

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

## Headteacher's Newsletter – November 2023

### P7 reporters – Portmoak LIFE – Learning focus (outdoor learning)

In P1/2 this term they've been doing lots of outdoor learning and they go outside to learn at least once a week they have been doing things such as reading with their buddies. They made a skeleton from outdoor materials. They went to Kilmagad Wood with their buddies. They went outside with Mrs Cole to do French. They have been gardening with Kinnesswood in Bloom.

The children in P2/3 go out at least once a week. They went to Kilmagad Wood and learnt all about the senses. They have been harvesting with the raised beds and polytunnel. They have been doing numeracy and spelling outside. They created a mobile in the classroom from the things they had found. They made windmills and tested them outside at the pirate ship.

P3/4 go out every Friday. They have been doing leaf colouring, cricket and football tasters, spotting and naming clouds for their topic. They have been doing symmetry with nature. They have also been harvesting our crops.

P5/6 go out at least monthly. They had a Halloween treasure hunt. They also worked with Kinnesswood in Bloom in the polytunnel and raised beds. They have been doing shape finding. They went for a walk to Kilmagad wood.

P6/7 also go out at least monthly. Our class had a Halloween treasure hunt as well. We also worked with Kinnesswood in Bloom in the polytunnel and raised beds. We went to Kilmagad with our buddies, and we did filming in the woods for the Scottish Film Society project. In P6/7 we enjoy reading with our buddies outside when it is a bit warmer!

Alfie Whyte, P7





## School Photographer

Thank you to the parents who have given feedback on the school photos this year, I have been delighted to see such positive feedback from parents and will be sure to pass this onto the parent council who secured this booking for us.

## Parent Council

A reminder of the office bearers for this session:

- Chair - Shona Matthews
- Deputy Chair - Susan Balfour
- Secretary – Nicola Aitken
- Treasurer – currently vacant

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

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

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

## Swimming P6

P6 children are all being offered a block of swimming lessons on Tuesdays from 09/01/2024 to 12/03/2024 inclusive. The lessons are from 09:30 to 10:15 at LiveActive Loch Leven Swimming Pool. Due to the early start time, they will come in to class and register and order dinners and quickly travel to the pool. They might find it easier to come 'swim ready' in the morning. The first week they should bring £1 for their locker to give to their teacher and this will be kept safe for the duration and returned after the last lesson.

## Glenshee Ski Day

This year we have booked a day of skiing at Glenshee on 19<sup>th</sup> January. We have already got all the places taken up for this trip but have started a wait list so feel free to get in touch if you missed the email and your child wants to go.

## Christmas Artwork

Massive thanks to the Friends of Portmoak Parent Council for organising our Christmas Artwork fundraiser. The art produced by the children has been absolutely fantastic and we have raised a fabulous £361.48 for the school. Well done everyone.

## Seesaw Home Sheets

The children have been given a Seesaw home sheet to fill in with an adult at home about their Seesaw learning journal. We would like to hear about any clubs the children take part in or any skills they are developing through family activities or responsibilities they may have at home. We have also added in a box to find out about any clubs the children would like to take part in. We would appreciate it if these sheets could be filled in and sent back into school **by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**.

## Headlice

A gentle reminder to check your child's hair on a regular basis. Headlice are much easier to get rid of if caught early. Please let me know if you are struggling to get rid of unwanted visitors in your child's hair and I will do what I can to support with help and advice.

## Water bottles

Children should only have plain water in their water bottles for school. Please do not send your child with flavoured water or diluting juice for drinking in class. Packed lunch children may bring a small fruit juice or diluting juice for lunch time if preferred. School dinner children will have milk and water available to choose from.

## Staffing Update

Jennifer Thompson is leaving after 6 years of wonderful work in our school, where she has been a huge source of support. We knew that we couldn't keep her forever as she has returning to her previous career as physiotherapist. Both Mrs Nichol and Mrs Lawson have filled the vacancy internally so there will be no impact on the support for the children at her departure. We wish her the very best in her future – she will be sorely missed.

## Christmas Post

The Portmoak Christmas Post will be running from 4<sup>th</sup> December until the end of term, should children wish to post cards to their friends.

## Christmas lunch / dress down

On Friday 15th December we have our school Christmas lunch. Children are invited to dress down on the day and may wear a Christmas jumper if they wish (but please do not go out and buy a new one just for the day!). Donations of items to make a hamper for raffle at the Nativity will be most welcome. Proceeds from this annual event will go to the charity Broke not Broken.

## Lunch on the last day

As you will be aware, we finish at 12 noon on the last Friday of term. Tayside Contracts will be providing packed lunches for those pupils who require them on the 22nd December. There is an order form attached to the email with this newsletter which parents need to return to school next week if lunch is required for your child on the last day of school.

## Winter Reading Challenge

The online version of The Reading Agency's popular flagship programme, the Summer Reading Challenge returns for Winter. What is the Winter Mini Challenge? The Winter Challenge is a free online reading challenge that tackles the holiday reading 'dip', encouraging children to keep up good habits or discover the joy of reading. It's fun, free and easy to take part just head to [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk) from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to sign up, where you'll find fun activities and earn rewards for reading. Why not pop into your local library to choose from a vast array of reading material and free colour in and activity sheets over the holidays.

## School Meals Newsletter

Please follow the link below to read the latest news about the school dinner service provided by Tayside Contracts.

[Go to this Sway](#)



# CHRISTMAS TREES ON PORTMOAK MOSS

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

11.30AM - 2.30PM



**REFRESHMENTS,  
CAKES, BISCUITS  
CHOOSE A TREE  
AND  
WE CUT IT DOWN**

**AS ALWAYS IT IS FREE  
BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME  
PLEASE BRING CASH.  
WE ARE NOT DIGITAL ON THE MOSS  
CHILDREN GET THEIR OWN TREE**

FACEBOOK PORTMOAKCOMMUNITYWOODLANDGROUP

[HTTP://WWW.PORTMOAKCW.ORG.UK/](http://www.portmoakcw.org.uk/)

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@PORTMOAKCW

Portmoak Community Woodland have asked us to promote their annual tree event this year, which is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Watch this space in January for news about an exciting collaboration with the woodland group happening in the new year!

## Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

December 2023		
1 <sup>st</sup>	P2/3	P2/3 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
1 <sup>st</sup>	P7	Ceilidh at Kinross High School
13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Panto – evening performance
14 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Panto – evening performance
15 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Christmas Dinner
18 <sup>th</sup>	P1 and P2	P1 and P2 Christmas Party
19 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Nativity – evening performance
20 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school	Nativity – morning performance
20 <sup>th</sup>	P3 and P4	P3 and P4 Christmas Party
21 <sup>st</sup>	P5-7	P5, P6 and P7 Christmas Party
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Christmas holidays – 12pm until 8 <sup>th</sup> January
January 2024		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Term 3 begins
9 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming – bring £1
15 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	P1 Enrolment week
16 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming
23 <sup>rd</sup>	P6	Swimming
30 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming
31 <sup>st</sup>	Whole School	Coffee and Catch Up 9.00-9.30am
February 2024		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P3/4	P3/4 Assembly – Digital – 9.15am
13 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming

14 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	In-Service Day
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	School Holidays
20 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Lord Baden Powell's Birthday – Scouting and Guiding uniforms ok to be worn to school.
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
<b>March 2024</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	P2/3	P2/3 Assembly – World Wildlife Day – 9.15am
4 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 3.30-5.30 pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Parent Contact meetings 5.30-7.30 pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	P2/3	Falkland Palace Trip
12 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4	Falkland Palace Trip
15 <sup>th</sup>	P6/7	P6/7 -Sharing their learning Assembly - 9.15am
21 <sup>st</sup>	P5/6 & P6/7	Deep Sea World Trip
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – instalment due
28 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6 & Whole School	Easter Service – presented by P5/6 at Portmoak Parish Church – 9.30am
29 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	End of term (3pm finish)
<b>April 2024</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	In-Service Day
16 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Term 4 begins
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – instalment due (final)
<b>May 2024</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	P3/4	P3/4 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	May day holiday
17 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6	P5/6 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Residential weekend
31 <sup>st</sup>	P1/2	P1/2 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
<b>June 2024</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 induction days
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 Activity Days – Nae Limits and Willowgate
14 <sup>th</sup>	P6	P6 John Muir Award Assembly – 9.15am
26 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am
27 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	End of term (12 noon finish)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Summer holidays until 14 <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.

