Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – December 2025

Wow, what a fantastic term it's been! December has brought so much excitement to school, and it's been lovely to see the children getting into the festive spirit. From glittery crafts to brilliant Christmas performances, the joy and energy around the building have been amazing.

I'm so proud of everything the children have achieved this term and grateful to our staff and families for all the support that makes these moments possible. It really does take a team effort, and we couldn't do it without you. A special thank you to our Parent Council who have supported with providing snacks for parties and even arranged for a special visitor to come and see the children.

As we head into the holidays, I want to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for being such an important part of our school community—we're excited to see what the new year brings.

Nativity

What an absolute delight it was to watch our Primary 1–3 children perform their Nativity, *Bundle of Joy*! The children were incredible—full of confidence, smiles, and festive spirit. Their singing brought the story to life in such a heartwarming way, and it was clear how much effort they had put into learning their lines and songs. A huge thank you to the staff for all their hard work, and to families for supporting the children. It was a truly special event that reminded us all of the joy and magic of Christmas.

Cinderella and Rockerfella

We couldn't be prouder of our amazing Primary 6 and 7 pupils who took centre stage in this year's pantomime, *Cinderella and Rockerfella*! Their acting was full of energy, humour, and confidence, and they truly brought the story to life. A huge well done to our Primary 4 and 5 choir too—their singing added so much sparkle and festive cheer to the performance with fantastic timing and beautiful harmonies.

The teamwork, talent, and enthusiasm from all the children were incredible, and it was wonderful to see them shine in front of such a supportive audience.

A massive thank you to all the staff who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the show such a success—and a very special thank you to Miss Kettles, whose creativity and dedication brought the whole production together. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the season and showcase the creativity in our school! We are very pleased to announce that we made £1,033.00 from Panto proceeds

Winter Playground

All year groups have access to our extensive playground areas. This means that in winter time we must ask that children come to school suitably attired for playing on grass, which may be damp or muddy. A change of shoes (and socks) is a good idea for changing into during break and lunch time, or a pair of wellies/snow boots. You may also wish to provide a pair of tracksuit bottoms or waterproof trousers to wear over school clothes to stop them getting muddy.

School staff will remind pupils about getting changed for breaks, however I would ask that parents speak to their children about getting changed if appropriate. Please also ask your child to let their teacher or a member of support staff know if they have fallen and got very wet or muddy, so that this can be dealt with. Please rest assured that if your child is significantly wet and needs to have a complete change of clothes we will contact you.

In snow and ice, daily decisions will be made in school on whether children can play outside on safety grounds, following risk assessment. Areas suitable for play will also be considered. In heavy or persistent rain certain areas of the playground may be temporarily removed from use (e.g. the bottom pitch) or children may be kept in for break. Again, this will be a decision made on the day, depending on the conditions.

Food Hamper Raffle

This year, Friends of Portmoak ran raffles at each of our Panto and Nativity performances. This fundraiser, in aid of Broke Not Broken, has only been made possible by the generosity of our wonderful Portmoak families with fabulous contributions on our dress down/Christmas jumper day. This year we made £625 – thank you! We are also grateful to all our parents who helped in various ways for the raffle to take place. Well done to all of the lucky winners!

Severe Weather

Luckily, we have not yet had severe weather which has required us to close the school. When school closure occurs, our first communication to you is by e-mail and then by text message, so please do ensure we always have up to date contact information for you. If a parent mobile is out of service for any reason please do let us know an alternative for the text message system.

P1 Enrolment week for 2026

It will soon be time for us to enroll our newest recruits to Portmoak for Primary 1. Enrolment for Primary 1 opens on 12th January – in order to complete this process, you will require your child's birth certificate, your council tax bill and a utility bill dated within the last 3 months. To formally enroll your child you will need to apply on the Perth and Kinross Council website School enrolment - Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk). If you, or a friend, has a child who is due to start Primary 1 with us soon please share this information.

If you are out with 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 will be visiting nurseries before summer as well.

Message from Friends of Portmoak

🎅 **Santa's elves watch out - our children are excellent makers too!** Supervised by the P7s, all the children worked a production line making the cutest hot choc cones. These were sold at the recent Portmoak Gala Fundraiser to raise funds for the school. Thank you to all the pupils – after costs you've raised a fantastic **£85** and the cones received ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ reviews. Well done to everyone involved, and thank you to the Portmoak Gala Committee for organising such a great evening.

🎁 Keeping the Christmas theme, our congratulations go to all the children, teachers and helpers who entertained us with the school's Pantomime and Nativity performances. They were exceptional, and they also gave us an opportunity to support the wider community. Thank you to all the families who donated items for our Christmas hampers, four in total, each raffled at one of the performances. Together you raised an incredible **£625** for our nominated charity, **Broke Not Broken**, helping them continue their important work locally.

✨ Thank you to all the families that supported our **Festive Fundraising Shop!** We hope the goodies brighten up many faces when opened on Christmas Day. Every order contributed to school fundraising and we should receive confirmation of the final total in the New Year!

👍 **Finally, a belated admin update:** We're delighted to warmly welcome Kath Johnston to the Parent Council committee as our new Secretary. Kath's enthusiasm and commitment are already shining through, and we're so pleased to have her on board. She joins Shona M. (Chair), Lucia L. (Treasurer), and Susan B. (Deputy) on the committee – but please do remember: all parents/carers are part of the parent council and we love to hear from you.

All ideas suggestions and feedback help us to make a difference. Contact us at friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for all the Portmoak families and friends.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

		January 2026
7th	Whole School	Term 3 starts – 9am
9th	Selected P4-7	Glenshee final instalment due
12th	New P1s	P1 enrolment week for August 2026
16th	Selected P4-7	Glenshee Ski Trip (those who have signed up)
		February 2026
2nd	Whole School	Open afternoon – all parents welcome 2.15-2.45pm
10th	Selected P4-7	Glenshee Ski Trip – backup date (those who have signed up)
11th	Whole School	In-Service Day
12th & 13th	Whole School	Holiday
20th	P5/6	P5/6 Assembly – 9.15 am P5/6 parents welcome
		March 2026
6th	P4/5	World Book Day Assembly – 9.15am P4/5 parents welcome
13th	Selected P5-7	Glee – Perth Concert Hall
16th – 20th	Whole School	Book Fair
20th	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am P6/7 parents welcome
		April 2026
1st	Whole School	Reports issued
1st	Whole School	Spring Assembly at Portmoak Parish Church 9.30am TBC
2nd	Whole School	Term 3 ends – 3pm
20th	Whole School	Term 4 starts – 9am
22nd	P6	Swimming - 9.30am
29th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
		May 2026
1st	P1/2	Sharing Learning Assembly- P1/2 parents welcome
4th	Whole School	May Day holiday
5th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up – 9-9.30am
6th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
13th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
15th	P2/3	Sharing Learning Assembly- P2/3 parents welcome
15th – 19th	P6	Ardroy
20th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
22nd	P4/5	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15 – P4/5 parents welcome
27th	Whole School	Parent Contact - 3.30-5.30pm – info to book appts to follow
27th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
29th	Whole School	Parent Contact – 5.30-7.30pm – info to book appts to follow
29th	Whole School	In-Service Day
		June 2026
1st-5th	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
1st	Whole School	Sports Day - PM
3rd	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
5th	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am – P5/6 parents welcome
10th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
11th & 12th	P7	Induction days at KHS
17th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
18th & 19th	P7	P7 Activity Days
19th	P6	John Muir Assembly – 9.15am- P6 parents welcome
24th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
		July 2026
1st	P7	Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am- P7 parents welcome
2nd	Whole School	Term 4 ends – 12 noon

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