always goes first? I have played many different opponents and we have many different experts to help. The wiggly worm focus is Health and Wellbeing. I was a two in the pit because I knew how to play but I know more now so I would say I am a three in the pit. The ninja skill I have been developing is Curious Carly...Plan-Do-Review."* Jacob, P4

Thanks to Julie Shand for her time and commitment in supporting all our learners to play chess. We now have enough sets for the class making it a sustainable activity throughout the school year.

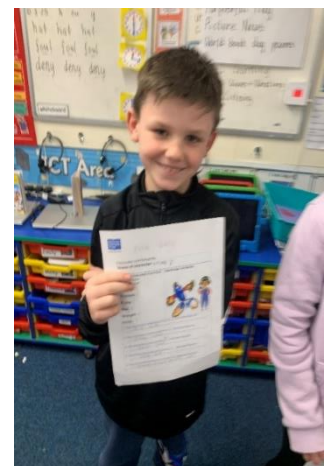


Book Club- Mrs Mair's Book club has very nearly finished their first book 'Finn Jones Was Here' by Simon James Green. The group has selected their next book and Mrs Mair has purchased it. She has been so impressed with the commitment of the group and their enthusiasm for the club.

Ethos and Life of the School as a Community-World Book Day

Each class celebrated World Book Day with their own set of activities focusing on book characters.

"For World Book Day this year we did an 'Ultimate Character Battle.' We had to create a new character by drawing and describing. It was like the game 'Top Trumps' where you had to rate your characters description out of 5 for kindness, strength, brains, funny and size. I felt very proud because I won the battle. My character was a footballer called Neymar." Elliot, P3



Curricular Skills- Science- 'Forces, Vibrations and Waves' Across the school, learners have participated in a variety of lessons to help develop their

understanding of forces, vibrations and waves. Mrs Watt's class invited Mr Friday into class to explore the link between science and music.

"We have been learning about sound waves and vibrations in Science. Mr Friday showed us all his different instruments he plays. We saw lots of recorders. They were different sizes and made different sounds. He also played his flugel horn. We could hear the different pitch of each instrument and how the sounds were made. The best part was when Mrs Watt played her euphonium - it was big and noisy!" Jessie

"My best part was when I had to hold Mr Friday's biggest recorder. It was even taller than Mrs Watt!" Aillise



Our science focus within next term will be 'Body Systems and Cells' and as part of this we have been liaising with Aberdeen Science Centre to organise some hands on workshops. We have organised for all classes to visit Aberdeen Science Centre next term.

P6/7 on **Wednesday 21st May**

P1/2/3 and P3/4/5/6 on **Friday 16th May**

Both days will include an early start so we can make the sessions between 10am-noon. More details to follow.

Generation Science will also be visiting us here at Newmill on **Thursday 8th May**. They will delivering two sessions: one aimed at P1-4 and one for P5-7.

P6 will be visiting KGS for a Science Fair on **Wednesday 14th May**. They will take part in a variety of Science Experiments led by KGS students. We will travel by bus from Newmill and children will be back for lunch.

Curricular Skills- RME- Easter

Reverend Bender continues to join P1/2/3 this term and will be visiting P3/4/5/6 next term.

"In class P123 have been learning about the Easter story. Reverend Bender came in and spoke about the different parts of the story. The best part was holding and touching the palm leaves. I also liked seeing the ash that Reverend Bender puts on to peoples bodies to remember Ash Wednesday." Henry, P3



Ethos and Life of the School as a Community- School Evaluation

As part of our annual quality assurance calendar, we have been reviewing what is working well for our learners as a result of our school improvement work throughout the session so far. Throughout reflection jotters and pupil comments in P6/7 reports, it is clear that learners are now using the language of the learning pit to describe their progress and next steps in learning on a daily basis. A pupil focus group was able to tell me that the introduction and analysis of 'cold' and 'hot' assessments in writing is supporting a clearer understanding of the progress they are making and their next steps within each different writing genre.

"On Wednesday, we write a cold explanation text. The context was: The life Cycle of a Frog. I was zero in the pit because I did not know how to create an explanation text.

We were learning to add and subtract using column method. I was three in the pit for addition but two in the pit for subtraction. I found it a bit hard when I had to carry over numbers but I was determined to be Persevering Pete." P6 pupil

It's a real bucket filler to hear our learners clearly make their learning visible to us and able to articulate the learner attitudes they are channelling. Teachers are able to plan very responsive next steps as a result. As a result, we have been asked to share our approach to empowering learner participation and ownership of learning at a Northern Alliance Event this week. We have been asked to share videos of the approach in action and will be sending out permission slips in due course as we aim to include our learners within these.

Have a lovely holiday when it comes,

Rachael Smith

DIARY DATES

- Wednesday 19th March- Rotary Quiz at Keith Primary School at 1.30pm
- Wednesday 19th March- P7 biking dates- Fochabers Winding Walks (Boys group)
- Saturday 22nd March- Moray Cross Country at Gordon Castle -P1-P3 can turn up and enter on the day
- Thursday 27th March - P7 biking dates- Fochabers Winding Walks (Girls Group)
- Friday 28 March 2025- Last day of Term 3 -Easter Holidays begin
- Monday 14 April 2025- Summer Term begins
- Friday 18th April- Good Friday holiday
- Thursday 8th May- Generation Science Workshops for P1-3 and P4-7 Newmill Primary School
- Wednesday 14th May- P6 to KGS for Science Fair led by KGS pupils
- Friday 16th May- P1/2/3 and P3/4/5/6 class trips to Aberdeen Science Centre
- Wednesday 21st May- P5-7 trip to Aberdeen Science Centre with Newmill Primary P6/7
- Monday 26th May 2025- Scottish Opera at Keith Primary School for P6 and P7 pupils