Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – January 2026

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2026! I hope all our children, families and staff enjoyed a restful and well-deserved break. January has been a lovely time in school as we returned refreshed, ready for new learning, and excited for the opportunities the term ahead will bring.
This month, classes have been settling back into routines, new topics have begun, and we're already seeing great enthusiasm from pupils across the school. As always, our focus remains on creating a nurturing, engaging environment where every child feels supported and inspired to 'be the best they can be'.
Thank you for your continued encouragement and partnership. We've had a busy and positive start to the year, and we hope you enjoy catching up on all the latest news and upcoming events.

Scots Poetry Competition

Throughout the Scottish curriculum there is an expectation that there will be an emphasis on Scottish contexts, Scottish cultures and Scotland's history and place in the world. The dialects and literature of Scotland provide a rich resource for the children at Portmoak to learn about Scotland's culture, identity and language.
With this in mind we once again held our annual Scots Poetry Competition to mark Burn's Day this week and, as always, the children rose to the challenge and did a fabulous job of memorising and reciting a Scots poem. 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 – Torryn
P2 – Phoebe
P3 – Isla N & Matthew O
P4 – Clara
P5 – Tanvi & Maia
P6 – Isla R
P7 – Ross- Highly Commended
P7- Autumn won the Burns Quaich for her rendition of Auld Lang Syne

Outdoor Clothing

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

Painting

The school will be being painted over the remainder of this term- starting on 9th February. This means that each class will be working in the studio at some point, possibly for up to two weeks. Whilst we are very much looking forward to our freshly painted walls, this will likely cause some disruption. However, the painters have assured us that this will be minimal. The P6/7 classroom will be first to be completed so please bear this in mind when you visit for the Open Afternoon on Monday, as we have had to remove all of the children's art work from the walls. They will have this on their desks to show parents.

Open Afternoon

We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Monday during our Open Afternoon. You will have the chance to visit your child/ren's classroom and hear about the learning they have been taking part in.

Glenshee Trip

A number of pupils from P4 to P7 enjoyed a fantastic day of skiing at Glenshee earlier this month. We were lucky with the weather, and the excellent snow coverage across the slopes helped make the experience even more memorable.
Throughout the day, the children challenged themselves on a range of slopes and took part in different skiing activities, approaching everything with enthusiasm and confidence. They represented both themselves and the school exceptionally well.
Staff at Glenshee were full of praise for our pupils, highlighting their impeccable manners, attentive listening, and outstanding behaviour.
A huge thank you to Mr Ainsworth, Mrs Nicol and Mr Dowling for accompanying the children on the trip, as well as all of our parent helpers for their support.

Reporting

Following parent consultation regarding our reporting systems, we are trialling a slightly different approach this year. Formal reports will be issued at the end of this term and Parent Contact will take place next term. We are hoping that this gives you the opportunity to have a more informed discussion with class teachers in terms of your child/ren's progress as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

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. School registration - Perth & Kinross Council 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

World Book Day is on **Thursday 5th March**.

On the day we will be doing lots of reading activities to celebrate our love of books. The children 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. We do not want to place any financial pressure on parents so please do not feel obliged to purchase themed costumes!

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.

Update from Broke not Broken

Happy New Year Everyone!
First of all, we would like to THANK YOU all for all of your amazing support in the run up to Christmas! In December, we delivered 219 Christmas Hampers to neighbours in our community. We could never do this without the support of our school communities. By issuing these Christmas Hampers we were able to prevent 48% of the recipients from having to access Crisis Support. You can continue to support us through easy fundraising which is free and easy to use www.easyfundraising.co.uk
Now that we have entered into the New Year, the weather is turning even colder (and wetter!) and so we are continuing to support low-income households with energy support and advice through our collaboration with The Heat Project. The Heat Project offers free home energy advice to all households, no matter if you own or rent or your property. You can get in touch with them directly by using this link https://theheatprojectscotland.org/ or you call Broke Not Broken on 07518913107 and we can link you up.
You may have seen from the recent budget that the Scottish Government is increasing Scottish Child Payment for children under one. It is now more important than ever to ensure you are in receipt of all benefits. You can do this by contacting Welfare Rights on 01738476900 or by using this link https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/13527/Contact-the-Welfare-Rights-Team
Remember you can contact Broke Not Broken anytime by calling 07518913107 or by emailing admin@brokenotbroken.org

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

		February 2026
2nd	Whole School	Open afternoon – all parents welcome 2.15-2.45pm
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
2nd	P1	Height and Weight Check with NHS
3rd	P6s and P7s	Cluster Cross Country – Loch Leven Community Campus, parents welcome
6th	P4/5	World Book Day Assembly – 9.15am P4/5 parents welcome
11th	P5/6 and P6/7	Glasgow Riverside Museum Trip – Transport Museum, Glasgow (4pm pickup)
16th	P6s and P7s	KHS Science trip – remember bus passes
20th	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am P6/7 parents welcome
24th	Select P6-7	PKC Cross Country – Perth Racecourse
		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
5th – 8th	Whole School	Book Fair – Change of date due to redecoration of school
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
26th	Select P6-7	PKC Cricket Festival – Loch Leven Larder
26th	Whole School	Parent Contact - 3.30-5.30pm – info to book appts to follow
27th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
28th	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
5th	Whole School	BBQ for lunch
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.