

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

## Headteacher's Newsletter – May 2024

### Ardroy

Last weekend our P6 children had a wonderful time at Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre. The children took part in canoeing, woodland walks and other activities at Lochgoilhead in the west of Scotland. A huge thank you to Miss Kettles and Mrs Miller for giving up their weekend to accompany the children on the trip. I enjoyed my visit to see everyone on Sunday and, despite the amount of midges they encountered, it was great to see them challenging themselves and giving things a go!



### Sports Day – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

On Monday 3<sup>rd</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.

Children may wear a t-shirt in their House colour (Bishop – green, Kinneston – yellow, Leven – blue and Lomond – red), but please don't go out and buy something – they can also wear their white PE t-shirt and will be provided with a coloured band to represent their House.

We will get changed in school ahead of our afternoon sports day. If your child prefers to come to school wearing their sports kit they may do so.

We will have a second-hand uniform sale 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.

## Sponsored Walk

We will be taking part in our sponsored walk throughout our Celebration of Wellbeing Week, including our sponsored walk day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. P1-3 will follow part of the Michael Bruce Way, through Kilmagadwood, Portmoak Moss and Grahamstone while P4-7 will walk up Bishop Hill. Please ensure you have given permission on Parent Pay for your child to take part. We are looking forward to keeping you updated across the week to let you know how far we have walked collectively of the 700 miles it would take to get to Paris. We are still needing a parent helper for the P1-3 walk. If you are able to help please let us know.

Children should wear appropriate clothing - trousers, a jacket, school jumper, footwear for walking. They may also need suncream & a sun hat depending on the weather. As the children will be away for most of the day they will require to bring a snack, water bottle & packed lunch (unless you ordered one from the school).

We are extremely grateful for all the sponsors we have received so far and would love to get to our target and be able to purchase the majority of our much-needed new reading scheme. Here is a reminder of the link for our Just Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/portmoakreads>.

## School BBQ – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June we will have a summer BBQ for school dinners, the menu for this is on the image to the right of this section. The children can order their choice on the day as they usually do with school dinners.



## Parent Survey

Thank you for all the responses to the recent parent survey. This is very useful in helping us to determine our strengths and where improvements can be made. We are currently in the process of pulling all our self-evaluation data together to determine our next steps and priorities for the next academic year and will be able to share this with you soon.

## Seesaw/Learning Journals

As you will already be aware, we will no longer be using Seesaw from 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you want to download your child's Seesaw journal this will need to be done by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Please click on this link to give you a step-by-step guide to downloading their journal. [How do families and students save and download student work – Seesaw Help Center](#)

We have had a great response from our recent parent survey about wanting to continue with sharing learning through an online platform and we are in the process of registering Learning Journals. However, this will not be set up and available until after the summer. Any weekly announcements that the class teachers would have put up on Seesaw will be communicated through the school email until we have Learning Journals properly set up and ready to go.

## One Planet Picnic and inter-house cricket – 21<sup>st</sup> June

On Friday 21st 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!

## A Message from Broke Not Broken

As we are all winding our way towards the end of the school year and enjoying this lovely warmer weather, we just wanted to let you know about a few things. Our school uniform bank referral form is now open until the 28<sup>th</sup> of June if you are struggling to afford school uniform for next year please complete this referral form <https://forms.gle/hVGikZPJ4SjRFH2n6>, you can also contact welfare rights on 01738 476900 to check whether you are entitled to a school clothing payment. Please also remember your child may be eligible for a school age payment from social security Scotland if they are starting Primary 1, again Welfare Rights can advise you about this.

If you would like to donate uniform, then you can drop this into our Sainsbury's donation box.

We are looking forward to our Tuesday Trips over the holidays, these are full now, and we hope everyone who has a place has a fantastic time, if you feel this is something that would benefit your family, please speak with your headteacher to refer you for future trips that we hope to be able to continue to run.

Finally, we know that the school holidays can be a difficult time with increased childcare costs, extra meals to pay for or time off work. Please reach out to your headteacher, ourselves or welfare rights if you are finding things difficult. We will be in the advice hub across the summer.

Thanks, Broke Not Broken

## Kinross-shire Cricket Festival

We sent three cricket teams, from P5 and P6, to the Kinross-shire Cricket Festival on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May and one of our teams were the overall winners and will go through to the regional finals on Wednesday 5<sup>h</sup> June. Good luck!



## 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.



## 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.

## Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

May 2024		
30 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	After School Dance, Yoga & Gardening Clubs
31 <sup>st</sup>	P1/2	P1/2 - Sharing their learning Assembly – 9.15am
June 2024		
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole School	Sports Day 1pm start
4 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Sponsored Walk – packed lunches required
5 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket team	Perth & Kinross Cricket Finals – North Inch
6 <sup>th</sup>	P3-5	After School Gardening Club
6 <sup>th</sup>	P2/3 & P5/6	Walk to Portmoak Hall to view Festival Artwork
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 induction days
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	New P1	P1 stay & play 1.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	P1/2 & P6/7	Walk to Portmoak Hall to view Festival Artwork
11 <sup>th</sup>	New P1	P1 Parents Induction Teams Call 5pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4	Walk to Portmoak Hall to view Festival Artwork
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 Activity Days – Nae Limits and Willowgate
13 <sup>th</sup>	P2/3 and P5/6	Walk to Portmoak Moss
14 <sup>th</sup>	P6	P6 John Muir Award Assembly – 9.15am
18 <sup>th</sup>	P6 & P7	County Sports – George Duncan Athletics Arena, Perth
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.

