

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Newsletter – March/April 2025

It is hard to believe that the term is nearly over. A huge thank you to the Portmoak staff, families and children for a very warm welcome and a busy and enjoyable first term as Headteacher here. I am very much looking forward to continuing the fantastic work of the school and building on this together.

Before we break up for the Easter Holiday on Friday, we have some news, updates and diary dates for you.

Reading Workshop

Thank you to those of you who attended our reading workshop earlier this month. During the session, our Class Teachers shared information regarding the new PM Reading scheme and how this is being used at Portmoak.

We understand that not everyone was able to attend and are keen that all parents have access to the presentation so Ms MacGillivray and Mrs Mossom have kindly recorded the presentation which will be shared through Clickview (details to follow)

Egg Competition

We had some amazing egg-tries for the decorated egg competition- thank you so much to those who took part. Amazing creativity all round!

We will be announcing the stage winners during the Easter Assembly tomorrow. Thanks to the Parent Council for donating prizes for the children.



Easter Assembly

We are looking forward to seeing those of you who can attend at our Easter Assembly tomorrow. The whole school will be walking to Portmoak Church on the morning of the assembly which will be led by P5/6. We will also enjoy some musical performances by children who, due to a school trip, were unable to take part in 'Perform in Perth' this year. All families are very welcome to join us. The assembly will begin at 9.30am.

Pond Dipping

All of the classes had the opportunity a chance to work with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust's (ARC) education service earlier this month. Janet Ullman, ARC's Education officer visited the school and supported pond dipping sessions. The children found a huge frog, a newt and a lone tadpole. We are now a registered Amphibian and Reptile friendly school and have now received new pond dipping kits from the trust. Our pond is in need of some TLC including the wood being removed and replaced with gravel. This will be a project for next term.



Biodiversity Week

Last week, the whole school took part in experiences focusing on biodiversity, as part of our work towards our next Green Flag accreditation. Classes took part in activities including looking after different areas of the school grounds such as the orchard, pond and quiet garden and seeking out the wildlife that lives there. Some classes used biodiversity as an inspiration for writing while others investigated food chains. Sadly our outdoor learning at the Moss had to be postponed due to very wet weather but this will be rescheduled in the new term.



Dirliebane Theatre

The theatre came to us in March as we were visited by the Dirliebane Theatre Company who performed their show 'Bounce' in the school for Primary 1-4. Bounce is a comedy theatre show that explores emotions and resilience. It was developed with four Primary Schools in 2019, where the children and artists explored emotions, what they look and sound like, and what to do when feelings feel too big. This was followed by a workshop for the P4 class, exploring emotions and how they feel and look.



New Lanark



On Thursday 20th March, P5/6 and P6/7 visited New Lanark Heritage Site as part of their Victorian topic. During their visit, they experienced what it would be like to learn in a Victorian classroom, had a trip on the Annie McLeod experience (a fascinating journey of discovery by the ghost of mill worker who tells her story of life in New Lanark in 1820), and a guided tour around some of the areas of the mill including what life would be like living in a millworker's house. The trip very much enhanced the children's learning from school and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day!



Broke Not Broken Schools Update

Broke Not Broken has had a very busy winter period where we have continued to see the number of households we support in Kinross-shire increase. The donations made by all the schools in the run up to Christmas have helped enormously with us being able to provide the services that we do. Once again, we want to share our sincere thanks to all of the school community for all of your continued support.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you as parents that eligibility for free school meals has changed for children in Primary 6 and Primary 7, you can apply for these here <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17410/Free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants-primary-and-secondary> We would urge everyone to check the eligibility no matter what the age of your child as you may be entitled to financial support in school holidays as well as with a school uniform grant. Should you require any assistance with this or anything else we might be able to help with, please get in touch via admin@brokennotbroken.org or by calling 07518913107.

Friends of Portmoak Update

We had a number of new faces attending the online meeting in February helping us have some great discussions on topics as diverse as how year group splits are managed and monitored, to thoughts on the current uniform supplier. Minutes can be found on the school noticeboard if you are visiting, or if you'd like a copy sent, please email us at: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com. Please use 'Feb 25 Minutes' as the subject line.

You might recall that last Autumn we took part in the **Asda Cashpot for Schools** campaign. A huge thanks again to all the families supporting this – together we raised just over £160. This goes some way to covering the costs of learning licences for the school, like TigTag and SumDog, which FoP currently funds.

We're also very grateful for all the 'Pounds for Primaries' tokens that came in. A special mention to Mrs Cox and the incredible support from the congregation of Portmoak Church. Once we hear back from the Courier we will let you know how successful we've been in securing some funding. However, with over 400 physical tokens, as well as a few online subscriptions counting towards our pot, we believe we should get at least £100 and are working with the school to discuss how this might be used.

As a parent council we are subscribed to a knowledge sharing community called Connect. The team there are running a study into travel to school habits and asking the views of parents and carers on safe travel to/from school. The online survey will run until **10 April 2025** and takes less than 10 minutes to complete and has a comment section at the end for anything not covered in the questions. To take part, please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N89RZRV>

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place at school on 28th April, 6pm and is open to all. Please email: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved or speak to Shona (Archie's mum), Susan (Leyla/Poppy's mum) or Nicola (Willow's mum).

Ardroy trip for current P5s

As usual we have booked an opportunity for the children who will then be in P6 to go to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoilhead, between 15th -18th May 2026. Miss Kettles is going to run a short information session for P5 parents and pupils who would like to know a bit more about Ardroy prior to signing up. This will take place on **Monday 28th April at 5.00pm in the P6/7 classroom.**

This is an excellent weekend with the opportunity to work on the John Muir Award in a lovely part of Scotland. The cost for the trip is £373 in total which is payable in instalments. We like to give parents plenty of notice to pay this trip up, as we do appreciate that it is a significant sum of money.

The £50 deposit can be paid on ParentPay now – please pay this item first.

The balance can be paid in instalments on another payment item on ParentPay following the schedule set out below. This is our preferred method of payment – **please let us know if you are not planning on following the instalment plan set out below, unless you are paying the full amount at instalment date 1.** This will save office staff time in chasing up missing payments from this ParentPay item.

The suggested payment plan is as follows:

- 28 August - £50 non-refundable deposit
- 28 September - £ 53
- 28 October- £54
- 28 November - £ 54
- 28 February - £54
- 28 March - £ 54
- 28 April - £54

If you have any difficulty with the payments please get in touch for a discussion in confidence.

Coffee and Catch Up- 7th May

We will be hosting a Coffee and Catch up event on 7th May where Mr McBeath, who is a DHT at Kinross High School, will be coming along to talk to parents about transition. This is open to all parents- not just our Primary 7 parents and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about transition from a secondary school perspective.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

April 2025		
1 st -4 th Apr	Whole School	Energy/Climate Change Week
2 nd	Whole School	Easter Service – led by P5/6 - venue Portmoak Church 9.30am
4 th	Whole School	Term ends 3pm
7 th -21 st	Whole School	Easter Holiday
22 nd	Whole School	Inservice day
23 rd	Whole School	Term 4 starts – children back to school
28 th	P5	5pm - Ardroy information session for current P5
28 th	P6	Ardroy – final instalment due
28 th	Whole School	6pm - Parent Council Meeting
May 2025		
1 st	P7	Visit to Home Economics department KHS
2 nd	P4	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am
5 th	Whole School	May Day Holiday
7 th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up – Stuart MacBeath, KHS Deputy Head Teacher
8 th	P1 and P7	Dental Nurse visit
9 th	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly 9.15am
16 th – 19 th	P6	Ardroy
20 th	P4	Trip – Tillyochie Farm
20 th	P6	John Muir Award work
21 st	P6	John Muir Award work
27 th	Cricket teams	Cluster Cricket Festival, Loch Leven's Larder
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
5 th & 6 th	P7	Transition to KHS – full days
6 th	New P1s	Transition to Portmoak – time TBC
11 th	Qualifying cricket teams	Cricket Cup, North Inch
12 th	P7	Activity days at Nae Limits and Willowgate
13 th	P7	Activity days at Nae Limits and Willowgate
13 th	Whole School	New classes issued
13 th	P5 & P6	Follow the Band, Perth Concert Hall
13 th	New P1	Transition to Portmoak – time TBC
13 th	P6	John Muir Assembly
17 th	Eligible pupils	County Sports, Perth
20 th	P7	Prom
25 th	P7	P7 Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am
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.