

AVOCH PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



November 2023



School Website <https://sites.google.com/fortroseacademy.org.uk/avoch-primary-and-elc/home>



We are certainly beginning to feel the Christmas vibe around the school. We have a lot of Christmas art across the school as all classes prepare their festive banners for the hall. We have a lot of music across the school from nursery practising their nativity to P1-P3 learning their songs for their concert. Classes are busy preparing their Enterprise topic for the Christmas Fair. It is a very busy time across the school and teachers use it as a great opportunity to cover many different curriculum areas. This is definitely one of my favourite terms in school.

If you need to get in touch with your child's teacher then please email avoch.primary@highland.gov.uk and this will be passed onto the teacher. I have been made aware that some parents have been emailing teachers fortroseacademy.org.uk addresses (possibly picked up from the Google Classrooms). The staff, including myself, do not always monitor these inboxes and we use them predominantly to access the Google classrooms.

We are a relatively large school with a large percentage of our children coming to and from school on buses. Whilst we are aware that there will be occasions where you have to change how your child/children are getting home, please can you communicate these with us as early as possible. An email to the Avoch Primary address should be sufficient, however, if you have to make changes after 1.30pm for that day I would advise phoning the school to ensure that the message is picked up.

Kind regards,

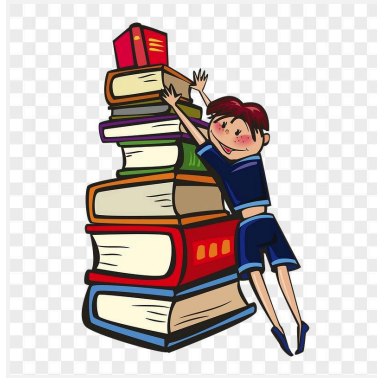
Mrs L Third
Head Teacher



Festive Fridays

We invite children to wear their festive gear every Friday in December. It is a great way to get the wear out of the Christmas clothes and accessories.

We are also supporting the MFR cash for kids Christmas jumper day on Thursday 7th December. This is the same day as our school Christmas lunch. Children are invited to bring in a donation to support this very worthwhile charity.



Literacy for All - Information Session

We would like to invite all parents (and P5-P7) children to an information session in the school hall. Parents from nursery to P7 are invited to the meeting.

Thursday 7th December, 3.30pm

We are fortunate enough to have Jenny Wilson, the Highland Literacy Officer, lead the session. The information session will look at how we support literacy difficulties in school, the dyslexia identification process and how children can be supported at home. Your child does not need to have a Dyslexia identification for you to attend the meeting.



Homework Questionnaire

We last surveyed the parents about homework in September 2021. I feel it is time to gather parent/carers views again. It is a bit of a taboo subject and we need to make an informed decision about the value homework brings to children's learning. Whatever the outcome we are aware that with such a large school community we are unlikely to please everyone.

Please use the link to complete the survey, the survey will close on Tuesday 12th December.

<https://forms.gle/XdAxedi7pcFDf9wcA>



Senior Citizens Cuppa - Thursday 14th December

Thank you for all the nominations for invitations. The pupil council group made all the invitations, some invitations have been sent home with children to deliver and further invitations will come out at the beginning of next week.

We are hopeful that some parents may be able to provide some home baking - we do not need the huge quantities that we had for the bake sale, maybe just a few cupcakes. Please email if you can provide some baking by emailing avoch.primary@highland.gov.uk

We will have the Avochapellas singing and some entertainment from other classes.



Water bottles

Children are encouraged to take in water bottles so that they can access a drink during class time. Juice of any kind is not permitted, please only provide water.

Snacks

Please consider the quantity of food that you give your children at playtime. This is a 15 minutes playtime and is only a quick snack (ideally a healthy snack) to keep them going from breakfast to lunchtime. If the children are going to toast trolley then they do not need another snack.



The **Rights Respecting Citizenship Group** recently hosted Kate Forbes MSP. This was a great opportunity for us to tell her about all our work around the school and show her our [School charter](#).

Rights Respecting Day

At the beginning of November we had a Rights Respecting Schools Day. It was about food and water both in the UK and around the world. We went around all of the classes. Some of the activities were a quiz about food, making ice cream and making healthy snacks (written by Lily and Angus, P7).

The P1-3s enjoyed making fruity kebabs, learning about how to conserve water, the role of bees in making fruit grow and the importance of fairtrade chocolate.



Coop Funding

Thanks to the support from the Parent Council, we were fortunate enough to receive money from the Coop to support our outdoor learning.

Mrs Ross worked with the parent council to source new outdoor suits for the P1 children. Harry and Fergus, two of our house captains, went to the Coop with Mrs Ross to receive the cheque.



Christmas Fair

The school fair will be on Friday 8th December. We will open the doors at around 1.45pm, slightly earlier if we are ready. We will stop selling items at 2.45pm and we will have the Avochapellas performing. After the Avochapellas leave the stage then the parent council will be drawing the raffle.

It is likely that this will run past 3.10pm, therefore it is important that children know if they are to go on the bus or if you will be signing your child out at the fair.

If there are any changes as to how your child/children will be getting home on Friday 8th December - please email the school to let us know by Wednesday 6th December. This will allow time for teachers notes to be updated and reminders written on classroom boards.



Avoch ELC

Nursery has had a very busy November. We learned how to make Poppies and some children added them to the beautiful Poppy display at the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Day.



We were very lucky and super excited to have had a talented parent make and deliver this amazing Painting Easel. All children are making good use of it and are creating beautiful pictures.

All children are working hard to learn their songs and dances for our Christmas Show. As the show is about Arctic Animals we are also learning about what animals live in the Arctic.



Primary 1M

We have had a very busy term so far. We have continued learning our letters. Here is a photo of us making bonfire photos when we were learning the letter B. We were practicing all our fine motor skills when we were cutting and sticking. We have also continued to learn numbers to 20, count, recognise and order. And we have even started looking at addition and subtraction.

However, our favourite thing is dancing to Danny Go everyday which brings us together as a team, helps with our coordination and rhythm and develops our listening skills. We hope you like watching this video of us [here](#).

Primary 2

We have started a mini topic on Stick Man by Julia Donaldson as we will be using this as part of our Christmas performance this year. We have looked at the weather here and in other parts of the world because it can be quite different in different countries. We really enjoyed learning about this and found out a little about farms here in Scotland too. As it is in November we also found out about Remembrance day and made lovely poppies and were interested in finding out about Diwali and making lovely lamps. We had great fun on our Right Respecting Schools day and did lots of fun activities. Lastly we are looking forward to starting our Christmas activities in the weeks to come.



Primary 3

It is a musical term for us: We have been singing and playing instruments, not only for our sharing assembly (the children did so well) but now for the Christmas concert too. We have started writing a diary entry every Monday morning, as a way of everyone having the chance to share their weekend news and practise writing sentences accurately (We need full stops and capital letters in every sentence!) A wee chat at breakfast time on Monday morning may help children gather some ideas!



Primary P4Y and P4C

We have been learning about materials and their properties. We used different materials to make a bowl and figure out what material would hold and keep water in it the best. We then went around the school looking at different materials, recognizing their properties and explaining why that material was chosen. We have learned a lot of scientific words to use when describing materials and their properties. Have a look around your house and identify the materials and see why that material was chosen!



Primary 5

This term we have loved working with Feis Rois, learning a lot about rhythm and types of music. We all enjoyed singing Scottish songs. In science we have worked in our trios to investigate dissolving. In maths we have all aced how to add and subtract large numbers and show our working very clearly. In writing we have been learning how to use speech marks in our stories. There are a lot of rules to remember! We finished off our Natural Disasters topic by creating a slideshow with a partner. We are now much better at adding images and changing the style and layout.



Primary 5/6

We have been busy learning about writing a 'Facing A Fear' story. We wrote about the scary things we imagine are lurking in our bedrooms at night! In our topic, we have been researching Natural Disasters to create a presentation to share with the class. We loved learning the tin whistle with Feis Rois and can play 2 Christmas songs. As part of our Forces topic in Science we were making parachutes to explore the effect of air resistance. In P.E., we are learning to balance and create different routines in Gymnastics. For Rights Respecting School day, we were learning about healthy food and how to read food labels of packaged food to determine how unhealthy they are. We were surprised by what we found!

Primary 6

We have had two new Teachers in our class this Term and we are spending time getting to know them and them getting to know us. We are taught by Mrs McKernie on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mr Horsia on a Thursday and Friday. We have continued with our natural disasters topic and have been learning about wildfires. We are going to develop our knowledge of Earthquakes and Tsunamis over the next few weeks. We really enjoy creating google slides and presenting these to the class. We have designed and presented 'all about me' slides and have also produced slides on wildfires. We are reading 'the boy at the back of the class' as our class novel and are really enjoying it. We have been working on addition in Maths and are particularly enjoying learning to use empty number lines as a strategy for calculating our addition sums. We have been particularly enjoying team games in PE. We created some beautiful front cover designs for a book cover competition and look forward to displaying these in the classroom.

Primary 7B

We have been very hard working this term so far. We have been learning about survival stories and how to survive in extreme circumstances. We've written fabulous survival stories for the BBC 500 word competition. We've been designing and making balloon cars as part of a STEM project and will be racing them in the coming weeks with the other P7 class. Our leavers hoodies have been ordered and we are excitedly waiting for them, and the P7s are looking forward to their Transition Ceilidh.

Primary 7A

We have been very busy learning all about survival and writing our own 500 word stories. We have been looking at using effective and purposeful word choice in our writing by reminding ourselves of idioms, proverbs, metaphors, synonyms, antonyms and the different shades of meaning within word groups. We even made our own 'synonym rolls'! In maths, we have been developing strategies to solve problems involving fractions, decimals and percentages. We have been using problem solving and STEM skills in science when creating our own balloon powered cars. We can't wait to race them! Lastly, we have also started our Christmas craft enterprise topic. The children are showing fantastic leadership skills as they support the younger children to customise their own Christmas mugs. A busy and productive month for P7A!

Dates for
the Diary:

December

Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Lunch	
Thursday 7 th December 3.30pm	Literacy Parent information meeting	Supported by Jenny Wilson, Highland Council Literacy Officer.
Friday 8 th December 1.45-2.45pm	Christmas Fair	All parents/families welcome to attend (note the Parent Council will draw the raffle at 2.45pm that day)
Tuesday 12 th December – 1.45pm show and 5.45pm performance	P1-P3 Christmas Show	Letter will be issued with regards to tickets.
Friday 15 th December	Nursery Nativity PM	Information will be issued from the Nursery.
Monday 18 th December	P4 Christmas Party PM	
Tuesday 19 th December	Nursery Christmas Party AM	
Tuesday 19 th December	P2, P2/3 and P3 Christmas Party PM	
Wednesday 20 th	P5, P5/6 and P6	

December	Christmas Party PM	
Thursday 21 st December	P1 Christmas Party PM	
Friday 22 nd December	P7 Christmas Party AM	
Friday 22 nd December	school closes for holidays at 3.10pm	

January 2024

Monday 8th January - school opens for pupils