Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – October 2025

I hope you all had a lovely October break. We have had a super first week back at Portmoak- the children have returned enthusiastic and ready for learning and we have lots to look forward to this term. It's not long since you received our last Newsletter but we have a few updates (including Christmas Diary Dates) and a Parent Council update.

Harvest Assembly

On Thursday 9th October the school walked down to Portmoak Church for our annual Harvest Assembly. This year each class, along with the Portmoak Life Choir, prepared a short segment and we loved being together to celebrate the term and share some harvest songs and poems. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members there.

Coats

There are a number of children coming to school without a coat on a regular basis. have reminded the children that they need to bring a coat every day. Parents may find it useful to pack a light packable waterproof in school bags, which would help when we go out at break and lunch times in light rain or drizzle.

Student Teachers

We have two student teachers joining us at Portmoak this term. Miss Henrietta Bowers has started her teaching placement in the P2/3 class and will be working with the children alongside Mrs Baird and Mr Dowling. Miss Louise Forbes will be working with Mrs Herd and Mr Dowling in the P5/6 class. Both students will be on placement until Friday 5th December.

Halloween Discos

What a great time we all had at the Halloween Discos! Fantastic costumes, brilliant games and lots of fabulous dancing. A huge thank you to our Parent Council and volunteers for organising and running the party. I hope removing all those face paints didn't require too much scrubbing!

Christmas Events

During the last two weeks of school we will be having our Christmas parties. These will be in the afternoon, so children can come to school wearing their uniform for the morning session and can either go home for lunch that day or bring clothes to change into after their lunch at school (please note the P4 and P5 party is the same day as Christmas lunch so children may wish to stay). Lunch break is 12.35pm -1.20pm. The parties are:

- Wednesday 17th December- P1-3
- Thursday 18th December - P4 and P5
- Monday 22nd December - P6 and P7

It is a Panto year! We will be having two evening performances (starting at 5.30pm) and details will follow. Panto performances will be on:

- Wednesday 10th December
- Thursday 11th December

We will also be running our traditional P1-3 Nativity performance in the school hall. There are two opportunities for this show, which will be ticketed for numbers, but free to attend. These will be on:

- Tuesday 16th December- 5.30pm performance
- Wednesday 17th- 9.30am performance

Christmas lunch this year is on Thursday 18th December.

Flu Vaccinations

A small number of children did not receive their flu vaccinations at the end of September as the NHS staff administering these ran out of time on the day. We have been in touch with the team who organise this and have been assured that additional vaccinations will be carried out before the end of this term. I will be in touch when we have a date from them.

Message from Parent Council

A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers that helped to make the annual Halloween discos a huge success, and to all the incredible face painters, costume makers, and stylists behind the scenes – the children all looked incredible! Special mentions to the P7 House Captains who were amazing help decorating the hall – it was stunning. We're also extremely grateful to Nicola Aitken whose amazing balloon creations made it extra spooktacular. And thank you to those who donated old decorations – they were fabulous.
We run the discos as fun, social events designed to cover their costs. While we're still finalising the figures, it looks like we've raised a small surplus, a brilliant kickstarter for our next event. Watch this space!

Coming Soon: Our Festive Fundraising Shop!

By the time you read this the incredible Christmas artwork the children have created should be heading off to become amazing festive products. Keep watching for more information about dates for of our annual Christmas fundraising shop which will be opening soon!
There's no obligation to buy, but it can be hard to resist seeing your little elves' design on items like Christmas cards, memo pads, soft toys and new for this year a personalised storybook featuring your child's design. We're sure every family will find something on their list.
The shop is online and simple to use – but it will be open for a limited time only. This lets us gets the orders made up and returned well ahead of the festive season – so they can be passed to Santa and his elves.

Don't worry we will keep you informed of dates and deadlines. Any questions – please email: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com

In the festive mood?
Then why not come along and support the Portmoak Gala Committee's Christmas Shopping evening taking place on at Portmoak Village Hall on **7th November 7-9pm – free entry**, loads of amazing local makers, a raffle and Prosecco bar! Friends of Portmoak will have a stall selling more of our children's creations: this time in the form of delicious Christmas treats. Intrigued? Then bring your cash and find out what's on the stall - pocket money prices guaranteed.

Rag Bag

Thanks for your continued donations — and apologies if the bin was full during your last visit. A collection has now taken place, and we're working on a fix for the chute. To help us keep things running smoothly, smaller or lightly filled bags are ideal, and easier to pop in!

Shop Online & Support Portmoak — It's Easy!

We've had a wave of new recruits helping to raise funds for Portmoak Primary by doing their usual online shopping. Want to know how to join in? It's easy and completely free with **Easyfundraising!** They have over 8,000 retailers (including M&S, Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, and Tesco) that will donate to our school when you shop online at no extra cost to you. It's quick to set up, and friends and family can join in too!
It's easy and completely FREE!

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

		November 2025
3rd	Whole School	Rotary Shoe Box returns due
4th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up 9.00 – 9.30am
4th	Selected P5-7	Firpark ski-ing with Mr Ainsworth (those who have signed up)
7th	P1/2	Bonfire Night Assembly- 9.15am- P1/2 parents welcome
10th	Whole School	Parent Contact 3.30-5.30pm – info to book appts to follow
11th	Selected P5-7	Firpark ski-ing with Mr Ainsworth (those who have signed up)
12th	Whole School	Parent Contact 5.30-7.30pm – info to book appts to follow
13th & 14th	Whole school	In-Service days
18th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up – Mrs Gibson – 9.00-9.30am
28th	P5/6	Advent Assembly – 9.15am- P5/6 parents welcome
		December 2025
10th	Whole School	Panto- evening performance
11th	Whole School	Panto- evening performance
12th	Whole School	Christmas clothes day (bring an item for the hamper) details to follow
16th	Whole School	Nativity- evening performance
17th	Whole School	Nativity- morning performance
17th	P1 – P3	Christmas Party
18th	Whole School	Christmas Dinner
18th	P4 and P5	Christmas Party
22nd	P6 and P7	Christmas Party
23rd	Whole School	Term 2 ends – 12 noon
		January 2026
7th	Whole School	Term 3 starts – 9am
12th	New P1s	P1 enrolment week for August 2026
16th	Selected P5-7	Glenshee Ski Trip (those who have signed up)
27th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up – 9.00 – 9.30am
		February 2026
2nd	Whole School	Open afternoon – all parents welcome 2.15-2.45pm
10th	Selected P5-7	Glenshee Ski Trip – backup date (those who have signed up)
11th	Whole School	In-Service Day
12th & 13th	Whole School	Holiday

		March 2026
6th	P4/5	World Book Day Assembly – 9.15am P4/5 parents welcome
16th – 20th	Whole School	Book Fair
20th	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am P6/7 parents welcome
		April 2026
1st	Whole School	Spring Assembly by P2/3 – 9.30am- all parents welcome – Portmoak Church
1st	Whole School	Reports issued
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
29th	Whole School	Parent Contact – 5.30-7.30pm – info to book appts to follow
27th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
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 and performers' 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.