

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – October 2023

Macmillan Coffee and Open Afternoon

Thursday 28th September saw another amazing Macmillan coffee and open afternoon! Thanks all the staff, children and parents who got stuck in and made this happen even while industrial action was going on. Great team effort everyone! We raised a fantastic £888 for a very worthwhile cause.



School Photographer

This year we have changed provider for our school photos. Ian Mitchell came on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September. Children were given QR codes home for the orders to be made directly. I would be grateful if you have any feedback about this change, if you let me know, as we will be guided by your feedback as to the direction of travel for next year.

Parent Council

Election of Office Bearers for Friends of Portmoak School (FoPS) took place at the AGM on 12th September. The new post-holders for this school year are:

- Chair - Shona Matthews
- Deputy Chair (New role for 2023-24 session) - Susan Balfour
- Secretary – Nicola Aitken
- Treasurer – AnneMarie Mckenzie

The meeting dates for the rest of the year will be:

- Monday 27th November
- Tuesday 30th January
- Monday 11th March
- Tuesday 14th May

Meetings are held in the school at 6pm and all are welcome to attend.

Harvest Assembly

On Friday 6th October the school walked down to Portmoak Church for our annual Harvest Assembly. This year P3/4 were in charge of the service and they shared their learning about harvest festivals in different countries of the world. Well done P3/4 for a super performance.

School Lunches

Parents of P6 and P7 children especially: If you select your child's school dinner at home and they are then absent from school one day please remember to go in and cancel their meal yourself before 9.30am. The school is unable to cancel any meals selected from home when your child is absent so if you do not do this yourself you will unfortunately be charged for their meal.

Coats

There are a number of children coming to school without a coat on a regular basis. I have reminded the children that they need to bring a coat every day. Parents may find it useful to pack a light packable waterproof in school bags, which would help when we go out at break and lunch times in light rain or drizzle. If it is pouring with rain we do have a wet break, but we do try to avoid this as much as it is good for the children to get out in the fresh air every day.

Ski Team

Well done to our ski team who represented the school at the end of September at Fir Park for the SSSA dual slalom races. Extra bonus points for the awesome Portmoak ski helmet covers – very snazzy!

Ski Lessons

Those children in Block 2 have now started their lessons at Firpark Ski Centre from Tuesday 24th October for 6 weeks. Pupils need to bring tracksuit bottoms, a warm jacket and a pair of gloves every week. Well done to those children who completed Block 1.

We are in the process of organising our annual ski day at Glenshee again this year so everyone cross their fingers for enough snow for this to go ahead this winter!



Football

All P1-4 children at Portmoak will receive a block of school football sessions during class time delivered by the Football Development Team at Live Active Leisure between 23rd October and 13th November.

There will also be a Girls P2-4 Lunchtime club running on those dates; if your child is eligible for this club and wishes to attend this please sign them up on ParentPay here: www.parentpay.com.

Lost property

Once again we are full to bursting with lost property, all unlabelled – please ensure your child's name is on all items brought to school. Do feel free to pop in and have a look through the boxes outside the office.

P7 Activity Days

Following the success of last year's P7 Adventure days we are planning to repeat the adventure activities for P7 pupils attending primaries within the Kinross cluster as they prepare to transition to Kinross High. We are now able to share more details with you about these sessions. We have been very mindful of keeping the cost to a minimum, given the current financial climate, but of also keeping an eye on quality of the activities and providers to ensure the children receive a valuable experience.

We have managed to secure bookings with two adventure providers, Willowgate and Nae Limits, and the children will experience a range of activities across the two days, with around 70 children attending each provider on each day, then they will swap over for day 2. The children will be in mixed activity groups with children from other schools in the area. Staff from cluster schools will attend both days, and as the activities are mixed groupings, staff will be on hand to support children from other schools as well as their own. Children will take part in a selection of the planned activities which will include activities such as: gorge walking, river tubing, white water rafting, wilderness challenge, kayaking, paddleboarding, bush craft and team challenge.

Date: Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June 2024

Venue: Willowgate, Perth and Nae Limits, Ballinluig

Travel: Return coach and minibus travel for both days from Kinross Park and Ride

Total cost for activities plus travel: £81

We suggest that you pay this £81 in instalments, and have created a payment schedule to avoid the festive period as follows:

- 31st October - £21 non-refundable deposit
- 29th February - £20
- 31st March - £20
- 30th April - £20

P7 parents will have this item on their ParentPay, please do speak to me if you have any concerns about paying for this trip.

Halloween Discos

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise and deliver our successful Halloween discos. The children had a great time and I am grateful to all of the staff and parents who made this happen.

The tuck shop was donated by TCM and Greens of Kinross. Balloons donated by The Heart and Craft Company.



Pupil support teacher

Mrs Gibson is off work and I am not expecting her back any time soon. We have secured funding from the Council to release Mrs Cole from P3/4 an extra day a fortnight to enable her to cover some of this role. Mrs Baird will be working an extra day in P3/4 on the weeks Mrs Cole is working on pupil support. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Gibson a swift recovery back to full health.

Safer Schools Scotland App

Thank you to everyone who joined the cluster parent session on Tuesday 25th October at LLCC. This was an enlightening, although rather frightening, insight into the dangers the online world presents to our children but was also good to know there is an app out there to arm parents with the tools that they need to know about to make things safer for children now and as future issues and trends emerge, they send an update notification so parents know what is trending in schools and issues which are coming up with new games and apps.

We are delighted that Portmoak Primary School is receiving exclusive access to our Safer Schools Scotland App. This is provided at no additional cost by your insurance company Zurich Municipal in partnership with Ineqe Safeguarding Group.

Download from your relevant store by searching 'Safer Schools Scotland' or by clicking the links below.

- For Apple users: [App Store](#)
- For Android users: [Google Play Store](#)

The code you need as a parent was in the email attached to this newsletter.

Christmas Events

There are three parties in total, which are split into age groups, rather than classes. The parties are in the afternoon, so children should come to school wearing their uniform for the morning session and children are welcome to be a home lunch that day or to bring clothes to change into after their lunch at school. The lunch break is 12.35-1.20. The parties are:

- Monday 18th December - P1 and P2
- Wednesday 20th December - P3 and P4
- Thursday 21st December – P5, P6 and P7



We will be running our traditional Nativity performance in the school hall, with P1-3 acting and narrating and P4-7 singing. There are two opportunities for this show, which will be ticketed for numbers, but free to attend.

- Tuesday 19th: 5.30pm performance
- Wednesday 20th : 9.45am performance

Christmas lunch this year is on Friday 15th December.

Our in school pantomime is on two evenings, 13th and 14th December, timings are still TBC. We are not planning on a whole school trip out to the panto this year, but we will plan for this again next year.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

October 2023		
23 rd	Whole School	Term 2 begins
23 rd	P4-7	After School Cricket 3-4pm
23 rd	P2-4 Girls	Lunchtime Football Club
24 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
25 th	Whole School	Safer Schools - Online Safety Evening for Kinross Cluster Parents/Carers - 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Kinross High School
26 th	Whole School	Halloween Discos P1-4 5.30-6.30 P5-7 6.45-7.45
27 th	P4-7	After School Netball 3-4pm
27 th	P6/7	Bible trip to Glencraig Gospel Hall, Lochore
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
30 th	P2-4 Girls	Lunchtime Football Club
30 th	P4-7	After School Cricket 3-4pm
31 st	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
November 2023		
1 st	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up 9.00-9.30am
3 rd	P5/6	P5/6 Assembly – Remembrance 9.15am
6 th	P2-4 Girls	Lunchtime Football Club
6 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 5.30-7.30 pm
6 th	Whole School	After School Cricket 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
7 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
8 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 3.30-5.30 pm
9 th	Whole School	Rotary Shoe boxes due back
10 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
13 th	P2-4 Girls	Lunchtime Football Club
13 th	P4-7	After School Cricket 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
14 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
17 th	P4-7	After School Netball 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
17 th	Whole School	Children in Need dress down day (optional / any amount cash donation welcome)
20 th	P4-7	After School Cricket 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
21 st	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
24 th	P4-7	After School Netball 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
24 th	P1/2	P1/2 Assembly – Book Week 9.15am
27 th	P4-7	After School Cricket 3-4pm (unless cancelled)
28 th	Block 2 Skiers	Ski-ing Block 2
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
December 2023		
1 st	P2/3	P2/3 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
13 th	Whole School	Panto – evening performance
14 th	Whole School	Panto – evening performance
15 th	Whole School	Christmas Dinner
18 th	P1 and P2	P1 and P2 Christmas Party
19 th	Whole school	Nativity – evening performance
20 th	Whole school	Nativity – morning performance
20 th	P3 and P4	P3 and P4 Christmas Party
21 st	P5-7	P5, P6 and P7 Christmas Party
22 nd	Whole School	Christmas holidays – 12pm until 8 th January
January 2024		
8 th	Whole School	Term 3 begins
9 th	P6	Swimming – bring £1
15 th	P6	Swimming
15 th	New P1s	P1 Enrolment week
23 rd	P6	Swimming
30 th	P6	Swimming
31 st	Whole School	Coffee and Catch Up 9.00-9.30am

February 2024		
2 nd	P3/4	P3/4 Assembly – Digital – 9.15am
13 th	P6	Swimming
14 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
15 th & 16 th	Whole School	School Holidays
20 th	P6	Swimming
22 nd	Whole School	Lord Badel Powell's Birthday – Scouting and Guiding uniforms ok to be worn to school.
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
March 2024		
1 st	P2/3	P2/3 Assembly – World Wildlife Day – 9.15am
4 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 3.30-5.30 pm
6 th	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 5.30-7.30 pm
15 th	P6/7	P6/7 -Sharing their learning Assembly - 9.15am
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
28 th	P5/6 & Whole School	Easter Service – presented by P5/6 at Portmoak Parish Church – 9.30am
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		
3 rd	P3/4	P3/4 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
6 th	Whole School	May day holiday
17 th	P5/6	P5/6 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
24 th – 27 th	P6	Residential weekend
31 st	P1/2	P1/2 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
June 2024		
6 th & 7 th	P7	P7 induction days
12 th & 13 th	P7	P7 Activity Days – Nae Limits and Willowgate
14 th	P6	P6 John Muir Award Assembly – 9.15am
26 th	P7	Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am
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.

