

Trying Hard to
do Our Best



We Aim High!

HAPPY

CONFIDENT

ACHIEVING

CREATIVE

NEWSLETTER 6 - Friday 17th November 2023



NOVEMBER

- 20 ELC Key Worker Reporting Fortnight
- Flu vaccines
- 22 SFSA meeting 6:30pm
- 24 Interim reports issued
- 29 Parent Appointments 3:30pm>
- 30 Parent Appointments 6pm>
- P7 Science Workshop at Peterhead Academy 3:30pm



DECEMBER

- 01 P7 group visit Renouard Court
- 03 Christmas Light Switch-On at Village Hall 4-6pm

- 06 Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day
- 08 ELC Christmas concert - am
- 11 School concert dress rehearsal am, senior citizen performance 1:30pm
- 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
- 22 Last Day of term 2
- Nativity Service, St Fergus Church - 2pm

- Children in Need Day



Pupil Council organised a fun day on Wednesday for school and nursery to fundraise for this worthwhile charity. It was a dress up day with the option to come wearing pyjamas, Pudsey bear or yellow/spotty themed clothes.



Pupil Council confidently presented an assembly to highlight some of the ways funds raised by the BBC Children in Need charity help children and young people across the UK.

This year the theme was 'The Great SPOTacular'. Money is still being counted so the total raised will be shared in the next newsletter...



The winners of the Pudsey doodle competition were:

P1 Sophie

P2 Charlotte



P3 Millie



P4 Summer

P5 Sophia



P6 Nicole
P7 Maya



Everyone had great fun counting all the spots around the hall and corridors. The exact number of 98 spots was guessed by a group in P4/5 so well done to Vanessa Lynn, Jude & Blake.



I enjoyed counting all the spots because there were 2 brown spots camouflaged on the hall floor. There was one on the opposite side we were walking to and I spotted it but the boys didn't. Vanessa Lynn

I really appreciate the Pupil Council organising SPOTacular. I enjoyed the bowling. Blake

I really liked the 'Pudsey says' game in the gym hall because Alexander was really funny. Jude

- Welcome

We welcome Miss C Marr, MA3 student from Aberdeen University on placement in P3/4 with Mrs Davidson. It is lovely to have a former pupil back in school preparing for a career in teaching.

- St Fergus School Association (SFSA)

On 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 last date to buy a lucky number for the light switch on will be Wednesday 29th November.



We have raised the grand total of £1399.80 over the last three events.

Scarecrow Trail £118.70

Halloween Disco £36.40

Cooking Demo £1244.70



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



ELC offered a Book Bug session for parents/carers. This was a great success and it was lovely to see the mums and dads as we considered the benefits of sharing books, stories, songs and rhymes with our children from a young age, to give them the best start in life.

Both am and pm nursery sessions had a visitor last week when Lorna came to check up on their hand washing skills. She brought her blue light box to check for germs. Everyone watched and listened carefully then did a great job of handwashing and were rewarded with a sticker.

- Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

As a school, we once again supported St Fergus Church with the Blythswood Appeal. 37 Christmas shoeboxes were handed into school and will be transported to Eastern Europe in time for the festive season. Thank you to all who donated.



- In-service Days

Teaching staff have been busy working through an online safety audit as part of our internet safety improvement planning. Time was also allocated to completing the update of our numeracy/maths progressions.

Support staff received some training on outdoor learning from Mrs L Strong and spent time creating resource packs for outdoor numeracy/maths learning for all stages P1-7.

Our ELC team joined other nursery staff in the Peterhead cluster for training on adult/child interactions and also had input from the Speech & Language service on Robust Vocabulary Learning.

- Play Bag Resources



Pupil Council regularly visit classes to gather feedback from pupils on how we can improve various areas of school. The focus recently was playground improvement and each class was asked for ideas to enhance the resources on offer in the play bag that is taken out at lunchtimes. The photo above shows our P6/7 Pupil Council members with a selection of the new equipment purchased for the playground. This was funded by money raised by the children during their sponsored walk.

- P1/2 Outdoor Learning

Regular outdoor learning has been planned for and implemented on a regular basis particularly with a numeracy/maths focus. Shape was the recent context in P1/2.



I found a hexagon on the nursery container. Charlotte



We were looking for rectangles. Archie



I found a semi-circle on top of the door. Shelley

- Interim Reports

Interim reports will be sent electronically to parents on Friday 24th November. These will give you information on your child's progress in Literacy, Numeracy/Maths, Health & Wellbeing including PE. The report will show what Curriculum for Excellence level your child is currently working at and whether they are on track, exceeding expectations or requiring support. We are issuing these interim reports ahead of the parent appointments the following week so that you will have a chance to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher.

- Christmas Arrangements

This year we once again plan to have a school performance for senior citizens

followed by 3 further performances for parents/carers/families.

EACH FAMILY WILL BE ALLOCATED 3 INDIVIDUAL TICKETS. One for Tues 1:30pm, one for Wed 1:30pm and one for Wed evening at 6pm.

Tickets will be issued on Friday 1st December. We will not be offering a waiting list system for returned tickets this year but if you do not require all 3 tickets issued then please feel free to pass these onto anyone who may make use of them.

Due to restricted numbers, we do request that children under school age are not brought to the concert. There will be however many other opportunities throughout the year where younger siblings will be very welcome to come along such as 'Sharing of Learning' assemblies and Family Learning Days.

Our school concert performance for senior citizens will be on Monday 11th December at 1:30pm. This is for members of our village and community who are of state pension age or any grandparents/great-grandparents who meet these criteria. Please contact Mrs Stephen in the school office on behalf of any pensioners who wish to attend or who require transport.

Nursery will issue separate information with regards to their concert due to take place on the morning of Friday 8th December as there will be capacity in the hall for more guests per family.

At both nursery and school concerts, raffles will be on sale for the chance to win a Christmas hamper. We would appreciate donations of Christmas food items and these can be handed into the school office. It would be helpful if these could be handed in no later than

Monday 4th December to allow time for the hampers to be made up. Thank You!

There will be a Christmas post-box in the school entrance from Monday 4th December so that children can post their Christmas cards to each other. P4-7 pupils will be responsible for daily deliveries to classes in both school and nursery. Please ensure that envelopes have the child's full name and class (e.g., Jack Smith P6/7) as this makes distribution so much easier!

Please do not attach any sweets/chocolates/items to the envelopes. Due to allergies and medical conditions, we request that only cards are posted in the box for distributing in school. Thank you.

- Pupils of the Week

Congratulations to all who have been 'Pupils of the Week' - Krista, Camilla, Brodie R, Murray, Jak, Elsa, Lachlan, Noah Johnston & Bailey W and our 'Nursery Stars' - Alayah, Theo & Megan. Well done!

- Learning Leader Awards

Congratulations to Oakleigh-Bow, Leo, Archie, Hayley, Krista, Gray, Jessica, Julian, Jacob S, Jacob B, Camilla, Joshua & Lyle on achieving your certificate for 5 Learning Leader Awards!

What are Learning Leaders?



Happy Heroes are self-motivated, co-operative and take ownership of their learning.



Our Confident Commanders persevere, show resilience and independence.



Achieving Advisors reflect on their learning and challenge themselves.



Creative Captains are curious, ask questions and use their imagination creatively.

- 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/>