

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – May 2025

It's hard to believe there are only four weeks left of what has been a very busy term! We have started our Primary 1 transition programme and welcomed our new P1s for a picnic last week and to try school dinners this week, whilst our Primary 7s are preparing for their move to high school and will be going on their own transition and activity days over the next couple of weeks. We have had visits and trips, been working closely with Kinnesswood in Bloom on planting and growing in the polytunnel and school grounds and the children have been engaging in lots of rich learning experiences. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these in this month's Newsletter.

Staffing

We are still in the process of appointing a Principal Teacher so at this time our staffing and classes for next year have not been finalised. I will let you know as soon as I have further information about this.

I have already shared that Mrs Mossom is going to be retiring this year and will be leaving Portmoak at the end of term. Mrs Mossom is a wonderful teacher and we will miss her very much as I know all of you will too. We are currently planning how her post will be filled and again, I will keep you updated.

We will have a probationer joining us in August, Miss Eva More. Miss More will be coming to visit the school before the summer holidays and we are looking forward to meeting her.

Sports Day – Monday 2nd June

On Monday 2nd June we have school sports at 1pm. Lunch will be slightly early that day. Families are welcome to come along from 12.45pm 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, Kinnesswood – 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 as well as refreshments, organised by the parent council. Pre-loved uniform will be available on a pay what you can / pay what you feel basis.

Ardroy

On Friday 16th May, some of our P6s embarked on a residential visit to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre. They spent a fantastic weekend exploring and discovering the area around Lochgoilhead and challenged themselves at the same time. They took part in activities such as Splosh and gorge walking, Jacob's Ladder and a Conservation day which involved canoeing to the opposite side of the loch before walking up the hill to explore and discover the area and do some 'rhodie bashing' as part of the conservation section of their John Muir Award. In the evenings, they took part in Nightline (a communication skills activity), Labyrinth, team building activities and an active Ardroy quiz.

Part of the Ardroy experience is to educate young people about our environment and to think about our food waste. The children (and staff) are encouraged to put only what they will eat onto their plates. They can then take more if they want it but only food on their plate counted as food waste. We excelled at this!! We had 112g of food waste from our first lunch then it was 0g for the rest of the weekend! Amazing! Everyone had a fabulous weekend, helped by the lovely weather throughout our visit. The children challenged themselves in all activities, participated fully, tried new things and were a credit to the school during the whole weekend!



P1/2 and P2/3 Trip to St Andrews

P1/2 and P2/3 had a fantastic time on our visit to St Andrews Botanic Gardens and the beach. Everybody had a great day and even with a couple of heavy showers we carried on and enjoyed ourselves. We had a snack, then began our three rotations. We observed living things in and around the pond, searched for minibeasts and textures at the Meanwhile Garden and also had some time to play on the incredible adventure playground. Lunch followed, then we got back on the bus for our beach adventure. We did lots of digging and creating and using our imaginations. Well done to everyone for making it a brilliant day. Thanks to Mrs Smith, Mrs Nichol and our wonderful parent helpers.



P4 Farm Visit

On the 20th May P4 had a trip to Tillyochie Farm. The trip was part of a prize won by Mimi from the GWCT. We travelled by bus picking up some pupils from Kinross Primary on the way. Once there we split into two groups and visited 5 different stations each. Here are some of our thoughts from the day,

'The trip made me feel happy because I got to find out a bit about cows' Sylvie.

'I loved learning about new things and I learned lots of new facts about animals.' Tanvi

'Now I know how pine trees grow. It was a great experience!' Gaia.

'I liked seeing the hens, because I liked learning that not even the strongest man in the world could break an egg with two fingers.' Jacob

'I liked learning about the wool and how it was made. I loved seeing the lambs they were so cute!' Sophia.

'I can't believe you have to wake up at 5am to groom the horse every day.' Phoebe

'The sheep were really cute and one of them was trying to eat people's fingers.' Mimi.

'I liked the Clydesdales from Keystone because we were learning about how they were originally mixed between a cob and another horse in the Clyde valley.' Duncan

'I liked the sheep dogs and the lambs because the dog liked a scratch under the ear a lot.' Sam.

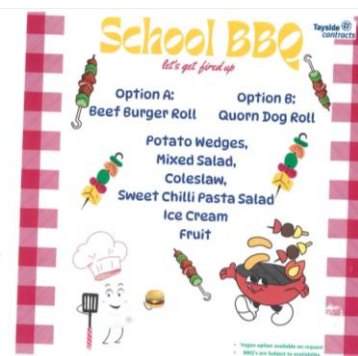


Reading Workshop

Last term we held a reading information session which was very positively received by those who were able to attend. Ms McGillivray and Mrs Mossom have very kindly recorded the presentation from the evening which you can access here <https://clickv.ie/w/svF1> (password will be sent in separate email). We hope you find this informative and useful. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

School BBQ – 17th June

On Tuesday 17th June Tayside Contracts will be preparing a BBQ for school dinners. The menu for this is on the image to the right of this section. Children will be able to order their choice on the day as they usually do with school dinners.



Kinross-shire Cricket Festival

We sent two cricket teams, a Primary 6 and 7 Girls' Team and a Primary 6 and 7 Boys' Team, to the Kinross-shire Cricket Festival on Tuesday 27th May at Loch Leven's Larder.

The Teams played brilliantly and both won their sections, progressing to 'Cricket Scotland's Schools Week of Cricket - Primary School National Finals' on Wednesday 11th June. This event will take place at the North Inch in Perth.

The organisers commented on the teamwork on show, with excellent communication and leadership displayed by both teams. A huge well done to everyone who took part and good luck for the next stage!



One Planet Picnic and inter-house cricket – 3rd June

On Tuesday 3rd 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!

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.

Warmer weather and busy days

At this time of year, we have lots going on in school. Classes are going outside for sports practice; 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 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

June 2025		
2 nd	Whole School	Sports Day 1.00pm
3 rd	Whole School	One Planet Picnic
2 nd – 6 th	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
5 th & 6 th	P7	Transition to KHS – remember early finish on Friday
6 th	New P1s	Transition to Portmoak – 1.45pm -2.45pm
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	New P1	P1 transition 9.30am – 10.30am
13 th	P5 & P6	Follow the Band, Perth Concert Hall
16 th	Whole School	New classes issued
17 th	Eligible pupils	County Sports, Perth
17 th	Whole School	BBQ for lunch
20 th	P6	John Muir Assembly – change of date
20 th	P7	Prom
25 th	P7	P7 Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am
26 th	Whole school	Term ends 12pm
August 2025		
18 th	Staff	In-Service Day
19 th	Whole School	Term starts 9am
September 2025		
10 th & 11 th	Whole School	Individual and sibling photos
October 2025		
10 th	Whole School	Last day of term – 3pm finish

Don't forget to save both school numbers 01577 867290 (school office)

and the absentee line & answer phone on 01577 867196.