

Trying Hard to  
do Our Best



We Aim High!

HAPPY

CONFIDENT

ACHIEVING

CREATIVE

## NEWSLETTER 5 - Friday 3rd November 2023



### NOVEMBER

- 07 Parent Improvement Planning Group meets with HT 9-9:45am
- 10 Celebrating Success pm
- 15 Children in Need Day
- 16/17 In-service Days (School & ELC closed to pupils)
- 20 ELC Key Worker Reporting Fortnight
- Flu vaccines
- Online Safety Parent Group Meeting 2:30pm
- 22 SFSA meeting 6:30pm
- 24 Interim reports issued
- 29 Parent Appointments 3:30pm>
- 30 Parent Appointments 6pm>



### DECEMBER

- 01 P7 group visit Renouard Court
- 03 Christmas Light Switch-On at Village Hall
- 08 ELC Christmas Concert - am
- 11 Christmas Concert - Senior Citizens' Performance
- 12 Christmas Concert - 1:30pm
- 13 Christmas Concert - 1:30pm & 6pm
- 14 Pantomime Trip - Aberdeen for P1-7
- 15 ELC Christmas Party
- 18 P6/7 Christmas Party
- 19 P3/4 & P4/5 Christmas Party
- ELC Trip to Boomerangs - am
- 20 P1/2 Christmas Party

- Poppies

Poppies will be available next week for pupils to purchase. Children may bring a donation to school from Monday onwards.

- Parent Improvement Planning Group

Please come along to school on Tuesday morning 9 - 9:45am for a coffee and chat with Mrs Sutherland. All parents of children in school and ELC are welcome to be part of the Improvement Planning Group. This is a very informal discussion with a cuppa and biscuits so that parents have opportunity to contribute to school improvement planning in a meaningful way. On Tuesday we will discuss two key areas on the current improvement plan:

1. Numeracy/Maths outdoor learning
2. Online safety

- Children in Need Day



Pupil Council are organising a fun day on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November for school and nursery to fundraise for this worthwhile charity. It will be a dress up day with the option to come wearing pyjamas, Pudsey bear or yellow/spotty themed clothes. This year the BBC Children in Need theme is 'The Great SPOTacular'. Children are asked to bring a donation and we also hope to cover a Pudsey bear with 1p, 2p and 5p coins.

- Global Citizenship Week

We had a fantastic turn out for our Family Learning morning during Global Citizenship week with 78% of pupils having a family member/s visiting their

class and taking part in the interactive learning.



P1/2 were learning about food and harvest while P3/4 & P4/5 were investigating affordable and clean energy and wind turbines. Our senior class, P6/7 were finding out about climate action. We had a whole school assembly and each class confidently presented their learning to the others.



Dr Elaine Booth visited the middle stage classes and was very impressed with their questions about wind turbines.



*I learned that if you want to go up to the top of the wind turbine you have to attach yourself to a harness and you can stick your head out of a little hatch at the top and see all around.*

*Oakleigh-Bow*

*You have to order the wind turbines 18 months in advance.* Thomas

*On a windy day it goes round 43,200 times.* Kasey

*The wind turbines in St Fergus are 80 metres high.* Alexander

*The blade speed is 180 miles per hour.* Lewis

*The weight of one turbine is around 258 tonnes.* Grace

- JRSO - Operation Junior Cop

Our Junior Road Safety Officers participated in "Operation Junior Cop" alongside PC Will and PC Coutts. They monitored the speed of vehicles travelling through the village on the main road.



The Junior Cop initiative raises awareness with drivers of safe speeds in built up areas.

The JRSO team will lead a whole school

assembly as part of national Road Safety Week.

- St Fergus School Association (SFSA)

Thank you to everyone who took part in our scarecrow competition, it was fantastic to see so many people take part despite the awful weather. It was our first time doing this, so learning as we go, however we will definitely do it again. I have had several people in the village tell me how it brightened their walk.

We are grateful to local farmers who judged the scarecrows. The judges decided that because all the scarecrows were so amazing, they needed criteria. The scarecrows were judged on the following criteria:

- 1) Could they scare a crow? Flappy, noisy etc.
- 2) Were they well stuffed with straw?
- 3) The artistic details.

They scored each category out of three and had a very difficult job, with all scoring well, meaning there were a couple more awards after 1st, 2nd & 3rd. These were most artistic and most traditional as well as highly commended!

1st place - Emilia and Jacob Burnett



2nd place - Anna and Isla Campbell



3rd place - Blake Bremner



Most traditional - Elsa and Jak Morrison



Most artistic - Cruz Cruickshanks



Highly Commended - Rafferty and Tabitha Allan



Highly Commended - Krista and Andrew Smith



There are still tickets available for our cooking demonstration tonight, Friday 3rd November. Theme, get ahead for Christmas and Christmas leftovers. Refreshments will be served. Tickets costing £10, can be paid at the door.

**Looking ahead we have a date for your diary:**

Sunday 3rd December, we have a joint Christmas event at the hall, the tree switch on, visits to Santa and lots of our usual stalls.

Please let us know if you are free to help at that.

We will be looking for chocolate for our chocolate hampers and bottles for the bottle stall at the Christmas Fayre and light switch on. Please hand these into school by Tuesday 28th November so we can get hampers made up.

The school will be attending the panto in Aberdeen again this year. The buses alone will cost £750, this is an increase from last year. We do have a few fundraisers planned and this is one of the many things that we fund for the school. We have had donations from parents with businesses in the past who were able to help out. If any of our parents personally or through a business would like to donate to our SFSA please contact the school or

myself and we can provide information.  
Thank you.

Our next SFSA meeting is Wednesday  
22nd November at 6:30pm in the  
school. Come along and see what we do.  
(Adele Smart, SFSA Chair)

- ELC

Following an inspection visit on  
10/11<sup>th</sup> October, Care Inspectorate  
have published a report on St Fergus  
ELC. This can be viewed on the Care  
Inspectorate's website or a paper  
copy is available in the setting for  
parents/carers who wish to read the  
full report.



The ELC children have been learning  
about fire safety and how they can  
keep safe on Bonfire night. We  
discussed the importance of staying  
close to an adult and staying back from  
the bonfire and fireworks. The  
children made firework pictures using  
different utensils to make marks to  
represent the fireworks bright in the  
nights sky. In the gym hall they used  
their bodies to make the shapes of  
rockets, Catherine wheels, sparklers  
and bangers.



They have had lots of fun exploring  
pumpkins and they particularly liked  
using our tap tap hammer and nail set  
to hammer nails into the pumpkin. They  
carved faces on our other pumpkins and  
talked about the different feelings  
that match the faces. We are  
continuing to talk about Autumn and  
are discussing the different animals  
that we are associated with this  
season. (Mrs Morgan)



- Football Coaching  
P4 and P5 had a football coaching  
session from Sean Butcher. He also  
spent some time in class telling the  
children about his football career and  
answering their questions. They took  
notes and used these to produce fact  
files.



It was the best day ever! *Elsa*  
 I liked all the trophies, they were BIG!  
*Amy*  
 It was great playing football with him.  
*Vanessa Lynn*  
 It was good writing notes about a  
 famous footballer. We used the notes  
 to write our fact files. *Alexander*



- Netball Friendly  
 St Fergus hosted a netball friendly  
 match recently with Clerkhill. There  
 was lots of great teamwork and  
 sportsmanship on display.  
*I went up against tall players. Emma*  
*It was tough playing against P7's. Craig*  
*It was a challenge! Katie*  
*I really enjoyed it playing with the*  
*Clerkhill players. Britney*  
*I wasn't expecting to get 2 goals but I*  
*scored from really far away. Alba*  
*I am happy I was picked to be a Goal*  
*Attack because we scored lots of goals.*  
*Oakleigh-Bow*

- Pupils of the Week

Congratulations to all who have been  
 'Pupils of the Week' - Lyle, Julian,  
 Connor, Alexa Anderson, Katie,  
 Alexander, Cole & Iona and our  
 'Nursery Stars' - Georgie & Adam. Well  
 done!

- Twitter

Remember we post photos and  
 comments of what's happening in school  
 live onto Twitter. Can we take this  
 opportunity to encourage as many  
 parents/families as possible to start  
 following school on  
 Twitter @StFergusSch

Also, our school website gives you  
 current information on all that's been  
 happening in school as well as access to  
 various resources/documents.

<https://st-fergus.aberdeenshire.sch.uk>

- ADVERSE WEATHER  
 INFORMATION

**Aberdeenshire Council Website**

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/schools-closures/>

You also have the option to sign up to  
 receive email alerts when your school  
 updates their closure status:

<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/myAberdeenshire/>