

Fossoway Primary School

Ambition Friendship

Inspiring Learners – Building Futures

Resilience Respect

Headteacher Newsletter November 2022

Dear Fossoway Families,

The November newsletter has been issued a little early so that you can prepare for the busy month that is December – please take note of all of the diary dates for next month as we have a lot scheduled!

Highlights from this term so far include:

- P3/4 have been investigating the body. They have created a life-size skeleton, looked at the major organs and are thinking about what they need to stay healthy. They have also learned the song 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in French!
- P2/3 enjoyed their author visit from Emma-Louise Beeson and, during play, have been roleplaying some of the characters from the book.
- P1/2 have enjoyed reading all of the exciting books from both the Bookbug and Read, Write, Count bags. They have been learning about shapes when reading 'A Perfect Fit', emotions and worries when reading 'Jeremy Worried about the Wind' and about different types of stories and story events when reading 'The Story Thief'.
- P5/6 have been enjoying their lessons on Financial Education. They have worked well individually and in groups to discuss scenarios where financial risk is involved and what they would do to tackle it.
- P6/7 have continued to work on their exciting drone project. They built a very intricate obstacle course for the drone to fly through and the pilots (who were interviewed and auditioned for the job) are practising their flights.

All children from P1-P7 have begun rehearsals for either the Nativity or the pantomime 'Dick Whittington'. It is wonderful to hear the super singing as I walk down the corridor!

Best wishes,

Paula Woods

School App

The school app is our main method of communication with parents and carers, to let you know of upcoming events, changes to plans and for a range of reminders. To minimise the number of messages you receive, and to ensure you see all of the messages that apply to your child(ren), please check that you have the correct message groups selected in the app. For example, if you have a P5 child in the P5/6 class, please ensure that you have both 'P5' and 'P5/6' selected, as well as 'Whole School'.

Nativity and Pantomimes

P1 – P7 will be attending 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline on Wednesday 21st December. This trip is now live on ParentPay and we ask that you give your consent for the trip by the end of November. The cost of the trip (ticket and transport) is £16 per child, and we ask parents for a donation towards the cost – this is also via ParentPay. I am aware that there have been difficulties for some of our P1 families with setting up ParentPay – we will issue you with the required information as soon as possible.

'The Very Hopeless Camel' is the nativity that our P1-P3 pupils will be performing this year. There are two performances, both on Tuesday 20th December. The morning performance will commence at 9.30am, with the afternoon performance starting at 2.15pm.

Our P4-P7 are putting on a production of the pantomime, 'Dick Whittington'. There will be three performances:

- Wednesday 14th December at 1pm
- Wednesday 14th December at 6.30pm
- Thursday 15th December at 5.30pm

We ask that children arrive at school half an hour before the start of the evening performances.

For both the nativity and pantomime, we will be issuing tickets for attendance. As the maximum capacity for our hall is 80 seated guests, we will have to limit the number of tickets per family. This will be 2 for the nativity and 4 for the pantomime. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. If you would like extra tickets, you will be able to note this on the form that will be sent home, and any available extra tickets will also be issued on a first come, first served basis. We will not be charging for tickets, but there will be a donation box in the hall should you wish to make a contribution.

Please also look for information that will be sent home this week regarding costumes. If you are unable to source the suggested items for your child's costume, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can help. We would also be very grateful if you could support your child to learn any lines they have – we only have a few weeks to go!

Finally, if you happen to have a clothes rail that we could borrow for the next few weeks, we would be most appreciative!

Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend any of the performance dates, whether they are in the nativity or pantomime.

Celebrating birthdays

We know that birthdays are a very exciting and special time for our learners. However, we have a number of children in school with a range of allergies and therefore ask that you do not send in cakes or treats for birthdays. Additionally, if someone sends in items to celebrate their child's birthday, this adds pressure for other families to do the same. Please be assured that we will mark children's birthdays within classes.

RagBag and Poppy Scotland

Many thanks to all who donated clothes for the RagBag collection last term – we raised £86 for the school!

Thanks also to everyone who purchased a poppy – we raised £76 for Poppy Scotland.

Illness and Medication Policy

We are coming to the time of year when illness and viruses are more prevalent. If your child is not well enough to concentrate and engage in their learning, please keep them at home. There are also times where your child may have been unwell and has a course of medication to complete, but they are well enough to be in school and learn. If your child requires medication during the day, it would be most helpful if you could arrange for doses to be given before and after school. If this is unavoidable, please follow the guidance below with regards to administering medication in school:

- Please provide the medication in the original packaging and with the patient information leaflet.
- Please ensure that the medication has not passed the expiry date.
- Please complete a 'Parental request for school staff to administer medication' sheet, asking for support from a member of the office staff if you are unsure of any parts. There are two sides to this form, please ensure you have completed both sides. If your child is to administer the medication themselves, there is a separate form for this.
- Please wait until a member of office staff has read through your form before handing over the medication and leaving school.

Children MUST NOT bring in the medication by themselves, it must be handed to the school office by an adult.

We cannot administer medication that has passed its expiry date. We will review the medication we hold on a termly basis and ask you to replace any medication that is nearing its expiry date.

Free Bus Travel Scheme for Under 22s

As you may know, the scheme launched in January this year allowing children and young people aged 5-21 who live in Scotland to travel for free by bus with a valid National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot NEC.

The website, freebus.scot, has lots of information about free bus travel, how it works, how to apply, the benefits and some tips for travelling safely too.

After School Club

We currently have 19 responses to our survey about an after-school club. We will be discussing this at the next Parent Council meeting on Monday 28th November, so if this is something that you would be interested in, please have your say using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6dxqdyZdSUEiAvCf7-EFkLyEjavopaRDsKtvBe3QCYpUMk4xVTIHTTI5RIhPOE4yMTNTRUkyV1NURC4u>

Reminders

Please make sure your child has their PE kit with them on the days they have PE. They are welcome to leave their kits in a bag in school – we will send it home periodically to be washed.

As we move through Autumn and into Winter, our school field is muddy more often than it is not. We are going to insist that children have a change of shoes for playing on the field to protect our carpets and keep the school clean. If children do not have shoes to change into, they will play on the tarmac area outside the P1/2 and P2/3 classrooms during lunch breaks. If you would prefer your child to wear overtrousers as well, you are welcome to send them in.

Learning Council

Learning Council elections took place at the end of the October, and the following pupils were elected by their classmates to represent their classes:

P1/2: Amilee and Olivia

P2/3 – Patrick and Roddy

P3/4 – Nico and Isla B

P5/6 – Ariana and Ella

P6/7 – Astrid and Finlay

The first meeting of the Learning Council will take place this week, and we are looking forward to hearing the views of our pupils on a range of issues.

PTA

Our PTA have arranged a number of fundraising and social events between now and the end of term. These include:

- Christmas Shopping Night on Thursday 24th November at the Crook of Devon Village Hall.
- Pupil Christmas Shopping Day on Friday 16th December (if you have any unwanted gifts in your house, please consider donating them to the school. Pupils will have the opportunity to buy gifts for their family members (for a small donation) and these will be wrapped ready to put under your tree.
- Christmas merchandise fundraiser – look out for the option to buy your child's Christmas artwork on Christmas cards, mugs and a range of other items.
- Our Christmas parties take place in the last week of term, and the PTA are kindly providing the food and drinks for the children.

A huge thank you to the PTA for organising our Autumn school grounds tidy up, and thank you to all the families who came along to help out. The grounds look so much better, and many hands really do make light work!

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 28th November – all are welcome. If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda, please email the school office.

Student Teachers

Mr Devlin and Mr Schaeffer finish their placements in P5/6 and P6/7 this week. They have been a great addition to our classes and we thank them for their hard work and for supporting our learners. Both Mr Devlin and Mr Schaeffer will be spending a week in our nursery (from 28th November), to observe how our youngest children play and learn.

Miss McMullan's placement in P1/2 will continue until Friday 9th December.

Committees

All pupils in P3 – P7 are members of a committee, a group of learners who will work together to improve the school in a particular area. These committees are:

Committee	Aim	Staff member(s) facilitating
<i>Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO)</i>	<i>To improve safety in our community and consider sustainable travel to school.</i>	<i>Mrs Smith and Mrs Timmons</i>
<i>Playground Leaders</i>	<i>To increase the range of games and activities for children to play at break times.</i>	<i>Mrs Wilkie</i>
<i>Reading Schools</i>	<i>To achieve our Gold Reading Award and develop our school library.</i>	<i>Mr Haines</i>
<i>Digital</i>	<i>To review the technology in school and raise awareness of different apps and software to enhance learning.</i>	<i>Mrs Clemie, Miss McGregor and Mr Gourlay</i>
<i>Eco</i>	<i>To be reaccredited with our Green Flag, focusing on climate change, biodiversity and food journeys.</i>	<i>Mr Nicolson and Mrs Sweeney</i>
<i>Rights Respecting Schools</i>	<i>To be reaccredited with our Silver Award, ensuring all children are aware of their rights and make sure that our learners can enjoy their rights in school.</i>	<i>Mrs Bryson and Mrs Woods</i>

Our P1 and P2 learners will be completing tasks throughout the year which support the work of all other committees.

Fossway Primary Dates for the Diary

November		
21 st	P7	P7 National Standardised Assessments over the next two weeks
22 nd	Selected P4-P7s	VoiceMale choir performance at St John's Kirk
23 rd	P5-P7	STEMfit project begins
23 rd	Selected P6s and P7s	Rescheduled football tournament at Loch Leven Community Campus
24 th	Whole school	Planned school closure (for industrial action)
24 th	Parents	PTA Christmas shopping night
29 th	P7s	Ceilidh at Kinross High School
December		
2 nd	Whole school	Mobile Library Visit
3 rd	Pupil volunteers P1-P7	Community Carol Service at 3pm
12 th	Netball team	Tournament at Loch Leven Community Campus 3.45pm-5.30pm
14 th	P4-P7	Pantomime performances (1.15pm and 6.30pm start times)
15 th	Nursery	Christmas party and sing-a-long
15 th	P4-P7	Evening performance of the pantomime (5.30pm)
16 th	Whole school	Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper day and pupil Christmas shopping day (see information above in PTA section)
19 th	P1s and P2s	Christmas Party (11am-12.15pm) – please provide party clothes in a bag
19 th	P5-P7	Christmas Party (1.45pm-3pm) – please provide party clothes in a bag
19 th	Nursery	Christmas dance workshop (1.30pm)
20 th	P1-P3	Morning and afternoon performances of the Nativity (9.30am and 2.15pm start times)
20 th	P3s and P4s	Christmas Party (11am-12.15pm) – please provide party clothes in a bag
21 st	P1-P7	Beauty and the Beast pantomime trip to Dunfermline – please pay a contribution towards the trip on ParentPay.

22 nd	P1-P7	Church service – 10am start. Parents welcome to join us and we'd be grateful for parents to accompany us to walk to and from the church.
22 nd	Whole school	Last day of term (12pm finish)
23 rd – 6 th Jan	Whole school	Christmas holidays
January		
9 th	Whole school	Term begins
11 th	P7	Swimming lessons scheduled to commence (Wednesday mornings)
February		
6 th	P3-P5	Dirlebane Theatre visit
15 th	Whole school	In-service day – pupils do not attend
16 th & 17 th	Whole school	February holidays
March		
1 st	P5/6	Curling at Dewar's Centre in Perth
8 th	P5/6	Curling at Dewar's Centre in Perth
9 th	Parents	Parent Contact Session (5.30pm-7.30pm)
14 th	Parents	Parent Contact Session (3.30pm-5.30pm)
31 st	Whole school	Last day of term
April		
3 rd – 14 th	Whole school	Spring holidays
17 th	Whole school	Term begins
17 th	P3/4	Student teacher placement commences
May		
1 st	Whole school	Holiday
12 th – 14 th	P7	Residential trip
June		
8 th and 9 th	P7	Kinross High School Induction Days
29 th	Whole school	Last day of term (12pm finish)

