

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – April 2024

A Wee Note from Mrs Cole

I would like to say a big thank for being such a wonderful school community and making my step up to acting headteacher such a great experience. It's been lovely to go around the classes and see all the great learning, spend time with some of the children in the dinner hall and to see the children playing so nicely outside in the playground. I am really looking forward to all the fantastic events we have planned this term and to see lots of our school community come together. I am so lucky to be part of such a fabulous school!

P7 Reporters – Portmoak LIFE – Environment Focus

P1/2 have enjoyed lots of learning relating to the school environment and outdoor learning. Firstly, they went to the school pond to visit the tadpoles. Next some of the pupils went to the raised beds to do some watering and the class also went to check to the flowers and vegetables to see how they are getting on. Lastly, they went to the moss and saw some birds, millipedes, woodlice, slaters, centipedes, and slugs.

P3/4 have also been up to lots of activities. They are currently competing in the RHET Jazzy Potato competition where you try to grow as many potatoes as possible. Their topic is the Woodland, and they are also doing an experiment to see how much water trees drink. They are using a birch tree and a crab apple tree for their experiment. Lastly, they have been identifying trees by looking at their leaves.

P2/3 and P5/6 try to be as environmentally friendly as possible. Both classes try to put their rubbish in the bin or take it home to then recycle it. P5/6 and P2/3 both make sure they respect the wildlife and plants at breaktime and when visiting the Moss or Kilmagad Wood. P5/6 have been to Kilmagad Wood and made creatures out of natural materials but made sure to not harm living plants. P2/3 made stick dens at the Moss but only used wood they found already on the ground.

P6/7 have enjoyed walks to Kilmagad Wood and the Moss with their P1/2 buddies. They took part in maths activities and used their filming skills to create a news bulletin about the installation of a potential wind farm on Bishop Hill. They use the outdoor environment in school for reading with their buddies, using loose parts for art activities, scavenger hunts and helping Kinnesswood in Bloom with the polytunnel and raised beds.

Charlotte Thomas and Alfie Whyte, P7

Euroquiz

The Perth and Kinross Euroquiz was on Friday 22nd March. It was not to be Portmoak's year this year, but we are proud of our team nonetheless for their strong performance in the heat and their commitment to studying in the run up to the event.



Rotary Quiz

A very big well done to our rotary quiz team, who got to the second stage of the competition having won the Kinross-shire event last month. There was some stiff competition at the Fife and East Scotland area final, where they came third equal.

Easter Service

Well done to P5/6 for a lovely Easter service at the end of term. It was very interesting to hear all about how different countries around the world celebrate Easter.



Egg Competition

The winners of our egg decorating competition were announced at the Easter Assembly – well done to:

- P1 – Libby Whyte
- P2 – Torben Halford
- P3 – Skye Holt-Thomas
- P4 – Isla Redpath
- P5 – Eve Brown
- P6 – Alba Pryde-Gil
- P7 – Rosie McLaughlin

Portmoak Gala

Portmoak Gala is on Saturday 1st June. At the Easter Assembly we drew the royal party. The royal party this year will be:

- Royal Attendants – Anna Gaddini, Hannah Thomas, Lewis Smith and Calum Byers
- Queen – Eilidh Graham
- King – Robert Tulloch

This year the children will be making class banners and there will be an invitation for all Portmoak children to walk behind the royal party as they make their way to open the Gala. Please do add this date to your diary now.

Coffee and Catch Up

The next date for coffee and catch up is Wednesday 8th May at 9am in the school library. We will be joined by Alison Final, a Principal Teacher of Guidance at Kinross High School.

Seesaw Update

An email was sent out last week outlining the decision to transition away from the use of Seesaw within our Local Authority. Therefore, as of 31 May 2024 we will no longer use Seesaw within PKC.

If you wish to download your child(ren)'s journal before the 31 May 2024 please follow the steps on the following link. [How do families and students save and download student work – Seesaw Help Center](#)

Staffing this term

A few changes to staffing this term while recruitment for the permanent headteacher post takes place. In summary:

- Mrs Herd is working on a Wednesday in P6/7 to cover Miss Kettles' management time.
- Mrs Mossom is working an extra day in P2/3 on a Wednesday.
- Mrs Baird is working in P3/4 every day.
- Mrs Smith, who was in school covering P1/2 for a few days last term, will cover the majority of the additional teachers' planning time.
- Mr Muir/Miss Pyne, our area support teachers, will also cover some of the additional planning time as well.

Parent Council Update

We have decided to postpone the Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 14th May until after the permanent headteacher interviews have taken place. This meeting will now take place in early June and we will let you know the exact date nearer the time. Our Parent Council will be involved in the process of recruiting the permanent headteacher with two representative from the parent body on the interview panel. If any parent/carer would like to share their thoughts with the Parent Council they should email: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com.

Sponsored Walk

We are planning a sponsored walk during our Celebration of Wellbeing Week (3rd – 7th June) to help towards purchasing a new reading scheme. Thank you to the Parent Council Fundraising Team who came up with this super idea. The objective will be to complete a number of different walks throughout the week and add up each individual's distance to tie in with how far it would be to walk to Paris due the Olympics taking place

there this year. Once we have everything ironed out, we will be able to give you more information about this event.

Chewing Gum

We ask that chewing gum is not brought to school. We have had some instances of this being found in class. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

New Menu for School Meals and Summer BBQ

A reminder that there is now a new school meals menu in place. You will find an up to date menu from the Tayside Contracts website. If you would like a paper copy sent home then please just let us know.

On Wednesday 5th June we will have a summer BBQ for school dinners. We have not had the menu through for this yet, but we will let you know what the options will be nearer the time.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

April 2024		
28 th	P6	Ardroy – instalment due (final)
29 th	P5-7	After School Cricket Club
30 th	P7	P7 Activity Day – final instalment due
30 th	Whole School	After School Chess, Sewing, Art & Craft and Baking Clubs
May 2024		
2 nd	Whole School	After School Dance & Yoga Clubs
6 th	Whole School	May day holiday
7 th	Whole School	After School Chess, Sewing, Art & Craft and Baking Clubs
8 th	Whole School	Coffee and Catch up – 9am library
9 th	Whole School	After School Dance, Yoga & Gardening Clubs
13 th	P5-7	After School Cricket Club
14 th	P7	Visit to English & Home Economics Department at KHS
14 th	Whole School	After School Chess, Sewing, Art & Craft and Baking Clubs
15 th	New P1	Pre-school picnic 12pm
16 th	Whole School	After School Dance, Yoga & Gardening Clubs
17 th	P5/6	P5/6 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
20 th		Kinross-shire Cricket Tournament
21 st	Whole School	After School Chess, Sewing, Art & Craft and Baking Clubs
23 rd	New P1	Pre-school picnic 12pm
23 rd	Whole School	After School Dance, Yoga & Gardening Clubs
24 th – 27 th	P6	Residential weekend at Ardroy
28 th	Whole School	After School Chess, Sewing, Art & Craft and Baking Clubs
29 th	New P1	P1 induction lunch
30 th	Whole School	After School Dance, Yoga & Gardening Clubs
31 st	P1/2	P1/2 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
June 2024		
3 rd – 7 th	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
3 rd	Whole School	Sports Day 1pm start
6 th	P3-5	After School Gardening Club
6 th & 7 th	P7	P7 induction days
6 th & 7 th	New P1	P1 stay & play 1.30pm
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.

