

November 2017



Portlethen Primary



Newsletter



School Values

- **T**rust
- **T**eamwork
- **R**espect
- **A**chievement
- **I**nclusion
- **N**urture

Headteacher:
Mrs Sandra McKechnie
Portlethen School
Cookston Road
Portlethen
AB12 4PT

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
SCHOOL CLOSES	SCHOOL REOPENS
22.12.17 at 3.20pm	8.1.18 at 9am
29.3.18 at 3.20pm	16.4.18 at 9am
6.7.18 at 3.20pm	21.8.18 at 9am
IN-SERVICE/ OCCASIONAL DAYS	
13.11.17 and 14.11.17	
8.2.18-14.2.18 (inclusive)	
7.5.18 (May Day)	

Answering Machine for reporting absences:
01224 780238

Adverse Weather Line
0370 0544999

Pin No: 022450

You will receive a notification through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website if you already pay for school meals.

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to this lovely term which is full of celebrations as well as reflections of the past! We have lots of festivities to look forward to but also lots of hard work too. We're not afraid of that! Remember to "Be Safe, Be Seen" in the dark.

Nursery

The children are enjoying our new topic of "Winter". They have been practising their literacy and numeracy skills through our outdoor learning activities. We are looking forward to the festivities of Christmas.

Pupil Questionnaire 2017

Over the next month pupils will be completing their annual Pupil Questionnaire. The Wellbeing Indicators (SHANARRI) will form the basis of this year's survey. Focussing on these Indicators complements our Health and Wellbeing Curriculum in which the children investigate how they can be used in order to reach their full potential.

The completed questionnaires will be shared with parents. Results will be analysed and next steps planned.

"All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions they should think about how they affect children." Article 3, UNCRC

First Minister's Reading Challenge

Thank you for your positive comments about the launch of the challenge. It was a lovely afternoon with a great buzz of excitement around the school. The challenge is now well underway, class and individual reading passports are beginning to be populated and it is interesting to see the types of books that the children choose to read. Reading Buddies are working together to improve reading and we already have lots of entries for "Where's Mrs McKechnie" (reading).

We have some fabulous entries for our "Reading in Unusual Places" Challenge. Please encourage your child to take part and submit a photograph and it would be great to have entries from parents too. Remember there is a prize!

Attendance and Punctuality

It is so important that children attend school and arrive on time so that they can reach their full potential. We want to avoid children feeling upset and frustrated because they arrive late.

Our attendance stars this month are: P3/4 (twice). I am delighted to say that 151 pupils achieved 100% attendance for last term. Fabulous!

All of our achievements are shared on Twitter first! Don't miss out!



@Portyschool

908 tweets, 583 followers and 962 likes.

Parents' Groups

News

Parent Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 29th November at 6.30pm

FOPP Meeting:
Friday 17th November at 9am

FOPP
Hallowe'en Disco -
Thursday 9th November.



P1-3 Nativity rehearsals are underway!



T TRAIN 31+ Time

Following feedback from staff and pupils, we are continuing with the new (tweaked - children felt more time was required, hence the +) format. During this six week block children will have opportunities to sign up for a range of activities including music, chess, mindfulness art, football and the school magazine. Activities are aimed at developing skills for learning, life and work.

"I felt very proud and excited when I saw 'The Porty Express' finished. It was really hard work but I enjoyed it." *Amelie, P6*

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. Article 29, UNCRC

Reporting to Parents

Staff will be working together on in-service days to complete the final set up of our new electronic reporting format on Book Creator. The initial trial reports will be shared with parents by 30th November and will include a literacy and numeracy focus. The pupil voice is really important at Portlethen School and this format offers opportunities to share learning with parents. We look forward to your feedback.

Christmas Enterprise

The pupils' ideas for the Christmas Enterprise are fabulous! All classes will be making a variety of Christmas craft and food items for the Christmas Fair on Wednesday 13th December. This term, children will be working on a whole school money topic which will run alongside the Christmas Enterprise to develop their skills for learning, life and work. **Come along and enjoy some Christmas cheer!**

Staffing

Mrs Lavery will be returning to P5/6 on Mondays and Tuesdays from 22nd November. Welcome back! Mrs Saunders will still be working with us covering some classes. Mrs Vivier will join us on 18th December and will work with most classes. We will be interviewing for Mrs Philp's replacement in the next two weeks.

Kindest regards

Sandra McKechnie
Head Teacher

Children in Need
17th November 2017
Organised by P7s



Dates for your diary: (any additions/changes from last newsletter are highlighted)

9.11.17	FOPP Halloween Disco
16 & 21.11.17	Parents' Evenings
17.11.17	Children in Need - led by P7s
20.11.17	P1 Emerging Literacy information session - re-scheduled date (4pm-5pm)
27.11.17	P1 Reading Café (2.50pm)
29.11.17	Parent Partnership Meeting (6.30pm)
30.11.17	Pupil reports to parents
11-15.12.17	Church Christmas Tree Festival
24.11.17	P7 Assembly (parents welcome)
12.12.17	"Aladdin" - Panto at HMT (P1-7)
13.12.17	Christmas Fair (3.30-5.30pm). Crafts and sweets made by nursery through to P7 pupils
14.12.17	Christmas lunch
W/C 18.12.17	Christmas parties
18.12.17	Parent Partnership Meeting
18/19.12.17	P1-3 Nativity performances
20.12.17	Nursery Christmas Parties- red and blue- 10.30-11.30 green and yellow- 2.00-3.00
21.12.17	Christmas jumper day
22.12.17	Christmas Church Service
22.12.17	Nursery singalong - 11.25 green and yellow - 3.00 blue and red
8.1.18-25.1.18	Burns poetry recitals and competition
19.1.18	P4 Assembly (parents welcome)
22.1.18	P2 Reading Café (2.50pm)
25.1.18	Burns Supper
30.1.18	Parent Partnership Meeting
2.2.18	P3/4 Assembly (parents welcome)
6.2.18	Safer Internet Day
16.2.18	Numeracy Drop-In Session (9.15-9.45am)
19.2.17	P3 Reading Café (2.50pm)
21.2.18	Abernethy Information Evening(6-7pm)
23.2.18	P5/6 Assembly (parents welcome)
26.2-9.3.18	Fairtrade Fortnight
2.3.18	P2/3A Assembly (parents welcome)
12.3.18	British Science Week
19.3.18	Nursery Reading Café (11.30am and 2.50pm)

W/C 26.3.18	World Autism Awareness Day (day tbc)
26.3.18	Parent Partnership Meeting
26-29.3.18	Abernethy
17.4.18	Pupil reports to parents
24.4.18	P6/7 Reading Café (2.50pm)
24.4.18	Parent Partnership Meeting
26.4.18 & 1.5.18	Parents' Evenings
15.5.18	P4/5 Reading Café (2.50pm)
18.5.18	P2/3B/F Assembly (parents welcome)
25.5.18	P1/2 Assembly (parents welcome)
30.5.18	Parent Partnership meeting
31.5.18	New P1 Parents' Evening
1.6.18	P6 Assembly (parents welcome)
W/C 4.6.18	New P1 visits
6.6.18	Sports Day
8.6.18	P4/5 Assembly
13.6.18	P7 School Show
15.6.18	P1 Assembly (parents welcome)
20-22.6.18	P7 academy visits
25.6.18	Parent Partnership Meeting
29.6.18	P7 treat
4.7.18	Volunteers' Afternoon Tea
6.7.18	End of session church service