

Summer Term

2024

Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you had a good Easter break and are starting this term refreshed and ready to run! The children certainly all seem to be settled, happy to be back and keen to learn.

Dates for your Diaries:

Please read carefully and make a note. Any additional dates will be communicated as soon as possible.

Friday 19th April - Folios Out

Tuesday 23rd April - Start of P5-P7 Bikeability Training

Tuesday 30th April - Parent Council Meeting

Monday 6th May - May Day Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May - Parent Meetings

Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th May - P6/7 Camping Trip

Tuesday 4th June - Sports Day

Saturday 8th June - Summer Fair

Monday 10th - Friday 14th June - Big Green Week

Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th June - P7 Link Days (Portlethen Academy)

Tuesday 2nd July - Whole School Performance of Peer Gynt (afternoon)

Thursday 4th July - P7 Leavers' Assembly (morning) / Break Up for the Summer Holidays



Parent Volunteers

Many thanks to:

- Sarah Cacela for continuing to support work in class on a weekly basis.
- Jennifer Reece for helping run our school library and organising the Mad March Disco.
- Ben Bamford for running our Code Club.
- Mabel McLean for sharing her first-hand knowledge of Chinese New Year.
- Jennifer Reece, Mabel McLean, Sarah Cacela and Emily Bamford for running the Scholastic Book Fair and to all of the families who came along and bought books.
- Christa Grant for organising the ski taster session.
- The Parent Council for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for all things BD!



An additional thank you must go out to parents who have signed up to help with this term's Bikeability training and also to Cameron McLean who has volunteered to accompany us on our P6/7 camping trip. At the minute he seems very excited...!!

School Configuration

We are potentially looking at a high number of P1s starting after the Summer. This **may** lead us to having to reconfigure the school next session into a P1-P4 and a P4-P7 class. We will be in touch later in the term once we have more information. This will be when Aberdeenshire Council have confirmed placing requests and admissions.

Staffing Update

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Bryson at the end of last term. She had been working with us on Fridays to provide some additional ASN support and also some teacher Non-Class Contact Time. Suzy was a breath of fresh air coming in and was always so positive about the school and the children. We will miss her.

This will also be my last term, as I have decided to retire from teaching in order to pursue other ventures. Banchory-Devenick is a special school with great children and a staff who go above and beyond every single day. There will be a lot to miss. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the families who welcomed me when I first started four years ago and all those who have supported me during my time with you...you have been fab!

SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments)



All children in P1, P4 and P7 are expected to complete SNSA assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. These will take place over the next few weeks. P4 and P7 pupils will be supported to do these online quizzes in small groups by either a PSA or a teacher, and children in P1 will be supported individually. The SNSA are nothing to worry about, and the data we get back

upon completion can be very useful in helping us identify areas of strength and areas that we need to develop. You can find more information by clicking on the following link: <https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/>

Housekeeping

A gentle reminder that, should your child be late into school for any reason, to let the school office know their lunch choice as orders have to be sent to Portlethen Primary School by 9.30am.



Please also let the school office know if someone different is picking your child up at the end of the school day as, even if it is a friend's parent, we are not allowed to let them go unless we have your prior permission.

Parent Council Meeting

This term, my Head Teacher report will be based on our school's newly written Curriculum Design and Rationale document. This will be shared with you beforehand, and I would welcome thoughts/comments at the meeting.

I would also like to open up a discussion around the possibility of a whole school trip to Maryculter Woods to tie-in with the class contexts of 'What a Wonderful World' (P1-P4) and John Muir (P5-P7). We did this trip four years ago, but it did involve parents transporting their children to and from the woods.

Reading Schools

I am delighted to announce that we were accredited with our Gold Reading School Award at the end of last term. We are the first primary school in Aberdeen City and Shire to win this award and we were chuffed to receive a lovely email from the Scottish Book Trust commending the work we have been doing.

On the back of this achievement, we have been asked by the Literacy Lead for Aberdeenshire to make a promotional video to advertise the Library Service's Summer Reading Challenge. The video will be sent to all the primary schools in the council at the beginning of June. The P5-P7 Reading Group have already had a meeting about this and have come up with a design plan. We hope to have a special assembly to launch the video at the end of May and invite Olga (local librarian), Christian (Scottish Book Trust) and Marie (Literacy Lead).



Active Schools

On Monday mornings, Declan (Active Schools) will be teaching badminton as part of P1-P4 P.E. lessons. He will also be running a lunchtime football club for the children in P4-P7 on Thursday lunchtimes. These sessions will run until mid-May and participants will need to wear appropriate P.E. kit.



Summer Show

We have decided to end our school year with a Summer Show. The show will be Peer Gynt and will involve the children in P5-P7 taking the lead parts and the children in P1-P4 helping us out with the singing and other bit parts. Further information and invites to follow.

Primary 1 - Primary 4

Context for Learning

- **What a Wonderful World**
- Main themes: Science, Technologies, Social Subjects, Forest Schools, Eco, Sustainability and Outdoor Learning.



Reading

- Weekly Drop Everything and Read sessions aimed at promoting Reading for Enjoyment.
- Nature themed books to read as a class.
- Fortnightly Book Buddy sessions with our buddies in the P5-7 class.
- Continuing phonics and tricky word lessons based on our school progression.
- Continuing banded reading books each week. It is essential that you sign and date when your child has read their book. Please provide any feedback in the box provided in their record. Some children's days have changed this term, so please check records for this.

Writing

- Poetry based around Spring and the senses.
- Scientific reports about plant growing experiments.
- Posters or presentations to present research comparing our environment to a desert.
- Continued work on expanding sentences to contain adjectives, adverbs and connectives.



Listening and Talking

- Group tasks and activities across the curriculum.
- Instruction following to build models of our environment.
- Play
- Teamwork challenges.

Numeracy and Maths

- Multiplication and division through a variety of written and practical methods.
- Fractions with lots of practical applications.
- Money through our classroom role play area.
- Mental Maths with a focus on subtraction and times tables.
- Measurement with many practical applications, including linking to a science experiment.
- Data analysis with links to Technologies.



Health and Wellbeing (including P.E.)

- Badminton (Active Schools led).
- Athletics.
- Where living things come from, how they grow, develop and are nurtured.

Social Studies

- Big Green Week.
- Weather.
- Comparing our environment to a desert.
- Maps of our local environment including creating models.

Science

- What plants need to grow: including growing experiments.
- Food chains and webs.
- Grouping living and non-living things.



Technologies

- Engineering: Creating models through play.
- ICT: Research on iPads, presenting findings on laptops using PowerPoint.
- Developments in Society and Business: Recycling and energy saving.

RME

- Beliefs and values through stories from Christianity and other World Religions.

Modern Languages

- Spanish: Extending day to day vocabulary; learning names of objects linked to the natural world.

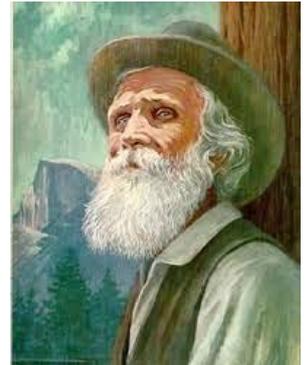
Expressive Arts

- Scaled drawings.
- Exploring different painting techniques, including using brushes of various sizes.
- Singing for the Summer Show.

Primary 5 - Primary 7

Context for Learning

- **John Muir**
- Main themes: Social Subjects, Science, Technologies, Expressive Arts, Eco, Sustainability, Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning.



Reading

- Imaginative: Multi-media study based on the children's classic 'Stig of the Dump.'
- Functional: Reflective Reading activities based on articles referring to John Muir, nature, environment etc.
- Poetry: Looking at how poets use words to create a sense of nature and the natural world.
- Reading for Enjoyment: Promoting Aberdeenshire Council's Summer Reading Challenge; Book Buddying, Drop Everything and Read, 'Speed Dating' book recommendation sessions.

Writing

- Imaginative: Eco warrior stories.
- Functional: Note taking and presenting based on texts studied in reading activities.
- Persuasive: Persuading someone that their green issue matters and action should be taken (link to Big Green Week).

Listening and Talking

- Listening, talking and debating using audio-visual texts as a stimulus.
- Presenting findings/opinions to groups/the class.
- Opportunities to work collaboratively in cooperative learning groups.



Numeracy and Maths

- **Time:** Telling 12 and 24-hour times on digital and analogue clocks, calculating time intervals, converting between seconds, minutes, hours.
- **Data Handling and Analysis:** Representing and interpreting information from a variety of graphs and tables.
- **Grid References and Scale:** Plotting and reading coordinates (2-quadrant and 4-quadrant); drawing 2D shapes to different scales (e.g. 1cm: 3cm) and looking at how changing the scale affects the perimeter and area.
- **Measurement:** Using the outdoors to develop work on length, weight and capacity.
- **Expressions and Equations:** Applying knowledge of patterns and sequences to solving problems.

Health and Wellbeing (including P.E.)

- Living and Growing.
- Bikeability training.

Further information has been provided by email.

Social Studies

- Participating in the John Muir Award (or other similar) to Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share information about a local wild place.
- Carrying out an audit of our school grounds and considering practical ways in which they could be upgraded/improved.
- Looking at the positive and negative environmental impacts that humans have had on the planet. Considering ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint and suggesting small changes that we could make at home and/or school. Link to the Outright Campaign/Big Green Week.
- Carrying out a class survey to calculate the number of car journeys we make. Mapping key journeys, e.g. the route to school and making related calculations, e.g. the cost of fuel over a day, week, month, year etc.



Science

- **Classification:** Using keys and branched diagrams to sort plants and animals according to observable features.
- **Living Processes:** Carrying out investigations to ascertain what living things need to survive; researching food chains/webs and lifecycles of plants, animals and humans; exploring habitats in our identified wild place and comparing with a different locale.



- Soils: Investigating growing seeds in different soils both with and without fertiliser/compost.
- Energies: Investigating different forms of sustainable and non-sustainable energies, considering the environmental impact of each. Looking at current headline articles and debating the pros and cons of the stance presented.

Technologies

- Model Making: Following instructions to make a windmill spinner toy and a wind turbine. Producing annotated diagrams to explain how a wind turbine works.
- ICT: Using key words to find information using search engines and URLs. Putting information into own words when presenting.
- Digital Photography: Practicing framing photos using iPads and using filters to create different effects. Using Pic Collage to present different versions of the same photograph.



Modern Languages

- Building up vocabulary on the theme of nature, e.g. plants, animals, trees, mountains, rivers.
- Asking and answering simple questions, e.g. What is it? What colour is it? How many are there?

Expressive Arts

- Creating nature artwork in the style of, e.g. Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Alexj von Jawlensky, Thomas Josphe, Andy Goldsworthy (children to be involved in deciding which artists they want to study).
- Designing flowers and using acrylic pens to transpose onto ceramic plant pots. Sell at Summer Fair (link to Fabulous Fairtrade Feasts Social Enterprise project).
- Learning, practising, performing songs, scripts and dances for Peer Gynt (our Summer Show).



As you can see, we have lots planned and we hope that your child will enjoy the final term of this school session. We look forward to seeing you at some of the events that are scheduled.

