

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

## Headteacher's Newsletter – April 2023

### Easter Service

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Easter Service in Portmoak Church at the end of term. Thank you also to Portmoak Church for hosting and to Mr. Baijal for his take on the Easter Story. I am sure those who made it along will agree that P5/6 and the school choir delivered a super Spring assembly on the day.



### Gala Royal Party

At the Easter Service we drew lots for the Gala Royal Party for 2023. The Portmoak Gala Queen is Hannah Seaman. She will have two attendants: Phoebe Kirkman and Mimi Oliver. The Gala King is James McKenzie and his attendants will be Mason Sinclair and Hamish Fernie.

## Easter Egg Competition

Well done to everyone who submitted eggs for the competition before the Easter holidays. There was a very difficult job for Mrs Widley, our school cook, who had to choose a winner from each stage. This year the winners were:

- Primary 1 – Bodhi Taylor
- Primary 2 – Ronni Roberts
- Primary 3 – Rose Smith
- Primary 4 – Marven Dow
- Primary 5 – Freya Lynch
- Primary 6 – Alexa Webster
- Primary 7 – Rory Aitken

Thank you to the parent council for the donation of eggs for prize

## School App / Seesaw

We would like to remind you that the school app is no longer in use. Teachers are using announcements in Seesaw to communicate with their classes. Please ensure you check Seesaw at least weekly for any updates and have notifications switched on for the app. We will be using text messages when we need to contact you quickly, but otherwise seesaw and email is the way we will be in touch.

## New Menu for School Meals and Summer BBQ

A reminder that there is now a new school meals menu in place, which was sent home on 31<sup>st</sup> March – please look over this with your child. If you would like a paper copy sent home then please just let us know.

I know some people liked to see the menu on the School App which isn't running now; you will find an up to date menu from Tayside Contracts here:- [Primary menu 23-24 Updated April 23.pdf \(tayside-contracts.co.uk\)](https://www.taysidecontracts.co.uk) – we suggest you bookmark this page for future reference.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June we will have a summer BBQ for school dinners, the menu for this is on the image to the right of this section.



## New Faces in School

Mrs Caroline Thompson started with us on Monday 17th April for a block placement as a teaching student in P3/4.

Mrs Vicki Wilson has now started in the Kinross cluster as an area support teacher. She will be with us for three days in total this term, as she provides some extra capacity across all of the schools in the area. This post is in addition to that held by Mr John Muir, who also works across the Kinross area, rather than a replacement of this post

## Chickenpox and contagious diseases

As you will be aware, you need to let the school know when your child is absent and provide the reason for this absence. I have been alerted to a child who is immunocompromised in our school, who would be at risk of becoming very ill if they were to catch chickenpox or any other contagious diseases. Please can you make sure the school is informed if your child catches any contagious diseases, so we are able to let their parents know. I would also like to remind you that children with chickenpox should not attend school for 5 days, and until all of their blisters have burst and crusted over, to reduce the risk of infecting others. Your support in this would be appreciated.

## Rotary Quiz – Next Round!

A very big well done to our successful rotary quiz team, who got to the second stage of the competition having won the Kinross-shire event last month. They have now been crowned champions of the Fife and East Scotland area final and will be going onto the national finals later this term, having successfully seen off some stiff competition from the other local area winners on 18<sup>th</sup> April. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on this significant achievement. They are now travelling to Aberdeen in June for the national final and we wish them every success!



## Dyslexia Scotland Parents' event

There is a free session for parents being held on 18<sup>th</sup> May at LLCC.

This masterclass for parents includes information on:

- Dyslexia – what to look for, how it may affect your child
- Homework – practical strategies and resources to use with your child at home
- Building self confidence
- Study skills – tips and tricks

All welcome. [Book a free place on Eventbrite.](#)

Please email [lena@dyslexiascotland.org.uk](mailto:lena@dyslexiascotland.org.uk) with any queries.

**Dyslexia Scotland Perth and Kinross - Dyslexia Masterclass for Parents**

Thu 18th  
19:00 - 20:30

## Communication

As you will know from parent surveys and the school newsletter, we have been reviewing the communication in the school this year. We plan to make better use of groupcall texts and emails for communication from myself and the office and for teachers to make better use of seesaw. As well as not renewing the contact with Connect Us for the school app, we are also looking for a cheaper option for the website, which will save us a significant sum annually.

When the Parent Council met in January, we reviewed the current school policy on communication and made some changes.

Please review the updated policy below. If you have any feedback or suggestions for changes to the policy, then please contact the school with your ideas.

### **Communicating with Parents**

*Portmoak is a school that takes a great deal of pride in our family atmosphere and welcoming ethos. We do endeavour to be an open school and will get back to parents as quickly as possible, usually responding within 24 hours except for holidays and weekends, and certainly well within the Council minimum standards for customer service. We do appreciate that you put a great deal of trust in us looking after your children and that parents need to feel all concerns or requests, no matter how small, will be given attention in a timeous manner.*

*We use a wide range of methods to communicate with parents. As well as phone, text message and email, we also have a Headteacher's newsletter monthly, which updates parents on what is going on in school. This contains opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school, for example through 'Meet the Teacher' open afternoons (Autumn), parent workshops, parents' evenings (Autumn/Winter and Spring), class and special assemblies (throughout the year, relevant dates are in the newsletter) and special events such as Sports Day, coffee mornings or fundraising events. We recommend you add the school email to your safe senders list.*

*We use Seesaw to share children's progress in learning with home, as well as for messages and announcements from the class teachers. School trips are signed up for and paid for through the ParentPay website, which also allows those not on free school lunches to pay for school dinners. We are a cash free school now, so all payments are to be made through ParentPay.*

*Throughout the year we host a 'Parent Coffee and Catch Up' in the school library. This is an informal chance to come along, meet with other parents and the Headteacher and generally just catch up. There are often representatives from the parent council there, as well as other members of staff on occasion.*

*We are delighted that all parents are now on our email circulation list, and on ParentPay, as this enables instant communication and takes away from the issue of children leaving notes in their school bags or trays. Parents are also encouraged to make use of the school website [www.portmoakprimary.co.uk](http://www.portmoakprimary.co.uk) and to follow us on Twitter on @PortmoakPS. Please note that the text message service does not alert us to incoming messages, so unless we ask for a reply to a message, please use email, phone, or pop in to see us with a message.*

# Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

April 2023		
27 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6 & P6/7	Trip to Glasgow Transport Museum
28 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4	Sharing our Learning - P3/4 parents welcome at 9.15am
28 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
30 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Instalment 4 due for Ardroy
May 2023		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Whole school	May day holiday
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P1 and P7	Dental Nurse
4 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6 and P6/7	Squash tasters
5 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
8 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Additional holiday to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III
9 <sup>th</sup>	Parents	Parent Coffee and Catch Up with Mrs Gordon and Mrs Gibson 9.00am -9.30am – parents welcome
10 <sup>th</sup>	P5s and P6s	Cricket
12 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy residential weekend
15 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Final instalment due for P7 Activity day
15 <sup>th</sup>	P1/2 & P2/3	Trip to Solsgirth Home Farm
15 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Choir
16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents	Parent Council Meeting – 6pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	P5s and P6s	Cricket
18 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	New P1 Picnic 12.00-12.30
18 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4	Outdoor Learning Experience
19 <sup>th</sup>	P1/2	Sharing our Learning - P1/2 parents welcome at 9.15am
19 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
22 <sup>nd</sup>	P4-7	After School Choir
22 <sup>nd</sup>	P6	Cricket – Kinross Cluster
24 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	New P1 Picnic 12.00-12.30
26 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
31 <sup>st</sup> May	P7	P7 Activity Day – Day 1
June 2023		
1 <sup>st</sup>	P7	P7 Activity Day – Day 2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole school	Sharing our Learning Assembly P5/6 parents welcome at 9.15am
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole school	Portmoak Gala day
5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
5 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Choir
5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Sports day – 1pm start (parents welcome)
7 <sup>th</sup>	P6	
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Induction days at Kinross High School
8 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	Induction into P1 class – Group A 1.45-2.45
9 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	Induction into P1 class – Group B 1.45-2.45
9 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
12 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Choir
13 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	Teams Call – New P1 Induction
16 <sup>th</sup>	All P6's	John Muir Assembly – P6 parents welcome at 9.15am
16 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
19 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	BBQ for school lunch
22 <sup>nd</sup>	P3/4	Trip to Royal Highland Show – more info to follow
23 <sup>rd</sup>	P7	Cluster Prom
23 <sup>rd</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
28 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Leavers Assembly – School hall – all parents welcome at 9.30am
29 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	End of term – 12 noon finish
30 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Summer holidays until 16 <sup>th</sup> August

Don't forget to save both school numbers 01577 867290 (school office)  
and the absentee line & answer phone on 01577 867196.

