Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – November 2025

It has been such a busy month! Panto and Nativity rehearsals are well underway and we are really looking forward to welcoming you in to school to watch these- the staff and children have worked so hard. As always, we have some lovely plans for December to get everyone in the festive spirit!

Please read on for some information about what has been going on and what to look out for in the next month.

Lateness

We have an increasing number of children arriving at school after the lines have gone in each morning. Please ensure that children are dropped off before 9.00am so they can join their classes to come in to school.

Read, Write, Count Bags

Our Primary 1-3 pupils loved receiving their Book Bug and Read, Write, Count bags last week. They have had time in class to familiarise themselves with the books and resources which I hope will be useful at home. The Book Bug and Read Write Count campaigns are Scottish government-led initiatives aimed at improving literacy and numeracy skills among Scotland's children. They provide a free bag of books, educational games, and writing materials to children in Primary 1, 2 and 3, encouraging families to include easy and fun reading, writing, and counting activities in their everyday lives. The campaign also offers support for learning professionals and families, aiming to build parents' confidence and promote engagement with literacy and numeracy in their young children.

Decider Skills

Teaching and support staff from Portmoak had a day of input on Decider Skills during the recent inset days. A team of education staff from CAMHS facilitated the training which introduced 12 Decider Skills that can be used to support children when they may feel worried. This training is available online for parents and carers, delivered by CAMHS.

The next steps for Portmoak staff is to plan a roll out of the skills to children next term. These will be included in assemblies and in class. We are keen to involve parents as much as possible so will keep in touch about upcoming opportunities.

Outdoor Clothing

Please ensure that your child/ren brings appropriate outdoor clothing to school for break times. Unless it is raining very heavily or the weather is extreme in another way, they will be outside and should have warm, waterproof clothes and appropriate footwear. When it is raining and we have an outdoor break, the children are not able to go outside without a waterproof jacket. Whilst we have a small stock of these, there are often not enough for the children who require them so it would be really helpful if they could bring their own. Many thanks for your support.

Lost property

We have a large amount of lost property in the boxes beside the school office. Unfortunately, this is all unlabelled, so we are not able to return the items to their owner. Do feel free to pop in and have a look at the beginning/end of a day if you have things that are missing. Please ensure your child's name is on all items brought to school.

Glenshee Ski Day

This year we have booked a day of skiing at Glenshee on 16th January for children who are interested from P4-7. We do still have a couple of spaces available for this trip so please get in touch if you would like on of these. Thank you to our parent volunteers who will be joining Mr Ainsworth and Mrs Nicol on the day. Fingers crossed for snow!

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council have been sharing their ideas and working on these this term. They are in the process of

writing a Pupil Newsletter/Newspaper to share information and they will also be running a competition to design a new school mascot. Look out for entry forms making their way home soon!

We will be holding elections at the beginning of next term to choose our next Pupil Council with two children representing each stage.

Christmas Cards

A huge thanks to Friends of Portmoak for organising and coordinating the children's Christmas card designs. We are looking forward to seeing the final products and will get these to you as soon as we can when they arrive in school.

Christmas Post

The Portmoak Christmas Post will be running from Monday 8th December until Friday 19th December, should children wish to post cards to their friends. Please make sure the full name and class are clearly written on the envelope.

Christmas lunch

On Thursday 18th December we have our school Christmas lunch. The children can wear something festive that day if they wish- either accessories or a Christmas jumper.

Pantomime and Nativity

Mrs Davies has been in touch about panto and nativity tickets. The panto is now sold out. If for any reason you have missed these, do get in touch. The rehearsals are going well and I am sure you will enjoy the performances! Children will have the opportunity to watch the dress rehearsals during school time.

Drumming Workshops

The Parent Council very kindly purchased a class set of drumsticks for the school and these were put to good use yesterday when two senior pupils from Kinross High School came for the afternoon to work with each class and run some drumming workshops. The children had a brilliant time, they focused on holding the sticks properly and using them to create rhythms. We will definitely be adding some drumming to our music lessons!

Parent Council Update

🎅 **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**. They've received rave reviews too – so if you've not sampled them yet, we have very limited stock left. To order please email friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com

✨Thank you to all the families that supported our **Festive Fundraising Shop!** Every order contributes! The elves are now working with the supplier to get orders turned around and we will let you know when these arrive – if you do need anything kept separate please email: friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com as soon as possible.

🎥 Following the feedback from our recent survey, we're excited to announce that we will be running our traditional Family **Christmas Movie Event**!

Date: Tuesday 23rd December
Time: 1.30pm
Location: Portmoak Village Hall

We're making the final preparations and will confirm which Christmas family favourite will be hitting the Portmoak big screen. So, save the date and watch out for details coming soon.

🎄 **Dress Down / Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 5th December:** a gentle reminder that we're asking for donations for our Christmas hampers in return for a day out of uniform. Typical items from past years include simple festive treats such as biscuits, jam, or snacks. The hampers will be raffled at the pantomime and nativity performances, with proceeds (and any extra items) going to **Broke Not Broken**.

Shop Online & Support Portmoak — It's Easy(fundraising)! Don't forget to use **Easyfundraising** when doing your Christmas shop! When you shop online at any of 8,000 retailers (e.g. Hotel Chocolat, Argos, and John Lewis) the school receive a donation at no extra cost to you. It's quick and free to set up, and friends and family can join in too! Please sign up to support us at to get started. Thank you!

Finally, an 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

Portmoak Community Woodland

Please see information about the annual Portmoak Community Woodland Group Christmas tree event.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

		December 2025
5th	Whole School	Christmas clothes day (bring an item for the hamper) details to follow
8th	Whole School	Christmas post starts (running until 19th December)
10th	Whole School	Panto- evening performance starts at 6pm. Cast to be here 5.30pm
11th	Whole School	Panto- evening performance starts at 6pm. Cast to be here 5.30pm
15th	Selected Pupils	Flu Vaccination catch up
16th	Whole School	Nativity- evening performance starts 5.30pm
17th	Whole School	Nativity- morning performance starts 9.30am
17th	P1 – P3	Christmas Party
18th	Whole School	Christmas Dinner
18th	Whole School	Christmas Jumper and Accessory day

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 P4-7	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 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
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
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.