

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – August 2024

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!



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.

Please label all children's belongings

As we start the new term we would like to remind parents to label **ALL** your child's belongings: -clothes, water bottles and especially plastic tubs. We end up with a lot of lost property which we would more than happily return – we can only do this if you label these. We are always surprised at the shoes, jackets and tupperware tubs that end up at lost property that are never claimed.

MacMillan Coffee and Open Morning to 'Meet the Teacher'

On Thursday 26th September we will be having our annual MacMillan coffee fundraiser. This year it will be taking place in the morning. 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 26th September, or at 3pm pick up on the 25th if easier.

Times for the open morning are:

- 9.15-10.00am – time in classes
- 10.00am – classroom closed to visitors
- 9.45-10.30am – visitors welcome in the hall for coffee and cakes (this is free, but we will be taking donations for Macmillan on the day)
- 10.30am 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.

Learning Journals

After consultation through the parent/carer survey last term, we will be starting to use a new online profile platform called Learning Journals this year. We are in the process of getting that up and running and are hoping to be able to start sharing learning after the October holidays. You will have received an email to fill in a Microsoft form to give permission. Please make sure you have filled this in so we can get this up and running as soon as possible.

Coffee and Catch Up

Every term we give you an opportunity to come into school to meet with the headteacher for a coffee from 9-9.30am. We also try to invite a special guest each time to be able to informally talk to you about a specific topic. Previously, we have had the pupil support teacher, as well as some staff from Kinross High School to talk about transition. The next Coffee and Catch Up session is on Wednesday 4th September.

Coats

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.

Clothing Grants/Free School Meals

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

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker'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 £19,995
- both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £9,552
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £79

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 grant](#)

Nut free school reminder

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.

House Captains for this year

The children wrote application forms to help support the decision of the teaching staff. What a very hard decision it was this year as we have a lot of very worthy children in 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 – Jack and Malin
- Bishop – Peggy and Emily
- Kinneston – Daniel B and Emilie
- Leven – Emma and Siena

Music lessons

Please note that for our new session Cello will be taken on a Tuesday, Guitar will be on a Wednesday and Woodwind on a Thursday. Please ensure your child practises between lessons and that they bring their instruments with them on the day when their teacher attends.

Parent Council Message – Rag Bag

Thank you to everyone for their donations to our permanent Rag Bag collection point over the Summer. **During the school holidays we raised a total of £93.90.** Don't worry if it is looking full again - we have another uplift scheduled so you can start to prepare your next bag soon. However, we do ask that you do not access the Rag Bag bin during school hours - it is located close to the lower pitch at the edge of the school car park where children may be involved in play or lessons which we would not want disrupted. We do rely on volunteers to check when it is getting full - so if you are donating and it looks to be about 2/3 full, please email: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com and our Parent Council team will request a collection. The uplift itself can be up to 2-3 weeks after our request so we ask for your patience if the bin does become full and ask you not to cram bags in. Not only is a bin that won't close leaving the contents open to the elements, but it can be an attraction to curious children. We'd also like to remind you that the Rag Bag collection cannot accept branded school uniform. If this is in good condition however, this can be donated to the school for future preloved sales which we intend to hold frequently through this school year. The school is also interested in receiving any old ski-wear you might have (including waterproof hats and gloves) to create a supply so that this is not a barrier to children taking up the offer to participate in the school's ski programmes this winter.

Tig Tag

Tig Tag is a fantastic online resource that helps class teachers to plan and deliver innovative and engaging science lessons. Our Parent Council very kindly pay for this yearly subscription, which they have been able to do this session with the funds received from the Rag Bag collections. We would like to say a big thank you for subsidising this and allowing us to have such a great teaching resource.

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)
- P4 – Mrs Kay Baird
- P5/6 – Ms Clare Leitch (Mon-Thurs) / Mrs Christina Smith (Fri)
- P6/7 – Miss Lindsay Kettles (Mon, Weds, Thurs, Fri) / Mrs Christina Smith (Tues)

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

Mrs Margaret Gibson, our pupil support teacher, now comes to us on a Friday.

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.

- Miss Vicki Pyne
- 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 Heather Paterson
- Mrs Heather Nichol
- Mrs Debbie Williams
- Mrs Kayleigh Lawson

Tayside Contracts staff in the dinner hall:

- Mrs Michelle Widley
- Miss Bryony Nicol

The permanent headteacher post was readvertised at the end of the summer and the interviews have still to take place. I hope to update you on this once the process has taken place.



Mrs Cole



Ms MacGillivray



Mrs Mossom



Mrs Herd



Mrs Baird



Ms Leitch



Miss Kettles



Mr Ainsworth



Mr Muir



Mrs Davies



Mrs Sellars



Mrs Cox



Mrs Paterson



Mrs Nichol



Mrs Williams



Mrs Lawson



Mrs Widley and Miss Nicol

Halloween Discos

Our Halloween discos will take place again this year in the school hall. We have two discos, one for the younger children and one for the older ones with a small tuck shop open on the night. There is a suggested donation at the door for attending the disco, but please do not feel any pressure to pay this.

Date: Thursday 24th October

Times: P1-4: 5:30-6:30 and P5-7: 6:45-7:45

Suggested donation for tickets: £2 at the door

New Reading Scheme

Thank you once again for all the donations we received during our sponsored walk. I was able to get another £2000 grant which has put the total up to £7720. This means we are able to purchase most of the PM reading scheme. We are in the process of ordering this and hope to start to use it next term. As part of the purchase, we are being given training in how to use the reading scheme and the assessment package. As a staff we are very excited to be implementing this over this school session.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

September 2024		
2 nd	P4-7	After school Karate taster 3pm-4pm
3 rd	P6&7	Bikeability Group A
4 th	P6	Swimming
4 th	Whole school	Coffee & Catch up
5 th	P1	Courier photographer in – P1 photo
6 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group B
9 th	P1/2 & P6/7	Walk to Kilmagad Wood
9 th	P1-3	After school Karate taster 3pm-4pm
10 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group A
11 th	P6	Swimming
12 th	P6/7	Trip to Orchard
13 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group B
16 th	P1-3	NO KARATE this week
17 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group A
18 th	P6	Swimming
20 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group B
23 rd	P1-3	After school Karate taster 3pm-4pm
24 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group A
25 th	P6	Swimming
26 th	Whole School	MacMillan coffee morning 9.15am-10.30am
27 th	P6&7	Bikeability Group B
30 th	P1-3	After school Karate taster 3pm-4pm
October 2024		

2 nd	P6	Swimming
3 rd	Whole School	Harvest Assembly in the church led by P4 – 9.30am
4 th	Whole school	Last day of term 3pm finish
7 th -18 th	Whole school	October holidays
21 st	Whole school	Term 2 begins
23 rd	P6	Swimming
24 th	Whole School	Halloween Discos P1-4 5.30-6.30/ P5-7 6.45-7.45
25 th	P2/3	Halloween Assembly 9.15am
30 th	P6	Swimming
30 th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up
November 2024		
1 st	P1/2	Bonfire Assembly 9.15am
6 th	P6	Swimming
11 th	Whole School	Parent Contact 5.30pm – 7.30pm
13 th	Whole School	Parent Contact 3.30pm – 5.30pm
15 th	Whole School	Inservice day
December 2024		
2 nd	Whole School	Flu immunisations - PM
16 th	P1 & P2	Christmas party – PM
17 th	P1-3	Nativity – evening performance 5.30pm
18 th	P1-3	Nativity – morning performance 9.30am
18 th	P4	Christmas party – PM
19 th	P5-7	Christmas party – PM
20 th	Whole school	Last day of term 12pm finish
29 th	P5/6	St Andrew's Day Assembly – 9.15am
January 2025		
6 th	Whole School	Term 3 begins
13 th	New P1s for Aug 25	P1 enrolment week
29 th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up
February 2025		
3 rd	Whole School	Open Afternoon 2.15 – 2.45pm
7 th	P4	RSPB Bird Watch Assembly 9.15am
12 th	Whole School	Inservice day
13 th & 14 th	Whole School	Holiday
21 st	P1/2	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
March 2025		
14 th	P2/3	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
17 th – 21 st	Whole School	Scholastic Book Fair week
28 th	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
April 2025		
1 st	Whole School	Inservice day
3 rd	Whole School	Easter Service – led by P5/6 - venue TBC 9.30am
4 th	Whole School	Term ends 3pm
22 nd	Whole School	Inservice day
23 rd	Whole School	Term 4 starts
May 2025		
2 nd	P4	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
5 th	Whole School	May Day Holiday
7 th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up
9 th	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly 9.15am
16 th – 19 th	P6	Ardroy
30 th	P1/2	Road Safety Assembly
June 2025		
2 nd	Whole School	Sports Day
2 nd – 6 th	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
13 th	Whole School	New classes issued
13 th	P6	John Muir Assembly
20 th	P7	Prom
25 th	P7	P7 Leavers' Assembly
26 th	Whole school	Term ends 12pm

Don't forget to save both school numbers 01577 867290 (school office)
and the absentee line & answer phone on 01577 867196.

