

Being the best I can be

PORTMOAK

Newsletter – March/April 2026

As we get ready for the Easter holidays, I'm delighted to share our final newsletter of the term! It's amazing to think how much creativity and hard work has filled our school recently, and with the break beginning this Thursday, it feels like the perfect moment to celebrate everything we have achieved this term.

We are looking forward to our Spring Assembly, with each class preparing their own special contribution and our wonderful choir ready to sing. I'm very much looking forward to seeing those of you who can join us at Portmoak Church tomorrow.

Alongside the celebrations, you'll find updates, news, and plenty of key dates to help you plan for the term ahead which is shaping up to be equally busy and fun.

Wishing all our children, families and staff a bright, happy and well-earned Easter break when it arrives

Digital Schools

We are absolutely thrilled to share that Portmoak is one of the first schools in Scotland to achieve the **Digital Schools Awards Scotland Primary Endorsement** — a fantastic recognition of the hard work, creativity and commitment shown by our pupils, staff and wider school community.



The Digital Schools Awards Scotland is a national programme that promotes, recognises and encourages a whole-school approach to using digital technology effectively in learning and teaching. It supports schools to assess their progress and celebrates excellence in embedding digital skills across the curriculum. This recognition reflects the dedication of our staff in developing innovative digital approaches, the enthusiasm of our learners who use technology creatively and responsibly, and the support of our families who help make digital learning meaningful beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and excited to continue building on our digital journey as we move into the new term.

Egg Competition

We had some amazing egg-tries for the decorated egg competition- thank you so much to those who took part. Amazing creativity all round!

We will be announcing the stage winners during the Spring Assembly tomorrow. Thanks to the Parent Council for donating prizes for the children.

Perth Museum Trip

Our P5–7 pupils had a fantastic trip to Perth Museum, where they had the rare opportunity to see Mary Queen of Scots' last letter, written in the early hours of 8 February 1587, just before her execution. The exhibition features the original letter, displayed for the first time in nearly a decade. During the visit, pupils also took part in a hands-on workshop exploring Mary's life, her connections to Perthshire, and the dramatic final chapter of her story — including her imprisonment and escape from Lochleven Castle, just a short distance from our own school community. It was a brilliant learning experience which sparked lots of thoughtful questions and discussion.



Glasgow Riverside Museum Trip

Our P5/6 and P6/7 classes recently enjoyed an exciting and highly informative trip to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, which is dedicated to transport and travel. The museum is home to over 3,000 fascinating objects ranging from vintage cars and bicycles to trams, buses and trains, offering a rich insight into how transport has changed over time.

Pupils had the chance to explore interactive exhibits, walk down recreated Glasgow streets from different eras, and climb aboard a variety of historic vehicles — including subway carriages and old buses — giving them a hands-on understanding of how people travelled in the past as well as looking at current modes of transport.

The children had a brilliant time exploring everything the museum had to offer and building on their learning.

Cross Country

A huge well done to our fantastic P6 and P7 pupils who took part in the PKC Cross Country Championships this month! They represented the school brilliantly, showing determination, resilience and plenty of team spirit from start to finish. Every runner who took part did their very best.



P4/5 Visit to Michael Bruce Cottage

As part of their learning about our local area. The Primary 4/5 class paid a visit to Michael Bruce's Cottage last week, gaining an insight into the life and work of the local poet often referred to as the "Gentle Poet of Loch Leven." The children explored the beautifully preserved cottage, learning about Bruce's early life, his connection to the area, and the inspiration he drew from the landscapes that still surround our community today. They enjoyed looking at historical artefacts and discussed how daily life in the 18th century compares with the world they know now. It was a meaningful and memorable trip that brought local history to life.



Rotary Quiz

Congratulations to our brilliant team of Primary 7 pupils who came second in the Kinross-shire section of the annual Rotary Quiz! They worked incredibly well together, showed great teamwork under pressure, and represented the school beautifully throughout the competition.

We are all so proud of the effort, enthusiasm, and positivity they brought to the event — a fantastic achievement and a real credit to themselves and to Portmoak!



Euroquiz

Our fabulous Primary 6 Euroquiz team recently took part in the PKC competition, representing Portmoak with enthusiasm, confidence and a fantastic team spirit. The team tackled challenging rounds covering Europe's geography, history, languages and culture, working together superbly and showing real determination throughout. They were great team players, encouraged one another, and did really well. A huge well done to the whole team and all those who have taken part in preparation for the quiz too. Thank you to Mrs Cox who has worked with the children weekly to prepare.

Spring Assembly

We are looking forward to seeing those of you who can attend at our Spring Assembly tomorrow. The whole school will be walking to Portmoak Church and each class has prepared a contribution, our fabulous Choir will also be singing. All families are very welcome to join us. The middle 2 sections of seating will be reserved for the staff and children but please feel free to use the seating upstairs and at either side of the Church. The assembly will begin at 9.30am.

Coffee and Catch Up- 5th May

We will be hosting a Coffee and Catch up event on Tuesday 5th May with a focus on the work and involvement of our Parent Council. This is open to all parents and is an informal opportunity to have a coffee and chat to myself and a couple of our Parent Council members about what the PC does and how to become involved.

Broke Not Broken Update

It has been another busy month for the Broke Not Broken Team as we continue to support households across Kinross-shire with food, energy and advice. With changes coming into force in April with the removal of the two-child cap we are urging everyone to speak to PKC Welfare Rights Team to ensure that they are not subject to a benefit cap. You can get in touch with Welfare Rights using this link <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/13527/Contact-the-Welfare-Rights-Team> or by calling 01738 476900.

As the Easter Holidays approach, we are very much looking forward to our Tuesday Trips which provide great fun and opportunities for local families. We have also launched our school uniform project for 2026. You can sign up for a pack using this link <https://forms.gle/WwWsDb3YaVFZv9ax5>

Please remember that 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.

Friends of Portmoak Update

At our recent meeting we discussed topics as broad ranging as homework, Perth & Kinross Council (PKC)'s work to support children with additional needs (see below), the new Act extending residential activity, plans to enhance the outdoor learning space, and how we can strengthen engagement with families. This feels especially important this year, with several long-standing members moving on or stepping back this year. Thank you to those that have already offered to help, the doors are open and we'd love to welcome more parents and carers into the group. The Summer term is always a busy one in our community, but it's also a great time to get involved. If you'd like to find out more please do get in touch at friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com.

Our next meeting will be held online **30th April at 7.30pm** – everyone is welcome: [Portmoak Parent Council | Microsoft Teams | Meet-up-Join](#)

As a Parent Council we are part of the **PKC Additional Needs Support Network (ASN)**, where representatives meet once a term to share information and help shape ASL services. Recent discussions included:

- **Enquire:** Scotland's advice service for Additional Support for Learning, offering guidance on children's rights to support and how parents and carers can be involved in decisions and discussions about your child's support, as well as tips for working with schools. Many useful resources are available online: <https://enquire.org.uk/>
- **Inclusive physical activity:** Active Schools aims to boost sports participation, including for children with ASN, expanding events into primary schools and providing equipment, training, and links to local clubs. Schools and families are encouraged to support and share these opportunities through Parent Councils.
- **Understanding masking:** A helpful session explaining how some children may appear to cope well at school but experience stress or burnout at home. This highlights the importance of strong communication between families and schools. Parents highlighted the importance of training and

understanding of all aspects of ASN, particularly around workload and recognising hidden needs. There are plans to strengthen training and guidance for schools - we will continue to watch and share developments.

If you would like to know more about ASN support, please contact the school or email friendsofportmoak@gmail.com in confidence and we can put you in touch with our ASN representative.

Fundraising update: Last year, our school community raised funds for new picnic benches to support outdoor learning and social time at school. We're delighted to share that a generous local supporter has stepped in to help our funds go even further. **ST Transport of Scotlandwell** has kindly donated **five brand-new benches**, which will be installed over the Easter holidays. It's a wonderful act of community kindness that will give our children more space to learn, chat and enjoy being outdoors, and a gift that will be appreciated for years to come. We are deeply grateful.

The ever popular **Christmas artwork project raised almost £400** – thank you to everyone that supported this and to our own super-Elf, Mrs Lisa Gordon for co-ordinating this. These funds will kick start the pot for the whole-school trip to the pantomime this Christmas – *oh yes it will!*

As we head into the Easter holidays, whether you're planning treats, trips or DIY, please remember that using **easyfundraising** turns your online shopping into free donations for the school. You can sign up or find out more here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/portmoakprimary>

Happy Easter to you all – and thank you for everything you do to support our school community and for keeping Our Portmoak Life so special.

Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

April 2026		
1 st	Whole School	Reports issued
1 st	Whole School	Spring Assembly at Portmoak Parish Church – Parents welcome - 9.30am – helpers with PVG needed to walk down and back (leaving at 9am)
2 nd	Whole School	Term 3 ends – 3pm
20 th	Whole School	Term 4 starts – 9am
22 nd	P6	Swimming - 9.30am
29 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
May 2026		
1 st	P1/2	Sharing Learning Assembly- 9.15am - P1/2 parents welcome
4 th	Whole School	May Day holiday
5 th	Whole School	Coffee & Catch Up – 9-9.30am
5 th – 8 th	Whole School	Book Fair – Change of date due to redecoration of school
6 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
8 th	P4/5	Loch Leven Castle Trip
13 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
15 th	P2/3	Sharing Learning Assembly- P2/3 parents welcome
15 th – 19 th	P6	Ardroy- Mrs Nesbitt and Miss Kettles taking P6 pupils
20 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
22 nd	P4/5	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am – P4/5 parents welcome
26 th	Select P6-7	Cluster Cricket Festival – Loch Leven Larder – parents welcome
26 th	Whole School	Parent Contact - 3.30-5.30pm – info to book appts to follow
27 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
28 th	Whole School	Parent Contact – 5.30-7.30pm – info to book appts to follow
29 th	Whole School	In-Service Day
June 2026		
1 st -5 th	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
1 st	Whole School	Sports Day - PM
3 rd	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
5 th	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am – P5/6 parents welcome
5 th	Whole School	BBQ for lunch
10 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
11 th & 12 th	P7	Induction days at KHS
17 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
18 th & 19 th	P7	P7 Activity Days
19 th	P6	John Muir Assembly – 9.15am- P6 parents welcome
24 th	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
July 2026		
1 st	P7	Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am- P7 parents welcome
2 nd	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.