

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

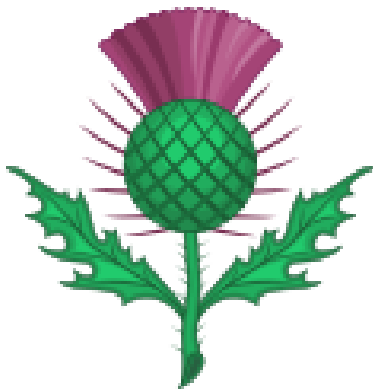
## Newsletter – January 2025

Thank you so much for the very warm welcome I have received as your new Headteacher. It has been a pleasure spending the first few weeks of term getting to know the staff and children and it was lovely to meet those of you who were able to come along to our first 'Coffee and Catch up' of 2025. Hopefully I will have a chance to say hello to more of you at our Open Afternoon on Monday.

I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with parents and the wider community to build on the wonderful learning opportunities that the children at Portmoak experience.

I hope you enjoy reading all of our news and updates for January!

### Scots' Poetry Competition



Our annual Scots Poetry Competition to mark Burn's Day took place at the beginning of this week and the level of participation was fantastic. Our judges found the decision making process very tricky and some year groups had two winners as it was too close to call!

The winners for each year group were as follows:

- P1 – Rayna Greig and Hamish Herd
- P2 – Matthew Oliver
- P3 – Tilly Cunningham
- P4 – Tanvi Muvva and Mimi Oliver
- P5 – Isla Crane
- P6 – Autumn Craig
- P7 – Daniel Baijal

Daniel Baijal won the Burns Quaich for his rendition of 'Address to the Haggis'.

### Outdoor Clothing

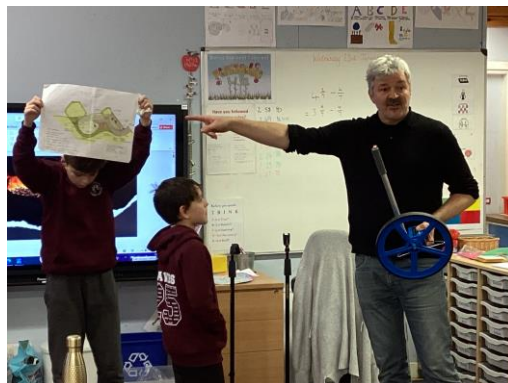
We try to ensure that the children have as much time outside during breaks as possible, even when the weather is not as nice as it might be! Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat every day, preferably with a hood, and also suitable footwear to play on the (sometimes damp) grass.



## Well Green Play Area

Our P5-7 pupils enjoyed a visit from PKC Landscape Architect Nick Riley who is designing the new play area in Scotlandwell. Nick shared information about the project as well as talking to the children about his role. They were then given an opportunity to contribute by sharing ideas and designing signs and logos for the park.

Nick will return to Portmoak when the project is further underway to speak to all of the children at an assembly. He has also invited them to come and visit the site when work has started.



## George Thompson Memorial Event

Four of our House Captains attended the memorial at Loch Leven Community Campus to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of George Thompson V.C.- a former pupil of both Portmoak and Kinross High School, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry during the Second World War.

The children did an excellent job of representing the school and I have had lovely feedback about their respectful conduct during the event. They will be preparing their own presentation to share with the rest of our pupils in the near future.



## Eco Schools Update

This year, our Eco committees are working towards renewing our Green Flag status. The topics the committees have been focussing on are Climate Change, Biodiversity and Energy.

Both committees have been busy learning about these topics, that healthy biodiversity supports healthy ecosystems which make life possible and that we can support biodiversity by encouraging wildlife and habitats, supporting conservation and connecting to nature through our senses.

They have also been learning that energy is something we all use every day and it comes from a variety of sources: fossil fuels, nuclear, wind, solar and tidal, that global energy consumption is increasing overall, but not everyone has equal access to energy in various parts of the world.

However, to receive our next Green Flag, it is important that the whole school have an understanding of what these topics mean. To achieve this, every class will be taking part in activities linked to Biodiversity and Energy. Our Biodiversity week will be w/c 24<sup>th</sup> March and Energy week will be w/c 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## Note from Friends of Portmoak

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas movie – and a special thank you to all the amazing volunteers that helped before, during and after. After costs we had a modest surplus that we will use to support future social events.

If you would like to contribute to our thinking on the future workplan of the Parent Council, then our next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm. This will be online which we hope makes it easier for more families to get involved. All are welcome and can join using this link:

<https://teams.live.com/join/9312686904517?p=wAllzwh2E5ZpnuGnJO>

If you would like to contribute your thoughts or otherwise get involved but cannot attend on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, please email us at: [friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com)

We hope to have a pre-loved uniform sale running during the open-afternoon on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. There is a good stock of pre-loved uniform for all age groups, and as always the sale operates on a 'pay what you can' basis.

Finally, and on behalf of all the Portmoak families, we'd like to officially welcome Anna as our new headteacher – we are excited to see how this next chapter of the school unfolds and looking forward to working together to support our very special school and community in living the best Portmoak Life!

## Cluster Parent Marketplace – Thursday 20th March 2025: 6- 7pm

Following last year's successful 'Meeting Learners' Needs' marketplace event at Loch Leven Community Campus, the Kinross Cluster will be running the event again this year. It will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 6pm – 7pm, so please save the date.

This will be a drop-in session where parents and carers will be able to visit stalls of your choosing to find out more about the ways that children and young people are supported in their learning, both in school and through other groups and organisations. There will be information for parents of children who have additional support needs, but the session is not just for this group of parents, there will be a range of information for you to dip into on the night. The venue is 'the street' at Loch Leven Community Campus.

Last year, stalls included information about:

- Dyslexia pathways
- SHIP
- Digital tools to support learning
- The role of the Educational Psychologist
- Online digital safety
- Self-regulation
- Literacy and numeracy supports
- The CIRCLE resource
- Support for the Traveller Community in our area
- The Speech and Language Therapy service
- The Occupational Therapy service
- The School Nurse service
- Perth Autism Support
- Lighthouse
- Parent and Family Learning Team
- Active Schools and clubs in our community
- Community Learning and Development
- The Guidance team at Kinross High School

If you are keen to find out more about the above initiatives, services or partner agencies, please pop the date in your diary. Further information will be shared nearer the time.

## P1 Enrolment 2025

If you have a child due to start P1 in August, by now you should have filled in their enrolment paperwork on the PKC website. Please get in touch if you have not already done this or if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child starting P1 or possible deferral.

We have already welcomed some of our new P1s to school to see their classroom and are so looking forward to them starting school! Please ring the office and make an appointment to come in if you have not already done so.

If you are outwith the Portmoak area and would like to make a placing request for your child in our school then you are welcome to make an appointment to come in and discuss this. Placing Requests are also made online at the link above and are decided by Perth and Kinross Council and parents need to apply to the Council directly for these, decisions are usually back to parents shortly after the Easter break.

P1 transition visits will be after the Easter break and will be communicated by letter closer to the time. Ms MacGillivray and I will be visiting nurseries before summer as well.

## World Book Day – Dress Your Way

World Book Day is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March and the theme is 'Read Your Way'.

In keeping with this, children will be able 'dress their way' and can come to school in comfy clothes for reading, pyjamas to listen to a bedtime story, as a character from a book, casual clothes or in uniform.

The homework that week will have a world book day theme and there will be activities in classes. There will be no charge attached to this event.



# Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

February 2025		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole School	Open Afternoon 2.15 – 2.45pm
12 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Inservice day
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Holiday
21 <sup>st</sup>	P1/2	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – instalment 4 due
28 <sup>th</sup>	P4-7	Glenshee ski day – now fully subscribed
March 2025		
4 <sup>th</sup>	P6 & P7	Cross Country at LLCC
7 <sup>th</sup>	P4	RSPB Bird Watch Assembly 9.15am (rescheduled from 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers	Parent Contact 3.30 – 5.30
12 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers	Parent Contact 5.30 – 7.30
14 <sup>th</sup>	P2/3	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Whole School	Scholastic Book Fair week
20 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6 & P6/7	Visit to New Lanark
20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents/Carers	Kinross Cluster Marketplace at LLCC 6-7pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	Selected P6 & P7s	Cross Country Championships, Perth Racecourse – require volunteer drivers
27 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Walk to Portmoak Moss
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – instalment 5 due today
April 2025		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole School	Easter Service – led by P5/6 - venue TBC 9.30am
4 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Term ends 3pm
7-18 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Easter Holiday
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Inservice day
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Whole School	Term 4 starts
28 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy – final instalment due
May 2025		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P4	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	May Day Holiday
7 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up
9 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly 9.15am
16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Ardroy
27 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket teams	Cluster Cricket Festival, Loch Leven Larder
30 <sup>th</sup>	P1/2	Road Safety Assembly
June 2025		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Sports Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
11 <sup>th</sup>	Qualifying cricket teams	Cricket Cup, North Inch
12 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Activity days at Nae Limits and Willowgate
13 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Activity days at Nae Limits and Willowgate
13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	New classes issued
13 <sup>th</sup>	P6	John Muir Assembly
20 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Prom
25 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 Leavers' Assembly
26 <sup>th</sup>	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.