Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Headteacher's Newsletter – February 2026

It feels like no time since we sent our January Newsletter so it is hard to believe that we have reached the end of February already! I hope you all enjoyed the short break over half term and managed some time to rest and recharge. At Portmoak, LIFE—Learning, Inclusive, Friendly, Environment—continue to shine through in everything our pupils do. Whether they are supporting one another in class, welcoming new challenges with enthusiasm, or caring for the world around them, these values remain at the heart of our school community. It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent Open Afternoon. As we move through the rest of the term, we look forward to celebrating the children's achievements and sharing the many exciting things happening across the school. If you're able to join us at any of our upcoming events, we would be delighted to see you there.

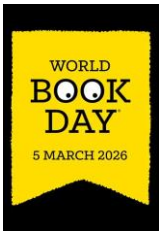
P5/6 Assembly

Our Primary 5/6 class delivered a wonderful assembly last week, celebrating Chinese New Year. The children shared their learning with confidence, enthusiasm and creativity. Their presentation beautifully highlighted the traditions, symbolism and stories behind the festival, from the significance of the zodiac animals to the ways families around the world welcome the new year, culminating in the appearance of a fantastic dragon! It was a pleasure to see they approached their roles, speaking clearly, performing brilliantly and supporting one another throughout. A huge well done to P5/6, Mrs Herd and Mr Dowling.

Pupil Council

Next week, each class will be holding its Pupil Council elections, giving all children the chance to put themselves forward as representatives for their year group. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to share their ideas, practise leadership skills and take an active role in shaping school life. We are looking forward to hearing the children's suggestions on how to continue improving our school community. Their first job will be to arrange a vote for our school mascot. We wish everyone taking part the very best of luck and look forward to announcing our new Pupil Council members soon.

World Book Day



Next Thursday, we will be celebrating World Book Day with a whole-school focus on the joy of reading. Children are welcome to come to school in their comfiest clothes for a cosy day of stories, or, if they prefer, they can dress up as a favourite book character. There is absolutely no expectation to buy costumes—anything from a simple accessory to a full outfit is welcome, and comfy clothes are equally encouraged.
The children can also bring their favourite book to share with their friends. We're looking forward to a relaxed, fun day that celebrates imagination, creativity and the magic of books. This will include a visit to our Reading Café which, due to the current painting work, will be in the hall. Each class will have the opportunity to come along for a drink and a snack while they read their favourite books and chat about these with their friends (we will have alternatives for children with allergies and dietary requirements).

Egg Competition

During the last week of term, we will be holding a decorated egg competition, with a prize of an Easter egg per year group for each of the 7 stages. Thank you to the Parent Council for kindly donating our prizes! Decorated eggs should be in school for 9am on Monday 30th March and the judging will take place on Tuesday 31st March. Our winners will be announced at the spring assembly on Wednesday 1st April. This year we will be sending home a polystyrene egg for each child two weeks before the competition and these should be the starting point for all of the children's fabulous creative ideas. We would ask that real eggs are not used in the models this year as we had a few casualties last year! We are very excited to see all of the children's creative ideas.

Live Active Holiday Activities

Live Active Leisure's Easter Holiday Activities are now on sale.

This Easter, kids can splash, score and bat their way through the school holidays with an action-packed programme featuring Football, Cricket, Aqua Fun, Crash Course Lessons, Aqua Fun, Ice Skating, Sport & Splash and Adventure Camp- all activities are detailed in the link below.

Holiday Programme: https://liveactive.co.uk/whats-on-offer/junior-activities/holiday-programmes/

Live Active staff are also running ice skating sessions at Dewars Centre throughout March and April. Families can enjoy public skating, Learn to Skate lessons and our Snow Babes sessions for younger children. Full details are available here: https://liveactive.co.uk/whats-on-offer/ice-activities/ice-skating/

Easter Assembly

We are looking forward to seeing those of you who can attend at our Easter Assembly on Wednesday 1st April.

The whole school will be walking to Portmoak Church on the morning of the assembly where each of the classes will make a contribution. All families are very welcome to join us.

We have asked for people to walk with us to the church for the Assembly itself and the practise on Monday 30th March, so if you are PVG checked and free and able to do this, please let us know. It is important we maintain ratios of adults to children for the classes to be able to walk down safely, so parents' help really is vital for this.

Police Poster Competition

Before the summer holidays last year we ran a competition in conjunction with our local Community Police to design a poster which would deter drivers from speeding.
This week the Police paid us a visit to deliver the winning poster which has been enlarged and printed on waterproof material- soon to be displayed outside for everyone to see. Our winners were delighted with their finished poster and the Police Officers were very impressed with their slogan- 'Go slow or don't go!'

Playground

We kindly ask for your support in helping children respect school equipment when they are playing in the playground outwith the school day. Recently, a few items have been damaged, and although we know this is rarely intentional, it does have an impact on the resources available for all pupils. By encouraging children to look after the equipment and use it safely and appropriately, we can ensure that our playground remains a welcoming, well-resourced space for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for helping us keep our school environment cared for and ready for learning and play.

Ardroy trip for current P5s

As usual we have booked an opportunity again for the children who will then be in P6 to go to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoilhead, between 14th-17th May 2027. This is an excellent weekend with the opportunity to work on the John Muir Award in a lovely part of Scotland.

The cost for the trip is £387 in total which is payable in instalments. We like to give parents plenty of notice to pay this trip up, as we do appreciate that it is a significant sum of money. The price is £362 for the residential and a £25 non-refundable coach ticket which is due by December. The £70 non-refundable deposit can be paid on ParentPay now – please pay this item first. The balance can be paid in instalments on another payment item on ParentPay following the schedule set out below. This is our preferred method of payment – please let us know if you are not planning on following the instalment plan set out below, unless you are paying the full amount at instalment date 1. This will save office staff time in chasing up missing payments from this ParentPay item.

The suggested payment plan is as follows:
- 28 August - £70 non-refundable deposit
- 28 September - £ 52 includes £25 non-refundable coach deposit
- 28 October- £53
- 28 November - £ 53
- 28 February - £53
- 28 March - £ 53
- 28 April - £53

If you have any difficulty with the payments please get in touch for a discussion in confidence.

Broke Not Broken Schools Update

We write this on what feels like the first dry day of the year! 2026 has definitely brought us plenty of cold and rain which has meant that here at Broke Not Broken we have been as busy as ever making sure that people are warm in their homes and have hot food to eat. As well as supporting local residents with food deliveries and energy top ups, at the end of January we delivered 112 Winter Warmer Packs of fresh vegetables and butchers' vouchers.

Did you know that you can support Broke Not Broken without even spending a penny? Sign up to www.easyfundraising.co.uk and every time you shop, you could be supporting your local anti-poverty charity and improving the lives of your neighbours.

It's that time of year where you might have just registered your little one for school or nursery and before you know it you will be looking to start ensuring that they have everything they need to start their school journey effectively. Did you know that you may be entitled to help with that? Check out https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods to see if you are eligible and when you should apply.

Broke Not Broken are always available to help and support when you need it. Please feel free to get in touch with us by emailing admin@brokenotbroken.org or by calling 07518913107.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

		March 2026
2nd	P1	Cancelled - Height and Weight Check with NHS – to be rescheduled
3rd	P6s and P7s	Cluster Cross Country – Loch Leven Community Campus, parents welcome
5th	Select P7s	Rotary Quiz – 4pm – Kinross Parish Church
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
17th	P5s, 6s and 7s	Mary Queen of Scots Last Letter – Perth Museum trip
20th	P6/7	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am - P6/7 parents welcome
24th	Select P6-7	PKC Cross Country – Perth Racecourse
30th	Whole School	Easter Assembly run through – Portmoak Parish Church – 9am – volunteers with PVG needed to walk down and back
		April 2026
1st	Whole School	Reports issued
1st	Whole School	Spring Assembly at Portmoak Parish Church – Parents welcome - 9.30am – helpers with PVG needed to walk down and back at 9am
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- 9.15am - 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
8th	P4/5	Loch Leven Castle Trip
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 – 9.15am – P4/5 parents welcome
26th	Select P6-7	Cluster Cricket Festival – Loch Leven Larder – parents welcome
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.