

Being the best I can be

**PORTMOAK**

## Newsletter – May 2026

Welcome to our May Newsletter! This is coming to you a little early as we have lots happening over the next few weeks as we head towards the summer holidays.

It has been another busy and enjoyable month at Portmoak, with lots of opportunities for learning both in and beyond the classroom. This month, our younger pupils in P1 to P3 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Solsgirth Farm, where they had the chance to learn more about animals and life on the farm through first-hand experience. We have also been very proud of our P6 pupils as they headed off on their residential trip to Ardroy. Residential experiences build confidence, independence and teamwork, and we hope they have returned with many wonderful memories to share. I hope you enjoy reading more about the learning and achievements taking place across the school.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to our two wonderful parent helpers Kirsty Johnston and Divya Kakani for coming in to oversee the book fair and to all the parents for their support. We are pleased to let you know that we have earned £528.39 in rewards to spend on Scholastic books and we look forward to improving our class and school libraries with some new books.

### Celebration of Wellbeing Week

We are really looking forward to our Celebration of Wellbeing week from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June. During this week children are encouraged to bring healthy snacks and walk to school/park and stride if possible. There will be food preparation and tasting activities in each class – if you do not wish your child to take part please get in touch with the office. Here is an overview of our whole school activities for the week...

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June will kick off Celebration of Wellbeing Week with Sports Day at 1 pm – more information below.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – All children will be taking part in tennis tasters with Alessia Palmieri.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Each class will take part in digital wellbeing sessions.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June – after success on World Book Day our café will once again be open with a focus on healthy eating.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June – The whole school will take part in a walk to Portmoak Moss – back in time for our BBQ lunch.

## Ardroy

The bus left at eight o'clock last Friday and went to Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre. It took almost three hours, but we stopped halfway at Loch Lomond shores for a snack. We all couldn't wait to get to Ardroy!

When we got there, we had lunch. Our goal was to get zero food waste, which unfortunately didn't happen right away, but eventually we managed to get zero food waste for two of our meals. The food was delicious, especially the hotdogs on Sunday. The Friday evening activity was crawling through tunnels and pipes, with or without headtorches. We all really enjoyed it, and it was called Labyrinth.



We were split into two activity groups, group B and C. Another school were there too, and they were group A. We also had a girls dorm called Oak and a boys dorm called Elm. Every morning and evening Miss Kettles and Mrs Nesbitt came to each dorm and inspected them to make sure they were tidy. We also got to entertain them for extra points. We got points based on how tidy our dorm was, and at the end, Oak won. (That was our dorm!)

We all challenged ourselves and learned new things, whether it was during our conservation day, on a walk, climbing Jacob's ladder or during splosh. Everyone in group C and nearly everyone in group B made it to the top of Jacob's ladder. Some even did it blindfolded, or with other extra challenges.

On Saturday, group C went canoeing, saw seals, and made a fire to toast marshmallows for smores. We learned lots of useful skills. Group B climbed Jacob's ladder in the morning and did Splosh in the afternoon. The evening activity was a half outside half inside quiz about the local area.

On Sunday, group C did Jacob's ladder in the afternoon, and Splosh in the morning. Group B did their conservation day, which meant they went into Jan's wood and even found some wild garlic! In the evening everyone including the other school did art with natural materials. Everyone had so much fun, and we definitely recommend it!

**Written by Mirren and Saoirse**



## Suncream

At this time of year, we have lots going on in school. Classes are going outside for sports practice; all classes are visiting the local area and children are going out on a number of school trips. If the forecast is to be sunny, we recommend you apply sunscreen in the morning before school. Children can also bring some in their school bag to apply themselves if you want them to do this. We also recommend a sun hat to come to school in summer months. As we live in Scotland, and the weather can change quickly, a light, waterproof jacket should also be brought to school daily, even in summer months.

## Sports Day

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June we have school sports at 1pm. Lunch will be slightly early that day. Families are welcome to come along from 12.45pm and watch from the banking – please remember no dogs allowed in the playground. We will have the area near the poly-tunnel cordoned off for school use only, and the classes will sit together there.

Children may wear a t-shirt in their House colour (Bishop – green, Kinneston – yellow, Leven – blue and Lomond – red), but please don't go out and buy something – they can also wear their white PE t-shirt and will be provided with a coloured band to represent their House.

We will get changed in school ahead of our afternoon sports day. If your child prefers to come to school wearing their sports kit they may do so.

We will have a second-hand uniform sale on the day organised by the parent council. Pre-loved uniform will be available on a pay what you can / pay what you feel basis.

## Portmoak Gala Tombola Donations

Portmoak Parent Council will be running the tombola at the Portmoak Gala to raise funds for the school.

There will be both a kids' sweetie tombola and the main tombola. We would be extremely grateful for any contributions, such unwanted gifts (eg toiletry sets, candles, home goods, craft sets, toys), alcohol, food, or anything else you think would make a good prize!

Please hand in donations for the main tombola to Lucy (Grace and Florence's mum), Fiona (Mirren and Rafferty's mum) or to the school.

We will be having a non-uniform day on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** and instead of a payment for this we would ask that the children, if possible, bring a donation of some sweets for the children's tombola.

## Homework Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed our recent homework survey. We had responses from 55 families which was really helpful. There are multiple views on approaches to homework but responses demonstrated that;

- There is strong agreement that reading is important and valued.
- Families feel that effective homework is short, manageable, can be completed independently, and is clearly linked to classroom learning.
- Areas identified as causing difficulty included homework becoming parent-led, unclear instructions or deadlines, too many tasks in the same week, and children being tired after long school days and activities.
- Across responses, families asked for clearer communication, greater consistency across classes, flexibility when needed, and homework that supports confidence and learning rather than creating pressure.

As a staff we will discuss your feedback before the summer to plan a cohesive and manageable approach to homework for next session.

## P1/2 and P2/3 Farm Visit

On the 13<sup>th</sup> May P1/2 and P2/3 had a wonderful visit to Solsgirth Farm. We met Farmer Jan and her team, who gave us a warm welcome and told us all about life on the farm. They showed us around the different areas, and we helped let out the Runner Ducks and feed the pet lambs, which was a real highlight for the children. During our visit, we learned how the animals are cared for each day and what they need to stay healthy and happy. We also saw large birds, pigs and cows, and enjoyed finding out more about how the farm works. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions throughout the visit and were very engaged in learning about each animal. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn outdoors and experience farm life first-hand.



## School BBQ – 5<sup>th</sup> June

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June Tayside Contracts will be preparing a BBQ for school dinners. Children will be able to order their choice on the day as they usually do with school dinners.

## Update from the Parent Council: Outdoor Classroom / Covered Area Project

The Parent Council has been exploring an idea for a new outdoor classroom / covered area within the school grounds, and we wanted to share a quick update on where things are up to.

We've done some early work to understand what might be possible, which has included meeting with potential suppliers, looking at similar covered areas at other schools, and talking through different design ideas, layouts and sizes that could work well for Portmoak.

Our next steps will include getting detailed designs and quotes, and looking into possible funding and grant options. Once we have a clearer idea of what might be achievable, we'll share more information and ask for views from the school, children and families before any decisions are made.

The space we're looking at developing is the current open fenced area at the top of the hill overlooking the bottom pitch where Sports Day is held, near the top of the slide. While this area isn't used a great deal just now, with a covered structure in place, it could become a space that's used much more often by children throughout the year. It would work really well as an outdoor classroom and for outdoor learning, especially as it's close to the polytunnel, and would also give children a dry, sheltered area at break and lunchtime.

We'd love families to have a look at the space and imagine how it might feel as a covered outdoor classroom area. We've included a photo of a similar structure at Dunkeld to help give a sense of what we're thinking about.

We would also hope to refurbish all of the flat top benches in the school grounds as part of the same project.

We'll keep sharing updates as the project develops. If any parents or carers would like to be involved with this project, or with any other areas the Parent Council supports, we'd love to hear from you — please get in touch by emailing [friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofportmoakschool@gmail.com)



# Portmoak Primary Dates for the Diary

May 2026		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	P4/5	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am – P4/5 parents welcome
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gardening Club	Gardening After School Club 3pm – 4pm
25 <sup>th</sup>	P1	Height and Weight Check
26 <sup>th</sup>	Select P6-7	Cluster Cricket Festival – Loch Leven Larder – parents welcome
26 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Parent Contact - 3.30-5.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
27 <sup>th</sup>	New P1	11.45am – 12.25pm P1 Transition Lunch
28 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Parent Contact – 5.30-7.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	In-Service Day
June 2026		
1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Celebration of Wellbeing Week
1 <sup>st</sup>	Whole School	Sports Day - PM
1 <sup>st</sup>	Art & Craft Club	Art & Crafts After School Club 3pm – 4pm
1 <sup>st</sup>	Select P6s and 7s	Kinross Cluster Athletics 4pm – 6pm
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Non-uniform Day- please bring donations for the children's tombola
3 <sup>rd</sup>	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ukulele Club	Ukulele After School Club 3pm – 4pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Glee Club	Glee After School Club 3pm – 4pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Yoga Club	Yoga After School Club 3pm-4pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chess Club	Chess After School Club 3pm – 4pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	Gardening After School Club 3pm – 4pm
5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	Portmoak Moss walk - AM
5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School	BBQ for lunch
5 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	1.45pm – 2.45pm Transition Class visit
8 <sup>th</sup>	Art & Craft Club	Art & Crafts After School Club 3pm – 4pm
9 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council	Parent Council – 6pm – in person
10 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ukulele Club	Ukulele After School Club 3pm – 4pm
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	P7	Induction days at KHS
11 <sup>th</sup>	Glee Club	Glee After School Club 3pm – 4pm (P7s are excused)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Yoga Club	Yoga After School Club 3pm-4pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Chess Club	Chess After School Club 3pm – 4pm (P7s are excused)
11 <sup>th</sup>	New P1s	1.45pm – 2.45pm Transition Class visit
12 <sup>th</sup>	P5/6	Sharing Learning Assembly – 9.15am – P5/6 parents welcome
12 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	Gardening After School Club 3pm – 4pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	Art & Craft Club	Art & Crafts After School Club 3pm – 4pm
17 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming – 9.30am
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ukulele Club	Ukulele After School Club 3pm – 4pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Glee Club	Glee After School Club 3pm – 4pm (P7s are excused)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Yoga Club	Yoga After School Club 3pm-4pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Chess Club	Chess After School Club 3pm – 4pm (P7s are excused)
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	P7	P7 Activity Days
19 <sup>th</sup>	Gardening Club	Gardening After School Club 3pm – 4pm
19 <sup>th</sup>	P6	John Muir Assembly – 9.15am- P6 parents welcome
24 <sup>th</sup>	P6	Swimming – 9.30am

July 2026		
1 <sup>st</sup>	P7	Leavers' Assembly – 9.30am- P7 parents welcome
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Whole School	Term 4 ends – 12 noon

Don't forget to save both school numbers;

01577 867290 (school office)

01577 867196 (absentee line- please leave a message)