

January 2017

# Portlethen Primary



@Portyschool

471 tweets, 406 followers and 539 likes.

**ALL OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE SHARED ON TWITTER FIRST.**

Headteacher:  
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Portlethen  
AB12 4PT

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SCHOOL CLOSURES	SCHOOL REOPENS
Wednesday 8 February at 3.20pm	Thursday 16 February at 9.00 am
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March at 3.20 pm	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April at 9.00 am
May Day	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Last day of term	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June
School re-opens	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August at 9.00 am

## School Closures

If you have not yet signed up to receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport, please sign up for notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website - if you already pay for school meals online, you will be registered.

## Dear Parents/Carers

Happy new year to all of our pupils, families and community! I hope you all had a lovely time and I know the children have returned to school ready to embark on our busiest and most productive term of the session.

The weather is so unpredictable at this time of year so please ensure your children are cosy with warm jackets, a hat and gloves.

A few children have been arriving at school from around 8.15am and are unsupervised for a considerable length of time. Please note that we have no facility to supervise children at this time.

*You have the right to play and rest, Article 31, UNCRC*

## FairAchiever Award

Great news! The Fairtrade group has led the school to gain the FairAchiever award. Lots of hard work and evidence gathering was worth all the effort. We are proud to support Fairtrade at Portlethen Primary. Well done everyone!

*We encourage everyone in the school to use Fairtrade products. I am very happy to receive the award. - Amelie*

## Scotland Topic

Staff and children alike are excited to embark on our first ever whole school topic. Through consultation with pupils, parents and staff the teachers have planned exciting learning experiences relating to the history of Scotland and our local area, custom and culture and Scottish food. Our Scottish poetry competition is underway. Beth Pratt of the Burns Society has kindly agreed to come into school to judge the poetry recitals.

Winners will recite their poems at assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January and will also be invited to the PIP Burns Event that evening.

## Physical Education

All children are entitled to 2 hours of PE each week. Children will only be excused PE if a note is submitted by parents and this should only be done in extenuating circumstances. Pupils who are not participating will be given written work to complete.

As outlined in the school handbook, PE kit should consist of a black shorts, a white tee shirt and gym shoes.

Answering Machine for reporting absences:  
01224 780238

**Aims, Vision & Values**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to express their views through the online survey monkey. The core values of the school are:



The Pupil Council have come up with a mnemonic of: T TRAIN The school will shortly share our complete Aims, Visions and Values once full consultation has taken place.

PIP Burns Supper Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 6.30-9pm in school hall. Tickets -Adults £6, children £3 to include soup, a small plate of haggis, neeps & tatties OR mince and tatties and Scottish trifle. All cooked by our very own Rev John Watson. Bring your own bottle of wine and glasses. Soft drinks on sale and raffle on the night.

**Nursery Enrolments**

Nursery enrolment applications may be submitted between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Enrolment forms may be collected from the school office.

**Community café**

Groups from Primary 7 are working with Community Learning and Development to run a community café on Thursday mornings from 12<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 9.30-11am.

As Head Teacher it was my duty to attend the café and taste the baking to ensure it was up to expected standards - hard work but somebody has to do it!! It was delicious and the service was amazing. If you can spare the time, please pop in and have a cuppa. The children have decided that all proceeds will be shared with MacMillan Cancer Care and Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

**Hillside school**

It is expected that Hillside School will open on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst we have had to carefully timetable the use of space at Portlethen Primary, this transition period has presented opportunities for pupils to work and play together whilst building new identities for both schools.

**Multi Use Games Area**

All classes have made use of this new resource and each year group has an opportunity to play on it during breaks. I am pleased that it is being used and respected by the community and have spoken to young people who enjoy it during the weekends and holidays. We will organise an official opening in the near future. I met some P7 pupils during the holidays who had just come from playing on the MUGA and this is what they had to say:

*We love our MUGA - we like to play on it because it's not as slippy as the one at academy and it belongs to us - Aiden and Cody*

**Staffing**

I am pleased to announce that Miss Watson has now been permanently appointed as Depute Head Teacher (pending the usual checks). Miss Watson has been teaching at Portlethen for over 4 years and will continue to be a valuable asset to the school.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra McKechnie  
Head Teacher