

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – August 2023

Welcome Back

It has been a successful start to the new term at Portmoak. Our new P1s have been really good at settling in and are already feeling like part of the Portmoak family. Lovely feedback from KHS about our ex-P7 children too. All of the classes have been enjoying time in their own class and in our extensive playground, and we are planning lots of exciting opportunities for the year ahead.

Here are some pictures of our five classes this year looking smart in their school uniform!





P7 Reporters

This year we will have some help with the newsletter, Alfie and Charlotte have been gathering the news from the classes for our first newsletter. I think you will spot a harvest theme among them as all classes are busy with our partnership with Kinnesswood in Bloom.

Class News – by Alfie and Charlotte

In P5/6, they have been harvested lots of vegetables. These include potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, beetroot and runner beans. They have enjoyed activities such as playing with Kapla, going to the library and their road safety signs. Their Topic this term is Energy in the past and in the future and will be looking at renewable and non-renewable energy.

In P1/2, they harvested some vegetables from the raised beds. They have also picked potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, beetroot and runner beans. They have enjoyed the Art table, building robots, reading, painting and the home area. Their topic is All About Me, and lastly, they like playing outside at the Pirate ship, playing with their buddies, the wigwams and the trim trail.

P2/3 have harvested vegetables from the school raised beds. They picked carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, peas, onions, beetroot, runner beans and leeks. Their topic this term is inventions and they have enjoyed harvesting and eating the crops from the school vegetable garden, learning new maths, playing outside, writing, play doh and going to the library – everything!

Since they have come back to school, P3/4 have enjoyed seeing their friends again, building with the blocks and learning some things about their new topic, Inventors and Inventions. They have been out to harvest vegetables from the raised beds and picked onions, carrots, tomatoes, beetroot and potatoe.

P6/7 have started working on their film project with the Scottish Youth Film Foundation. They have learned about filming techniques which they will use in their own short films. Their topic for this term is Energy sources and will be investigating renewable and non-renewable energy sources. The P7s have enjoyed making soup using vegetables from the raised beds and spending time with their P1 buddies and helping them settle into their first weeks at Portmoak PS.

Nut free school

Please note that this is a nut free school and children should not come with any snacks or packed lunch items that contain nuts, including chocolate spreads such as Nutella, as we have pupils and a member of staff with severe nut allergies.



Macmillan Coffee and Open Afternoon to 'Meet the Teacher'

On Thursday 28th September we will be having our annual open afternoon / MacMillan coffee fundraiser. This is an opportunity to see the children in their classes, chat informally to staff in the room and then head along to the hall for tea and coffee and home baking.

The classes will all be baking in the run up to the event, but we would also welcome donations of home baking at morning drop off on 28th September, or at 3pm pick up on the 27th if easier.

Times for the open afternoon are:

- 1.30-2.15pm – time in classes
- 2.15pm – classroom closed to visitors
- 2.15-2.45pm – visitors welcome in the hall for coffee and cakes (this is free, but we will be taking donations for Macmillan on the day)
- 2.45pm hall closed
- 3.00pm sale of any leftover goodies just outside the front door (in £1 lucky bags)

Please note that younger siblings are welcome to join us in the hall for cakes etc, but we do not have space for the school-aged children to join this session. They will have their own time for treats in their class.

Seesaw

Please ensure that you have gone onto ParentPay and signed up for Seesaw for this year.

Following parental consultation last year, we moved to using Seesaw as an online learning journal and class teachers also use it to send out announcements with information. All classes will now use paper/jotter homework, again this is due to parental feedback. This means all children will only have the family app login. Hopefully this will help make it easier to work, with only one login.

Pick up at 3pm

Teachers with children in P1-3 need to see an adult at the end of the day at pick up, please give us a wave when your child is being released. Children from P4 can leave on their own if you want them to walk home, but please make them aware of a plan for coming home and someone isn't there (come back to us!).

The bus / taxi children need to walk along the path to get to their transport at the end of the day. Please keep the footpath clear when waiting on your child.

Playground Supervision before the School Day

For all children, we would ask that they do not arrive in our school grounds before 8.30am. There is no supervision in the playground at this time but there will be a member of staff in the school office from 8.30am onwards. Children normally remain outside until 9am, but if it is very wet staff may bring them into the school hall.

For those children who are transported to school by the local authority, primary schools are required to provide a level of supervision from the time the bus/taxi arrives at the school until the children board the transport at the end of the school day. In our school this means that the children are met as they disembark from the bus and they are then escorted into the school grounds by staff to join their classmates. At this point the member of staff will work in the office, but bus children are made aware that the staff member will be available to support the children if required.

Coats

As the weather gets colder it is more important than ever that children bring a suitable coat to school every day. Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat every day, preferably with a hood. Children will be reminded to wear their coats on cold and/or damp days.

House Captains for this year

The children wrote application forms to help support the decision of the teaching staff. And what a very hard decision it was this year as we have a lot of very worthy children coming into P7 who would, I am sure, have made excellent choices. There were several houses in particular that were extremely close and very difficult to decide, but we have managed to narrow it down to two from each house.

The new house captains are:

- Lomond – Isla Caldwell & Eva McKenzie
- Bishop – Zoe Stockdale & Rosie McLaughlin
- Kinneston – Brodie Robertson & Robert Fernie
- Leven – Grace Drummond & Lucas More

Prize Winners 2022-23

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- Art Prize – Maeve O'Hare
- Girls' Sport – Grace Drummond
- Boys' Sport – Roman Sinclair
- Spirit of Cricket – Isla Caldwell
- Friendship – Ethan Lumsden
- Music – Danny Dalgety
- Friend to our Planet – Hannah Seaman
- Alison Greenshields Memorial – Katie Arbuckle
- Jamesfield Trophy – Alfie Whyte
- Yellow – Jude Oliver
- Academic – Caitlin Cox

Clothing Grants

You can claim free school meals and a school clothing grant for your child(ren) if you are receiving:

Income Support

Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance

Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance

Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £17,005

Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £7,920

If you are between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school meals for yourself.

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £660

Parents/Carers in receipt of a qualifying benefit will receive an annual school clothing grant of £120 per child in primary school and £150 per child in secondary school.

Please note assistance with school clothing/footwear is not awarded to nursery pupils. Children over 16 who are eligible to apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance will NOT be entitled to a clothing grant.

For more information on Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit visit the Inland Revenue website.

Applications for Clothing Grants can be made here: [Clothing Grants](#)

Staffing Update

The full class breakdown is as follows:

- P1/2 – Ms Christina MacGillivray
- P2/3 – Mrs Louise Mossom (Mon/Tue) / Mrs Sarah Herd (Wed-Fri)
- P3/4 – Mrs Caroline Cole (Mon/Tue) / Mrs Kay Baird (Wed-Fri)
- P5/6 – Mrs Dawn Miller (Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri) / Mr John Muir (Wed)
- P6/7 – Miss Lindsay Kettles

Mr Mark Ainsworth continues to be our PE teacher on a Tuesday and Friday.

Mrs Margaret Gibson, our pupil support teacher comes on a Tuesday. We are expecting Mrs Gibson to have a period of absence later this term and are currently working with the Local Authority to arrange cover for this.

We also have two area support teachers in the Kinross cluster providing some additional teaching capacity, who will be in school on a part time basis across each term.

- Mrs Vicki Wilson
- Mr John Muir

Support staff working in the school office are:

- Mrs Natalie Davies (office)
- Mrs Christine Sellars (office/classroom support)

School support staff working in classrooms, playground and dinner hall:

- Mrs Beth Cox
- Mrs Jennifer Thomson
- Mrs Heather Paterson
- Mrs Heather Nichol
- Mrs Debbie Williams
- Mrs Kayleigh Lawson

Tayside Contracts staff in the dinner hall:

- Mrs Michelle Widley
- Ms Adele Hicks (who is currently off work, with a number of Tayside Contracts staff providing support)

We have a number of student teachers planning to visit this year, usually for blocks of 6-8 weeks in one class at a time, and we will let you know who they are and which classes they will be working with nearer the time.

Vaping Use Among Children and Teenagers - Survey Invitation for Parents

The Scottish Government would like to hear directly from mums, dads, parents, and carers to help tackle vaping and e-cigarette use amongst children & young people.

Have your say about children & young people vaping - complete the survey by Monday, 28 August:

<https://shorturl.at/qiCWZ>

The survey takes less than 10 minutes and is completely anonymous - your name or any other contact details will not be taken.

Water bottles

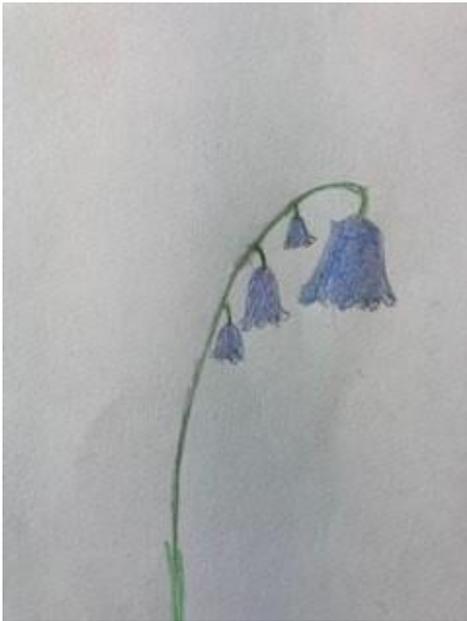
Please ensure that your child's water bottle for class ONLY contains plain unflavoured water. Your child's water bottle should also be labelled clearly with their name in case there are duplicates of design in class. If your child is having a packed lunch they are welcome to have juice for their lunch in their lunchbox.

Bus and Taxi register

We have received the lists from the council of which children will be travelling on school transport. We keep a register in the morning and at night of who is / isn't on the bus. Please can you let us know if you have another arrangement for your family this year (e.g. no bus Tuesday pm as they go to granny's etc), we can then update the master register at our end.

We appreciate things sometimes change. This is perfectly ok, but we would like to hear from an adult and not a child when things are to be different. I am sure you will appreciate this is an important part of our duty of care, as we keep your child safe. If your child is not to go home on the bus, or is to go home on a day we don't usually expect them to, please email or call the school in good time before 3pm so we can update the list ready for the member of staff on bus duty.

Bluebells



Brian D'Arcy came to Portmoak Primary school to donate some Scottish bluebells and some Spanish bluebells.

He told us how Spanish bluebells have been cross-pollinating with the Scottish bluebell variety. He also planted some Scottish bluebells in our school raingarden himself.

If you are thinking of buying Spanish bluebells, you should think of getting yourself some Scottish bluebells instead to help preserve the species that is native to Scotland.

FAO Parents/carers of children and young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) transitioning from P7 to Secondary School

Education Service in collaboration with Perth Autism Support (PAS) will be providing opportunities of support to parent/carers of children with ASN who are in Primary 7 transitioning to Secondary School.

Please complete this Microsoft Form so we can best tailor our supports and input to the needs of parents/carers and their young people.

<https://forms.office.com/e/XYpx0uT1ha>

Responses will stop being gathered at 5pm on Wednesday 6th September 2023

Perth & Kinross School Holidays 2023-2024 – [click here](#)

School Terms and Holidays 2023-2024				No of School Days - Pupils	No of School Days - Staff
Autumn Term	Start - Staff	Monday 14 August 2023	In-Service Day (1)	38	40
		Tuesday 15 August 2023	In-Service Day (2)		
	Start - Pupils	Wednesday 16 August 2023			
	End	Friday 6 October 2023			
Autumn Holiday	Start	Monday 9 October 2023		10	10
	End	Friday 20 October 2023			
Winter Term	Start	Monday 23 October 2023		44	45
		Friday 10 November 2023	In-Service Day (3)		
	End	Friday 22 December 2023			
Christmas Holiday	Start	Monday 25 December 2023		10	10
	End	Friday 5 January 2024			
Spring Term	Start	Monday 8 January 2024		56	57
		Wednesday 14 February 2024	In-Service Day (4)		
		Thursday 15 February 2024	Occasional Holiday (1)		
		Friday 16 February 2024	Occasional Holiday (2)		
	End	Thursday 28 March 2024			
Spring Holiday	Start	Friday 29 March 2024		11	11
	End	Friday 12 April 2024			
Summer Term	Start - Staff	Monday 15 April 2024	In-Service Day (5)	52	53
	Start - Pupils	Tuesday 16 April 2024			
		Monday 6 May 2024	May Day Holiday		
	End	Thursday 27 June 2024			
Notes:				190	195
Easter Sunday - 31 March 2024					

Primary School Menu 2023-24 – [click here](#)



Primary School Menu 2023-24

www.tayside-contracts.co.uk



Information on School Meals

We can provide packed lunches all year round for school trips and class outings.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL P1-5 PUPILS

No application process necessary. Save up to £45 a month per child. That's around £420 a year!

Unlimited bread, fruit, vegetables and salad available daily. Yoghurt* is also offered as an alternative on dessert days.

(V) Vegetarian (Ve) Vegan
* May contain nuts ** May contain Sesame Seeds

WEEK COMMENCING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
WEEK 1 24th April 22nd May 19th June 17th July 14th August 11th September 9th October	6th November 4th December 1st January 29th January 26th February 25th March	Milkshake (V) Cheese & Garlic Swirl (V) Chicken Fillet in Gravy with Yorkshire Pudding & Boiled Potatoes Baked Bean Baked Potato with Salad Selection (Ve) Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread (V) Peas	Beef Burger Roll** with Potato Wedges Tuna Mayo Finger Roll** with Salad Selection Quorn Fillet in BBQ Sauce with Boiled Potatoes (Ve) Sweetcorn Raspberry Jelly with Peaches (Ve)	Mild Chicken Curry with Rice Tomato Pasta (Ve) with Crusty Bread (V) Ham Sandwich with Salad Selection Broccoli Marble Sponge with Custard & Mandarins (V)	Pasta Bolognese with Crusty Bread Mild Vegetable Curry with Rice (Ve) Cheese Finger Roll** with Salad Selection (V) Green Beans Oatle Biscuit with Banana Slices (Ve)	Lentil Soup (Ve) Chicken Taco with Rice Vegetable Noodles (V) Breaded Fish with Chips Peas & Sweetcorn
WEEK 2 3rd April 1st May 29th May 26th June 24th July 21st August 18th September	16th October 13th November 11th December 8th January 5th February 4th March 18th September	Milkshake (V) Steak Pie with Boiled Potatoes Fish Fingers with Boiled Potatoes & Beans Baked Bean Baked Potato with Salad Selection (Ve) Vegetable Medley Gingerbread Sponge with Custard & Peas (V)	Mild Chicken Korma Curry with Rice Veggie Nuggets with Potato Wedges (V) Tuna Mayo Sandwich with Salad Selection Peas & Carrots Tiffin with Mandarins (V)	Lentil Soup (Ve) Chicken Burrito with Diced Potatoes Creamy Cajun Salmon Pasta with Crusty Bread Quorn Dog Roll** with Diced Potatoes (V) Broccoli	Breadsticks (Ve) with Dip (V) Pork Sausages with Mashed Potatoes & Baked Beans Golden Savoury Rice (Ve) with Crusty Bread (V) Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Potatoes (Ve) Sweetcorn	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread Breaded Fish with Chips & Beans Veggie Bean Burrito with Salad Selection (V) Peas Raspberry Jelly with Pineapple (Ve)
WEEK 3 10th April 8th May 5th June 3rd July 31st August 28th August 25th September	23rd October 20th November 18th December 15th January 12th February 11th March	Milkshake (V) Vegballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta (Ve) Quorn Dog Roll** with Diced Potatoes (V) Macaroni Cheese with Crusty Bread (V) Broccoli Strawberry Ice Cream with Berry Sauce (V)	Traditional Mince with Boiled Potatoes Fish Fingers with Pasta Salad Baked Bean Baked Potato with Salad Selection (Ve) Carrots Shortbread with Apples (Ve)	Pizza Swirl (V) Chicken Burger Roll** with Pasta Salad Tuna Mayo Finger Roll** with Rice Salad Lentil Bolognese with Rice (Ve) Sweetcorn	Cream of Tomato Soup (V) Roast Beef in Gravy with Yorkshire Pudding & Roast Potatoes Egg Mayo Sandwich with Salad Selection (V) BBQ Vegetable Sub** with Salad Selection (Ve) Vegetable Medley	Ham Sandwich with Coleslaw Breaded Fish with Chips Meat Free Taco with Rice (Ve) Peas & Carrots Chocolate Orange Sponge with Custard & Mandarins (V)
WEEK 4 17th April 15th May 12th June 10th July 7th August 4th September 2nd October	30th October 27th November 25th December 22nd January 19th February 18th March	Milkshake (V) Chicken Sausages in Gravy with Roast Potatoes Ham Sandwich with Coleslaw Tomato Pasta (Ve) with Crusty Bread (V) Green Beans Chocolate Brownies with Peaches (V)	Fish Bites with Diced Potatoes & Baked Beans Baked Bean Baked Potato with Salad Selection (Ve) Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Baked Beans (V) Peas & Sweetcorn Vanilla Ice Cream with Pineapple (V)	Vegetable Soup (Ve) Steak Pie with Boiled Potatoes Chicken Fajita Baked Potato with Salad Selection Mild Vegetable Korma Curry with Rice (V) Vegetable Medley	Savoury Slice (V) Chicken Goujons with Baked Beans & Chips Meat Free Chilli with Rice (Ve) Cheese Finger Roll** with Coleslaw (V) Peas	Creamy Chicken Tomato Pasta Breaded Fish with Potato Wedges & Baked Beans Quorn Fillet in Gravy with Potato Wedges (Ve) Peas & Carrots Chocolate Cuckoo with Mandarins (V)



We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please email us at schoolmeals@tayside-contracts.co.uk

Look out for our School Meals Newsletters throughout the year and if you haven't already don't forget to follow us on our dedicated school meals Instagram – @TCSchoolFood



Menu design inspired by competition winner Sophie Bullock (14) from Errol Primary School's 'Save the Planet' theme.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

August 2023		
16 th	Whole school	Term 1 begins
16 th	P1	9.15am soft start and 2.45pm soft finish
17 th	P1	In full day 9am-3pm
21 st	P6/7	Cricket input – start of block (pm)
22 nd	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
28 th	P6	Ardroy non-refundable deposit due
29 th	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
30 th	P1	Perthshire Advertiser in to take a P1 photograph
September 2023		
5 th	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
12 th	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
19 th	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
26 th	Block 1 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 1
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
October 23		
6 th	Whole School	End of term (3pm finish)
9 th	Whole School	Summer holidays until 23 rd October
23 rd	Whole School	Term 2 begins
24 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
31 st	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
November 2023		
6 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 5.30-7.30 pm
7 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
8 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 3.30-5.30 pm
10 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
14 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
21 st	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
28 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
December 2023		
22 nd	Whole School	Christmas holidays – 12pm until 8 th January
January 2024		
8 th	Whole School	Term 3 begins
February 2024		
14 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
15 th & 16 th	Whole School	School Holidays
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
March 2024		
4 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 3.30-5.30 pm
6 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 5.30-7.30 pm
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
29 th	Whole School	End of term (3pm finish)
April 2024		
15 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
16 th	Whole School	Term 4 begins
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due (final)
May 2024		
6 th	Whole School	May day holiday
24 th – 27 th	P6	Residential weekend
June 2024		
27 th	Whole School	End of term (12 noon finish)
28 th	Whole School	Summer holidays until 14 th August

Don't forget to save both school numbers 01577 867290 (school office)

and the absentee line & answer phone on 01577 867196.

