



May 2025



Dear Families,

May has been a truly marvellous month at Newmill, filled with sunshine and magical learning experiences to share with you all including a **BIG** announcement....

*"Fun fact..... we got Reading Schools Gold Award."* Lucas, P6

### Ethos and Life of the School as a Community-Reading Schools

We are delighted to announce that Newmill Primary has been accredited GOLD LEVEL Reading Schools status. The programme, developed by Scotland's national charity changing lives with reading and writing, supports schools to build a reading culture, where



every pupil is encouraged to feed their imagination through books.

Reading for pleasure is central to supporting wellbeing, improving attainment across the curriculum, and boosting critical thinking, creativity, empathy and resilience. At Newmill Primary we have been developing a Reading Culture as part of our literacy attainment focus for the past three years. Our 'Reading Leaders' have demonstrated unwavering commitment to meeting the action points within our plans and we were delighted to celebrate our achievement on Monday. The accreditor was delighted with our evidence stating... "our evidence fully reflects how amazing and fantastic your reading culture is". By coincidence, our 'reading bench' arrived this week and we have started to think about what our mobile library will look like from now on (the old trolley has seen its day). We are committed to sustaining our reading culture to add value and continue to promote opportunities for reading achievements across our school community. We can't wait to get this into the playground and develop how we use it.

### Opportunities for Personal Achievement DYW Chivas Trip

P4 were delighted to embark on a trip to the real world of work and visit Chivas Keith Bond 2 this month. The event was organised to provide the opportunity for Sadie and her classmates to meet the Robot Sadie named. Here's what Sadie had to say...

*"On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May all of the P4s and Mrs Watt went to Chivas Keith bond 2. We were all invited to see "Rosie the Robot" in real life. I won the design a robot competition when I was in P2. It was interesting to see inside the warehouse and to hear what happens. First we met Toby the robot who had been designed by a pupil at Hopeman Primary. He was the big brother of Rosie the Robot. Then we walked to see Rosie and she was smaller but had a fancy camera to sense size and location. Unfortunately Rosie was not working so the manager will send us a video next week of her in action. I felt very proud when I got to see my original design. We were all happy with our goody bags. I was excited because I got a back pack full of extra fun things for being the winner. Our next step is to watch the video when it arrives to see Rosie in action. Today I was a 'Have a go Jo' because I was unsure of where I was going and what was going to happen. I think I managed my emotions very well."* Sadie



### Life and Work of the School as a Community- celebrating VE day assembly

We must say a big thank you to Reverend Amy Bender for flagging up a wonderful learning opportunity for learners. P6/7 attended a Live Assembly to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. We met some incredible people on the virtual assembly — 107-year-old veteran Frank Chester whose life and service are an inspiration, Sky News FYI presenter Scarlett Archer, Warrant Officer Class 2 Campbell, and the brilliant actress Carey Mulligan, all of whom brought such meaning to the commemoration. We were especially moved by Uliana, a courageous school student from Ukraine who shared her first-hand experience of living in a war zone — a sobering and powerful reminder of the ongoing cost of conflict.





In the evening, I was delighted to be invited along to the VE Event at the Legion in Keith where I was able to see Rosie and Abi take their first peek at the tartan both had designed. Both girls entered the design a tartan competition some time ago now so it was fabulous for them to see the end result! Well done girls...an amazing achievement and story to share.

### **Curricular Skills- Generation Science**

We must say a big thank you to Mrs Wright for organising Generation Science Workshops for P3-7. The children found the experience engaging and were delighted with the practical hands on experiments. Thank you to Generation Science. Here's what Oscar, P5, had to say...

*"This week we got a visit from Generation Science. We were learning about chemical reactions. We mixed stuff to test if it was neutral, acid or alkali. We learned about 'Elephant Toothpaste'. I was one in the pit but I was Curious Carly the whole way through because I was curious which ingredients would react best."*



### **Curricular Skills- Aberdeen Science Centre Trip- Amazing Bodies**

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Aberdeen Science Centre last week. The children represented the school well, with excellent listening, attention and general enthusiasm for everything the Science Centre had to offer. We took part in an 'Amazing Bodies' workshop to link with our Science focus in school this term. Teachers were delighted to hear our learners share their knowledge with the staff and volunteer to answer questions. It was a lovely opportunity to put a spotlight on what they know and understand about the learning focus thus far. Thank you to all parents who support transportation and packed lunches ...a real team effort! Here's what some of the children had to say...





*"On Wednesday, P6/7 went to Aberdeen Science Centre and it was so fun. We participated in a Body Workshop and learned about how many bones are in the body. There are 206 in an adult body and 300 in a child because over time they join together. My favourite area to visit was 'make it'. We explored different areas and it was really fun. I was 'Have a Go Jo'. Juliet, P6*

### **Life and Work of the School as a Community- P1 transition**

Our Wellbeing Ambassadors have been working hard to develop their leadership skills throughout the term. They have been practising leading games with P1/2 children to be super prepared for leading them with their buddies. This week, they introduced themselves to their P1 buddy parents so that we all recognise each other. It's fair to say our P1s receive VIP treatment, with each and every 'Buddy' keen to spend time with them. We are really proud of the commitment they have been demonstrating to our school value 'Support'. I can see some 'Over and Above' Certificates heading their way. It was great to have our P1 parents in to school this week and welcome them as partners, working together to support a smooth transition to the next phase of their child's education.



*"On Monday, P6s practised Playmaker with P1s and P2s. we all had to be Resilient Ruby's because we had to handle them by ourselves. Overall, we built team strengths, so everything went smoothly."*  
Amanda, P6

### **Curricular Skills- Scottish Opera**

Mrs Mair was very impressed with our Resilient Ruby Newmill Ninjas at the Scottish Opera performance this week. Here's what some of them had to say...

*"I was really excited but also nervous. I had to be Resilient Ruby to manage my emotions. It was super fun practising and performing. The end results was a success and it was a great experience."*  
Abi, P6

*"I was excited for the rehearsals but nervous to do it in front of other schools. I enjoyed it so*



*much, I volunteered for a solo part on the day. It was a three in the pit performance. I think we could have sang louder." Millie Mo, P7*

### **New classes**

As we approach transition week for beginning on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, we will be issuing emails to parents of children who will be in P3 and P5 next session on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**. Once again, we are required to split these year groups to ensure composite class sizes do not exceed twenty five. Our classes for next session will be:

- P1/2/3 with Mrs Wright
- P3/4/5 with Miss Stewart (3 days/ 2 day post has been advertised)
- P5/6/7 with Mrs Mair

We must end with a big thank you to Dennis Innes who has, once again, made a very generous donation of plants. As a result, P1/2 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 Jan and Mr Watt .We are very lucky to have such committed staff and volunteers. Well done to everyone involved!

Fingers crossed the sun makes an appearance for Sports to go ahead.  
Miss Smith



### **DIARY DATES**

- **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June-** School Closed - Occasional Day Holiday
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June-** P6/7 Farm Trip in association with RNCI
- **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June-** Newmill/ Botriphnie Sports day 1-2.30pm  
Newmill Park
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>/ Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>/ Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June** -KGS induction
- **Week beginning 16/06/25** Adventurous Activity week for P7s (2 groups) and Transition week for whole school with all children moving to their new class for most of the week and new P1s joining.  
**Extra-Curricular Opportunities planned for transition week include-** Fitness and Martial Arts tasters with Steven Thain and Coding Workshops with a specialist Digital Teacher
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June-** P7 Afternoon Tea 3pm- 4pm -provided by Newmill Primary School- no cost
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June-** Last of P7 transition sessions at The Loft
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June-** P1/2/3 Active Schools Taster Badminton Sessions
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June-** Last Day of Term
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August-** In Service Closure
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August-**In Service Closure
- **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June-** Children return to school