

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

## Headteacher's Newsletter – May 2023

### Ardroy

Last weekend we had a wonderful time at Ardroy Outdoor Education centre with our P6 children. The children took part in canoeing, abseiling, gorge walking, woodland walks and other activities at Lochgoilhead in the west of Scotland. I have assured P5 and P4 children that we have already started planning dates in May 2024 and May 2025 so they can have the same experience as their peers when they are in P6. A huge thank you to Miss Kettles for giving up her weekend for accompanying the children and I on the trip, and to Mrs Harrower for coming to visit on the Saturday. We all had a super time and the children were a credit to the school.



### Dress Down Day - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May

On Friday 26th May we will have a dress down day with donations welcome for the parent council run tombola stall at the Portmoak Gala. If you would like to support this please can children bring in a donation for the stall (some sweets or chocolate, of any size) then we would be most grateful. Children can come dressed down without any donation though. As ever, no football strips on dress down days please.

## Sports Day – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June we have school sports at 1pm. Lunch will be slightly early that day. Families are welcome to come along and watch from the banking. Please note we will have the area near the poly-tunnel cordoned off for school use only, and the classes will sit together there.

We will have a second-hand uniform sale at 12.30-1.00 and 3.00-3.30 on the day, organised by the parent council. Pre-loved uniform will be available on a pay what you can / pay what you feel basis. If you have items to donate for this sale please send them into school, these items should be washed and with name labels removed / names in pen scored through.

## School Uniform

We discussed school uniform and the results of the parent survey on Tuesday at the last meeting, as a result of this and further information received, we have chosen a new supplier for uniform – Earth Uniform. I have been assured the new supplier will be up and running by the end of June and orders are turned around within 5-7 days. More information will be issued in due course. Further to the parental consultation we will also be allowing plain black leggings to be officially added to our uniform policy.

## STEM Engineering Award Winners

We were delighted to hear that we had 13 short listed distinctions, 11 distinctions and 4 award winners for the Primary engineering award. A huge well done to all pupils who took part, and in particular award winners:

- Katie Crane
- Esme Boydell
- Emma McIntyre

Highly Commended

- Ollie Marwick



## One Planet Picnic and inter-house cricket – 16<sup>th</sup> June

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Eco Committee would like to invite all pupils to take part in our One Planet Picnic. Our One Planet Picnic is about encouraging children to bring a litter-free afternoon snack that is good for you and good for the planet. It is a fun way to make your food and drink choices environmentally friendly.

That means:

- Choose as many ingredients as you can that are local and seasonal, organically grown or ethically traded. (Please remember no nuts.)
- Reduce food waste and packaging waste.

Weather-permitting, we are hoping that the Inter-house Cricket matches will be on that afternoon and the children can enjoy their snack while cheering on their House. There will be compost bins available for any banana peels, apple cores etc., but we hope to have empty rubbish bins!

## Cricket Competition – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

The Kinross-shire cricket festival is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. We are fielding two teams this year, from P5 and P6. I am sure you will join me in wishing our children every success in this event!

## Absentee Policy

If your child is going to be absent please call the absentee line on 01577 867196 or send an email to [portmoak@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:portmoak@pkc.gov.uk) before 9am letting us know your child's name, class and reason for absence. The absentee line calls an answering machine service which operates 24 hours a day – please call it any time before school starts each day your child will be off. It is our duty to ascertain the absence of any child and to log it as quickly as possible to ensure that all our pupils are safe – it would help us greatly if all parents adhered to the absentee policy.

## Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices

We would like to remind you that the school policy is that children should leave all electronic items at home and we do not allow them to bring them to school. If you feel there is an occasion when your child requires access to a mobile phone at the end of the day (for example if they are going straight to a friend's house) then the school procedure for this is that they may hand their mobile phone into the office at 9.00am for safe keeping and can collect this at the end of the school day. Rest assured that staff will continue to contact you in the usual manner if there is any concern about your child's health or wellbeing during their time at school.

Children are also not permitted to bring watches to school that have the capability of taking photos, sending messages or making phone calls which some smart watches are able to do, even if they have a school mode. Fitbits and other fitness trackers are ok providing they do not have functionality to take photos, send messages or make phone calls. Please note we take no liability for the loss/damage to any mobiles or electronic items that you chose to let your child bring to school.

## Warmer weather and busy days

At this time of year, we have lots going on in school. Classes are going outside for sports practise; all classes are visiting the local area and children are going out on a number of school trips. If the forecast is to be sunny, we recommend you apply sunscreen in the morning before school. Children can also bring some in their school bag to apply themselves if you want them to do this. We also recommend a sun hat to come to school in summer months. As we live in Scotland, and the weather can change quickly, a light jacket should also be brought to school daily, even in summer months.

# Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

May 2023		
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
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Netball team	After school netball match
24 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	New P1 Picnic 12.00-12.30
26 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	After School Netball
26 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Dress down day – donations for chocolate/sweetie tombola welcome
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
14 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Tempest Photos
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
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.

