HT Report for RSA Tuesday 24th January 2023

6:00 – 8:00pm

A belated Happy New Year to the RSA, all our parents and wider community. It was wonderful to be able to return to many of our pre-covid activities last term. We had a very busy but fabulous last few weeks of school despite the snow trying it's best to hamper things!!

- Thank you to the RSA for organising a very busy Christmas Fayre and for providing the Santa books presents for each child. Wonderful to see so many people back in the school.
- Festive Fridays (and other Christmas Jumper/Festive Outfit days) went well – having the spare jumpers in school helped to ensure every child who wanted to be festive had the chance.
- Christmas Tree – A big thank you for the beautiful tree provided for us by Rothes Estates – it made our hall look very festive.
- Christmas Lunch was lovely. We managed to decorate the tables in the hall to make them look Christmassy.
- Lossie Entertainment Academy Show – the whole school and Nursery thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon performance of the show and were a fabulous audience.
- Christmas Shows – The staff and I were so proud of all the children in their performance of Christmas Around the World. Thank you to the staff for all their hard work in preparing the children for their shows. Thank you to the support staff for creating props and helping with costumes. A big thank you to Des and Chris and the rest of the Grant Hall Committee for working in partnership with us to arrange the use of the hall and the amendments we had to make due to the weather. We really appreciate their help.

  The total funds raised for the show and raffle came to £1,219.10 – what an amazing total. We hope that the monies will be match funded. We have sent a donation of £250 for the use of the Grant Hall.

  Thank you to the 17 families who managed to fill out our Christmas Show Thoughts survey – three word descriptions below:



- Whole school visit on the Dufftown to Keith Railway went extremely well and visiting Santa added to the joy – Santa gave everyone a chocolate lollipop and the children received their sacks on return to school. Than you to the RSA for providing every child with a snack pack for the train. The volunteers at the Railway looked after us very well. (invoice received last week)
- Our Christmas Service at Rothes Kirk was a lovely way to end our term. Thank you to Morris Smith for leading our service.
- KCR – We submitted some of our Christmas songs and these were broadcast on 2nd January.

- Nursery Artwork is now up on the Victoria Bar.
- **P7 email from Michael Morpurgo's literary agents**. – All parents hopefully will have seen the reply P7 Mrs MacDonell received last week in last week's newsletter.

  "Dear Rothes Primary School,

  We are the literary agency who represent Michael Morpurgo, and we recently received post from Mrs MacDonell and her Primary 7 Pupils at your school.

  Unfortunately, due to the pressure of his public and writing commitments, Michael is not able to reply personally to letters that he receives. I do hope you understand, and I'm very sorry to disappoint. We also usually only able to reply to letters which contain a pre-paid envelope, due to the volume of letters that are sent to us.

  However, I wanted to write to you nonetheless to tell you how impressed we were at the agency by all your poems. It is so wonderful that you all enjoyed War Horse and felt inspired to write poetry from it. I loved the onomatopoeia in Daniel's poem, the beautiful rhythm of Tyler's poem, the 'tsunami of horses' metaphor in Grant's poem, and all your beautiful descriptions and attention to literary techniques.

  The responses and interesting thoughts that you had in response to Michael's work are brilliant, and I hope you all continue to read widely and take so much joy from books. I have attached some writing tips from Michael himself, who I have written to, to tell him all about the work that your class and others have been doing on his books. You are all very impressive children – perhaps we will be representing some of you as authors in the future!
  With all my very best wishes,
  Orli "

- **Swimming** – P4/5 completed their block of swimming with one sessions missed due to snow. We will look into the possibility of having their 'fun' session later in the year if possible. P7 have just started their 7 week block. (Minibus - £45 per week) They will be followed by P2/3/4 (before and after the hols) and then P1/2 in Term 4. Due to numbers in younger class and need for car seats we have asked once again for bus quotes. (£129 per week)

- **Burns Lunch** – Wednesday 25th January – Whole school to gather in the hall and welcome the haggis. P7 will recite the Address to the haggis before children collect their lunch – to include haggis as an option. After lunch – whole school will gather in the hall for an in-house ceilidh – classes have the option of reciting a poem, sharing learning, dancing.

- **Positive Relationships/Behaviour Policy**
  This has been launched with the children and is working well so far.

- **Scholastic Book Fair -** we will be receiving a 'postal fair'. There is currently no carrier in place that will deliver the cabinets to our address. Instead boxed books will arrive in school by Thursday 9th February. Is there a possibility of RSA help, one afternoon, in the week starting the 20th Feb - to set up the books and sell books at the book fair – possibly after school – Tues/Thurs…… non PE Days.

  Books need to be sent back by Monday 27th February 2023.

- **Author Visit** – we are still working on finding an author that can visit in person or virtually around World Book Day – Margot Henderson – Story teller - a visit is being arranged for beginning of March – the classes enjoyed her visit 2019. (Cost to be covered by RSA donation £500.)

- First Aid training on Tuesday 24th for P6 and P7 pupils went very well – children engaged brilliantly and enjoyed the session.

- P2/3/4 & P4/5 – Educational Visit to Aberdeen Science Centre in February.

- **House Groups – one more meeting is planned for the houses to address their SIP priority before each house works on a different priority.**

  Gordon House are aiming to reinstate a sit down library area for all classes so we have already dismantled and removed one of the large library book shelves. Mrs Ferguson and I are hoping to work with Moray Wastebusters to source sofas, chairs, beanbags, rugs and book cases to create a cosier library area.

- **Blinds** – as part of maintaining the building and ensuring a safe and healthy environment in school I have organised the replacement of the blinds in P4/5, P7 and in P5/6 with roller blinds. These should be fitted on Friday 9th February. The class teachers have been struggling for a number of years with the vertical blinds especially when we have needed open windows for ventilation – the vertical blinds would continually blow down/break and not easily fixed.

- **Work In and Around School**

  Meeting with Fiona Grant Thursday 26th January to look at problem areas including the side of school that floods and iced over, sheds and shelters etc… Also lifting entrance tiles and cracking concrete on ramp.

  Unpaid contract team have been in today to replace the gate at the back of school. Waiting to hear back from the unpaid contracts team for updated materials quote before fencing work and school garden prep begins, hopefully we will get started soon.

Lossie Entertainment Plans

Lossie Ents Team will come out in the last week of Term 3 and deliver taster sessions for different disciplines to all P1 – P4 pupils. The pupils will then be able to specify their choices in order of 1 to 5.

Circus Skills Acro Dance Music Theatre

Taster Session x 1 in March 2023
Workshop sessions x 4 April/May 2023
Performance session x 1 April/May 2023 hopefully in the Grant Hall

Total Cost £1500 – of which £600 to be paid by PEF

Homework Surveys

Survey to go live Wednesday 25th January with a closing date of Sunday 5th February 2023. Please have a look at the survey and see if there is anything else you feel, as parents, needs to be added.

Community Assemblies

Restarting on Friday 3rd February and Friday 3rd March at 2pm – parents, carers and members of the community are welcome to join us for an assembly.

Friday 2nd February – P2/3/4 & P7
Friday 3rd March – P1/2, P4/5 & P5/6

Science Week and Family Learning

Would RSA have capacity to help run some of these events or ask wider parent body?

Met with Joanne Addison – Family Learning Coordinator next week to discuss possibility of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.)

Rothes Primary School - British Science Week 10-19th March 2023

School Roll: 85 Families: 70 After school family learning programme

Suggested Start Times: Primary age from 3:15pm, to include Secondary from 4:15pm

All families offered the Magic and STEM with the option to book other activities taking place.

Date	Events: Main Hall	Classrooms	Information
Tues 14th March	**RAF STEM** 8 groups of 5 p1 – p4	Activity 1 – RAF STEM 5 groups of 5 Activity 2 –	MTA Construction Challenge Coding Robots Either can work in the main hall or a classroom
Wed 15th March	**Allans Magic – STEM and Magic session** (45-60 minutes)		All families
Thurs 16th March	**RAF STEM** 8 groups of 5 P5 – p7	Activity 1 – RAF STEM 5 groups of 5 Activity 2 –	MTA Construction Challenge Coding Robots Either can work in the main hall or a classroom

Activity Ideas

Hi5 Stem Activity Toolkit Booklet (CLD practitioners)
Speyside High Science Department (contacted, awaiting response)
Archaeology Scotland – real artefact investigation kit

Follow Up:

Science Club – 2 weekly sessions (end of term 31.3.2023) – science experiments
2 ages groups – e.g. 3:15pm-4:15pm and 4:15pm-5:15pm

Science Celebration – end of term or possibly first week of Easter holidays – Library Gadgets, presentation

Accreditation:

Certificate of Attendance
Hi-5 Award (optional) – 3 BSW sessions + 2 Science Club sessions

Potential Additional Support:	Possible Funding:
School Parent Council Classroom Teacher AFL Co-ordinators – science experiments? AFL Volunteers 'The Cottage', Rothes Speyside High School Moray College?	BSW grant application (unsuccessful) Parent Council Wind Farm Grant Other?

Dufftown Railway Cost = £450.00 to be reimbursed from RSA

Text Messaging & Leavers' Hoodies (& calculators)

It was agreed at the RSA meeting on 29th Sept 2021 that the RSA would cover the cost for both of these.

Texts

Academic Year 2021 – 2022 = £131.24	MC only charged for ¾ of the year.
Academic Year 2022 – 2023 = £107.25	One quarter still to come in.

Hoodies

RSA happy if we start to order these so P& can wear them next term?

JH001 hoodie - £27.50 (left chest embroidery, back print)
JH01J kids hoodie - £21.50 (left chest embroidery, back print)

(Last year - 2022 - JH001 adult hoodie - £22.50/JH01J kids hoodie - £18.50)

Class Resources

Request for donation for teachers to identify class resources – science kits, etc…..

AOCB

Duck Race – Town Council have said to check with Mackie Tawse – has anyone managed to find out anything?