



January 2026



Dear Families,

January has been a busy and positive month at school, with pupils working hard and settling well into their learning. In this newsletter, I am pleased to share updates, celebrations and important dates as we move toward February.

Average Monthly Attendance data: 98.40%

Curriculum

Writing



This month, the focus in writing has been on procedural (instruction) writing. Primary 3-5 had a sweet hands on experience by making chocolate bananas, carefully following steps to create their treats. They then used their experience to write clear, detailed instructions, thinking about the order of steps, the language needed to guide someone else and helpful tips to make their recipe successful. It was a delicious way to put writing skills into practice.



Primary 5-7 pupils have been learning to write autobiographies, focusing on sequencing events, using first person writing and reflecting on important moments in their lives.

Scottish Opera - The Dragon of the Western Sea

Scottish Opera offers an exciting musical and theatrical experience for our second level pupils. On the afternoon of Wednesday 11th March, all schools in the Keith ASG will come together for a special performance at Keith Primary School. Primary 6 and 7 pupils have already started rehearsing for the event, learning songs and dance routines as they take on the adventurous roles of pirates. It promises to be a fun and unforgettable performance.

IDL

Climate Action

The interdisciplinary learning (IDL) this term focuses on Climate Change. In Science, pupils will develop their understanding of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Within Social Studies, they will examine natural disasters and explore the impact of human activity on the environment. In Technologies, pupils will investigate how technological developments affect the environment, while also enhancing their ICT skills using a range of applications, software and digital platforms.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

Leadership Groups

Our Sports Leaders have been busy working towards achieving the School Sport Award. As part of this exciting journey, a new house system has been introduced at Newmill. Pupils have been divided into three houses: Squirrels, Robins and Foxes. The children also measured the playground and discovered that completing ten laps is needed to take part in the Daily Mile.

The Rights and Reading Group have been planning a range of reading related activities for the year ahead. One highlight will be celebrating World Read Aloud Day on 4th February, which everyone is very much looking forward to.

Our Pupil Parliament has been working hard to find ways to improve our school, while the Community Group has been getting creative by designing ideas for a new reading bench for our playground.

Playmakers

Well done to our Primary 5-7 pupils who successfully completed Playmakers training with Amanda, our Active Schools Coordinator. Through the training, pupils developed valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and organisation. They are now putting these skills into practice by running weekly Playmaker sessions at lunchtime, providing fun and active opportunities for other pupils to enjoy.

Warm regards

S. Chalmers.

Stacey Chalmers
Acting HT

DIARY DATES

- **Tuesday 3rd February** - Parent Council Meeting 6.30 pm
- **Thursday 12th February** - In Service
- **Friday 13th February and Monday 16th February** - Mid Term Holiday
- **Wednesday 11th March** - Scottish Opera for P6/7 pupils
- **Wednesday 25th March** - Family learning Event: Maths & Numeracy
- **Friday 27th March** - Term 3 ends