



DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always, this time of year seems to catch us unaware, no matter how well prepared we think we are! Thankfully, as yet, we have not had any snow to contend with.

Plans are going full steam ahead for P5's Christmas assembly and the sound of singing can be heard around the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, pupils and parents a Joyful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.



HOLIDAYS

The school closes at the usual time on Friday 20th December and re-opens, for all, at the usual time on Monday 6th January 2014.

PLEASE REMEMBER: As of 6th January pupils will be dismissed at 3.15pm NOT 3.30pm.



SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

It is expected that traffic restrictions in Neilson Park Road and Victoria Road will come into place in January. This means that, throughout term-time, only residents and emergency vehicles will be allowed access during the following times:

Mon to Thurs: 8.30 – 9.30am and 3.00 – 4.00pm

Friday: 8.30 – 9.30am and 11.45 am – 12.45 pm

BOOK FAIR



The school book fair proved to be a great success and many thanks to all of the parent helpers who turned up that week to make it so!

We always get 'commission' in the form of books for the school to a certain % value of the total sales. This year we will get a whopping £1,350 worth of books that we will place in the children's library!

So well done, all you parents/carers and pupils!



YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU!



King's Meadow PTA does a fantastic job in raising funds to support your child/ren and the work of the school. In the last two years this has included:

- Playground Improvements £2,100
- Indoor & outdoor playtime games - £700
- Tshirts for the school choir - £100
- AR Books - £500
- Bus for P7 end of school trip in both years £600
- Donation to Mr Smith's gardening club - £200

Unfortunately, due to lack of members, it is in danger of folding. Membership of the PTA is not a demanding role and, as the saying goes, "...many hands make light work". The group meets around twice a term, or more frequently if an event is coming up, and is very informal and focussed. There is no expectation that members will be able to attend every meeting. The next meeting takes place, in the Meeting Room, at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 14th. PLEASE come along and show your support.



BBC CHILDREN IN NEED



Thank you to all those who dressed in their onesies and pyjamas for the day and helped to raise the sum of £319.95 Well done, everyone!



ILLNESS



We would like to make parents aware that following bouts of sickness or diarrhoea children should not return to school until **48 hours** after they have recovered and the sickness or diarrhoea has stopped. Sending children back any earlier than this puts the rest of the school community at risk and can mean that children become re-infected. We really would appreciate your cooperation with this.



FOOTBALL



King's Meadow girls had their first league match on Tues 12th November against Loretto. They played fantastic football and worked well as a team. At half time the girls were 1-0 down, but made a great come back in the second half. This resulted in them winning the match 4-1.

On the 28th November the school football team had a game against St Mary's Primary School. This was the first outing for many of our players. It went very well and everyone played fairly. It was a fast paced and exiting game and the final score was 1-1. We are looking forward to our next game. Well done to all our players!



SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

The school parliament met on the 26th of November.

Items on the agenda included:

- Den building equipment
- 'Thank You Tree' at the front of the school
- Litter in the school playground
- Playground survey

The children also had a long discussion about the school dinner hall. At the moment school dinners and packed lunches have to sit at different tables. This is because we have to keep a certain number of tables free for children carrying trays with hot food. A proposal was put to the meeting that, while we do need to keep some tables free for school dinners, we could allow the school dinner children to choose to sit anywhere in the dining hall. This would mean that children could sit with friends.

A vote was taken and the proposal was passed unanimously. Our next meeting is in January.



GIFT IDEAS



Should you be considering a present for your child's teacher, we would like to suggest that instead of buying a gift you could, for example, buy £5 worth of a classroom that would be built in Africa. Although teachers appreciate presents at Christmas we know they would be touched by receiving a present that could be used by children in Africa. If you are interested in this idea here are two links to look at - www.oxfamunwrapped.com then click on school scene or www.savethechildren.org.uk/wishhot and you can choose a school present from there.



HEAD LICE

We would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.

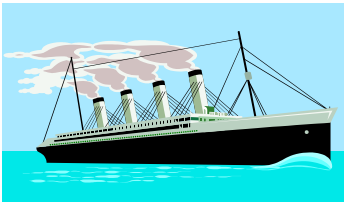
DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Tuesday 3rd: Whole school pantomime - Dick Whittington
- Thursday 12th: School Christmas lunch
- Tuesday 17th: P7 to Knox' Christmas Concert
- Wednesday 18th: P5 assembly - The Miracle Child.
- Thursday 19th: It will be P6's turn to provide baking to sell in school. This is part of ongoing fundraising by the P.T.A. The proceeds from the baking stall will be put towards buying baking and cooking equipment for the school, so that children will be able to learn about this vital life skill.
- Friday 20th: End of term.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A recently finished work on our local study topic- Haddington. We were lucky to have a number of visitors to the school to help us investigate how we can help our local community. Mrs Renton talked to the pupils about the group "The Friends of the River Tyne" and the work that they do in Haddington. She explained to the children how they can help care for the environment and the effect of litter on local wildlife. Jose Cabellero spoke to the children about the importance of recycling and the work that is done at the local recycling centre. Jen, the countryside ranger, helped us to look at ways of reducing litter in our school playground. We learned how to litter pick safely and then carried out a litter pick in our P4 playground.

Then, on Monday 12th October, we had a special mission delivered to our class. We were all to become secret agents! We were set the task of raising an "unsinkable ship" from her watery grave. We worked hard in groups to recreate a large Titanic for our classroom. Over the last few weeks, we have been working very hard to research information about the Titanic and have enjoyed creating fact files to share with others. We have <http://edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

now also created passengers for each of the classes on board the ship and will be working in pairs to create cabins, showing what living conditions would have been like on board.

The focus for writing has been "Scary Writing". We have all been working hard on the various activities set and this has helped us with ideas for writing our own scary story.

In Maths, we have been working on symmetry and subtraction. We have been finding out about lines of symmetry and identifying shapes with more than one line. We also enjoyed making our own symmetrical shapes and patterns. In subtraction, we have worked hard on taking 2/3 digits from 2/3 digits. We will be moving on now to think about our multiplication tables, keeping up the good work already being done at home. 4a have joined with 4D to start a block of Scottish Country dancing. We have impressed our teachers so far with our dancing skills! We have learned how to do the "Gay Gordons" and a progressive "Canadian Barn Dance" and will be continuing to learn other Scottish dances in the next couple of weeks. We will get the opportunity to enjoy these at our Christmas party.



P4B have been exceptionally busy since our last newsletter. We finished off our Haddington topic by looking at the roles of different people and organisations in our community. This involved visitors, such as Mrs Renton from Friends of the River Tyne and P.C. Lynn Black our community police officer coming into school. We also made a visit to the John Gray Centre to learn about the different roles it plays in the community and the children greatly enjoyed exploring the library, the museum and the archives. I also enjoyed learning about all of the clubs and organisations that the children are a part of. From the Haddington Horticultural Society to the local rugby club, all of the children are getting involved in what the community has to offer them.

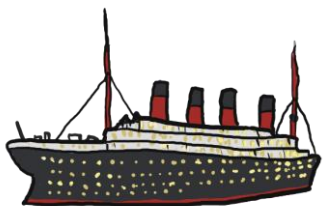
We have also had a visit from the Countryside Ranger, Jen, and a representative from our local recycling centre. They were focussing on how we can keep our community tidy and reduce, reuse and recycle. The children were very interested in this subject and we have begun to think about how we can keep our school grounds tidy by organising litter picking in the playground.

After our Haddington topic we moved on to a new and exciting mission. At the start of the topic the

children were given the challenge of bringing The Titanic to life in our classroom and each week we have been working on a new mission to help us to find out more about the famous ship. So far, we have discovered more about what the Titanic looked like, how life was different for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class passengers, and what the cabins on the ship looked like. The children are very motivated and enthusiastic about the topic and our missions will continue until the holidays.

The next few weeks are going to be very busy. The children will be attending a badminton festival, to follow up the work they have been doing with Mrs Arnold in P.E., going to the school pantomime and also completing and testing their most recent homework task - to build a boat that will float with 3 rubbers on board! In the last week of term the children will have the P4 Christmas party and the P.T.A bake sale. Details will follow with dates and times for both of these events.

We hope that you all have a fantastic Christmas break and happy new year when it arrives!



P4C have had some very interesting visits and talks from a variety of people. This helped us complete our local study on Haddington.

The talks and information provided insight, ideas and suggested strategies to how best help our local community. We heard from the countryside ranger, Friends of the River Tyne, PC Lynne Black and Jose Caballero.

In putting new found enthusiasm into practice, all P4 pupils carried out a 'litter pick' in the playground, after which there was a general tidy up of the playground area. P4 had some innovative ideas, and were enthusiastic to share their knowledge and ideas about keeping the playground tidy with the rest of the school. Ideas included creating posters, giving talks, raising awareness at assemblies and even taking the rubbish to each class to show them how much can accumulate in a day!

Our new class topic, The Titanic, has been a success and proved interesting and exciting. We have been receiving top secret missions by post. These missions let us know what we need to achieve for the week. So far, we have been learning about the different features of the Titanic, the differences between the passengers and the differences

between the living quarters. This week we will be building models of what we think the cabins would have looked like on board the Titanic. P4C have had some great ideas of what could be used to make them and are looking forward to getting started!

Our writing has been linked to our topic. We have been learning to take and organise notes from information we have read. From this new skill, we have created some brilliant fact files which are an interesting read.

Our main focus in maths has been number work. We have been exploring written and mental strategies for subtraction. As a class, our mental maths has been improving, and at the start of every maths lesson, we have been working together to complete a subtraction 'loop card' game. This has proved successful and our completion time for this game has changed from an initial 10 minutes 30 seconds to 6 minutes 42 seconds! This has had a marked and positive improvement for 4C and demonstrates we are learning to work together as a team in order to achieve the best results.

We have also started to work with money. We will be learning how to pay for items with a given amount and figuring out how much change we should receive.

December promises to be just as busy as November! We have lots of activities to keep us busy, including the Badminton festival, pantomime and the Christmas party. Some children have also been chosen by Mrs Arnold to play hockey during Thursday lunch times. P4 will need a good rest over the Christmas break!



P4D finished off their local study topic and were very lucky to get a number of visitors from the local community. The class had a chance to listen, discuss and ask questions with the PC Black (Community Police Officer), Jose Caballero (Recycling Advisor), Jen Edwards (Countryside Ranger) and Jennifer (Friends of the River Tyne). The pupils found these presentations very useful and are now more aware of taking care of our local community. The visit to the John Gray Centre included a number of different activities. The pupils really enjoyed investigating objects in the museum and listening to the story teller.

The whole class has been involved in some very special secret missions - The Unsinkable Ship. It all began with the pupils recreating the Titanic. In small groups the pupils focused on different features of the ship and build a large Titanic for a class display. Mission 3

allowed the pupils to research facts about the Titanic were they had to research, organise and present facts in an attractive fact file. The pupils used these skills to research passengers on board the ship and investigate the differences between 1st class, 2nd class and 3rd class cabins. The class have made individual passengers using a variety of different art materials and are now working on creating a realistic model of cabins. The children are constantly wondering what their next part of the mission will be.

There are a number of fun and exciting events coming up for primary 4D. Hopscotch Theatre will be performing Dick Whittington on Tuesday 3rd December, there is a badminton festival on Wednesday 4th December and P4's Christmas party is on the last week of term.



P5A is continuing with the science topic theme this term and is now studying the basics of friction, light and sound. Again, this involves conducting some experiments. Using toy cars and makeshift ramps, surfaces were tested for high or low friction by measuring the distance that the vehicle travelled. Next, the class will design and make paper aeroplanes to try to reduce air resistance and increase flight distance. These activities are great fun and should generate good discussions. The children are beginning to realise how important fair tests are when conducting experiments so that results are not influenced by variables.

We are still in the planning stage of improving our school grounds in relation to our John Muir Project. We are waiting to replant the young trees this winter and are in discussions with the ranger and Mrs Wilberforce on how best to improve the front of the school to encourage bees and other friendly pollinators. We will continue to feed the birds and manage the bird stations around the grounds. Mr Smith has managed to reinforce the willow tunnel in the P5 playground which, hopefully, will now have time to flourish.

The P5 Christmas Assembly is fast approaching and we are all busy rehearsing. The theme this year is a contemporary play called The Miracle Child, which is produced by Starshine Music and written by Ruth Kenward. The songs are lovely and hopefully will fill

everyone with festive cheer! (Wednesday 18/12/13 - Tickets and information to follow soon).



P5B have been working hard this month and have started a Friction, Light and Sound topic. We are looking forward to conducting friction experiments this week using toy cars.

In P.E., the children created their own basketball teams with logos, colours, team names and slogans. The class have been developing their basketball skills with Mrs Arnold on Mondays and playing in a tournament on Fridays with Mrs Roche. We are pleased to announce that the winner of our class tournament was Dragonia. We will be moving on to learning different traditional Scottish dances in preparation for our Christmas party.

In class Maths, we have started learning about money and finance. The children have enjoyed learning about budgeting and even won £2000 in a competition to re-design their bedroom. Most of the class managed to stick to the budget and create some fantastic bedrooms! We have also spent time looking at the different ways you can pay for goods and wrote instructions on how to use an ATM machine.

We have been learning to write about our personal experiences, expressing how they made us think and feel. The children have produced lots of super pieces of writing about different celebrations that they have been part of including weddings, christenings and birthdays.

In Art, the children have thoroughly enjoyed our 3D shape project. We drew 3D shapes concentrating on using shadow and tone and then used clay to turn these drawings into models. The children had great fun making and painting the models.

Rehearsals have started for our P5 Christmas Show and we have had different groups working on props, singing, acting and dancing. We are looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 18th December at 9.30am.

5B hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



P5C are facing this term with a certain amount of trepidation as the White Witch has cast a spell over our room, creating an environment of constant winter but never Christmas. We hope that our journey through "The Lion, The Witch and The

Wardrobe" by C.S Lewis will see Aslan free the Christmas spirit and we can't wait to see how he does it. We do hope he's quick! While we wait for an epic battle in our reading, we continue in our quest to learn lots!

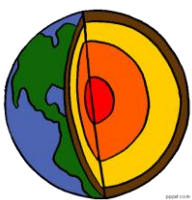
We have been carrying out independent research on Sikh festivals and life events - such as weddings and naming days and we are going to present our findings to the rest of the class later in the term. We have linked our personal writing to our religious studies and have written personal accounts of life events we have attended with our families.

In topic, Mrs Guy showed us the difference surface texture can make on the amount of friction generated by two objects; Mr Smith helped us to test cars and the distance they would travel on different surfaces after being released from a ramp. A great time was had by all and we learned a lot about friction.

While the White Witch was distracted in Narnia, we sneaked a few good quality Christmas Concert rehearsals into our timetable. The music is absolutely magical and the singing beautiful. A real treat for all the P5 parents and carers we hope will come to see us on Wednesday 18th December.

We look forward to welcoming Miss Coventry next term, a fourth year student from Moray House.

P5C hope that you all have a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.



P6A we have been busy with our topic 'The Structure of the Earth'. We have been learning about The Rock Cycle - the three different types of rock and their formation. Our next topic, which will take us

up to Christmas, will be 'The Jacobites'.

The class have made Miss Armstrong very welcome. Miss Armstrong is a B.Ed. student from The University of Edinburgh and is with us until the 6th of December.

As part of Michael Morpurgo Month, we have been looking at the theme of voyages, and have worked as groups to research and present about a famous voyage eg The First Man on the Moon and Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic. The groups all worked hard and produced informative and interesting presentations.

Our class novel just now is Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo. It tells of a boy's voyage through the Indonesian jungle. From this the class have been <http://edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

writing poems about animals and have created lovely work.

The class have also been enjoying class maths where we have been working on our problem solving skills and recently have been investigating properties and nets of 3D shapes. Using their new skills they will be making 3D Christmas baubles to take home.



P6B have now completed their work on 'Structure of the Earth' and are moving on to a new topic for the next three weeks. They will be finding out about the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, which culminated in the Battle of Culloden. We will be focussing on learning through drama, song and debate. I hope to hold a class debate on the pros and cons of the Hanoverians and the Jacobites during the last week of term. It will be interesting to hear where their sympathies lie!

As part of our preparations for Christmas we are learning about 3-D shape through printing, model making and observation. The children will then use their knowledge to design and create a 3-D Christmas decoration.

November has been Michael Morpurgo Month and we have been finding out about 'war' as told through his many novels. Our main focus has been 'War Horse' as we have been finding out about the original Armistice Day after World War 1. Many thanks to Euan, who kindly brought in his DVD of the film. We have been able to view and discuss several clips. We will be returning to this topic in 2014, when we mark the centenary of the outbreak of "the war to end all wars".

The class will also be participating in Social Dance. They will be learning 'The Dashing White Sergeant', 'The Gay Gordons' and 'Strip the Willow' in preparation for our P6 Christmas Party.



P6C have been keeping busy. They all loved the trip to Dynamic Earth and wrote fantastic reviews of their visit when we got back to school. The children have been

enjoying Michael Morpurgo Month. We have listened to, read and re-written some legends. They have produced some excellent stories based on the legends

they have heard. We had a day of activities to mark Remembrance Day on the 11th of November including, poppy wreath making, poem writing and a little bit of technology. At the end of the week, dressed in our PJs, we tested how good our poppy seed packets were. There were a few spillages, but overall they were really successful. We will be keeping busy for the next few weeks, with lots of fun winter activities planned.



P7A has been very busy with lots of different activities to consider when we come to complete our weekly reviews. The class are regularly reminded to get their journals signed every week, so hopefully families know what is going on in school!

It would be great to have some comments from home about the choice of weekly targets.

We are currently enjoying practising our cooking skills. The wraps last week were a big hit - the olives on the first week were not so popular. It's great to see people trying foods they would normally avoid - well done (you know who you are!) Our skills now include using the bridge and claw grips when preparing fruit and vegetables. We are also quite good at tidying up. Thank you all for the £2 payments to help with the cost of the food. Thank you to the PTA for all the equipment.

We also have a health topic this term. We are continuing the sex education that was started in Primary 6 and we are also talking about feelings and friendships. Our wall has lots of group photos of 'friends'.

In PE on Tuesdays, 7A are working on indoor athletics with Mrs Arnold. On Mondays we have had outdoor PE as we are working on middle distance running. It has been quite cold and everyone is regularly reminded to bring outdoor kit every Monday. Indoor PE kit should be in school all the time.

Our WW2 museum was a great success. Thank you to everyone who allowed us to use their items for our display. They really helped make it special. We had lots of visitors, and we were museum guides for some of the other classes in the school.

We are starting to use googledocs in ICT. Despite some technical difficulties most of us now have working email addresses and we have been sending each other emails within the school system. Googledocs allows us to share our writing with other

<http://edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/>

people, and even to work on the same document at the same time from different computers! It's great to see how enthusiastic everyone has been in trying this out. Our next step is to use it in a class writing task.



P7B have started cooking and you will smell lots of lovely smells coming from the P7 area!

From vegetarian wraps to yummy tray bakes we have been learning about all the different types of foods from all over the world and trying foods we have never tasted before. We have been learning about hygiene, how to cook safely when using various different utensils and how to write and follow a recipe.

We have also started our second topic of this term, Sex and Relationship Education. We have been learning about the different changes our bodies go through and how everyone will change at their own pace. We have also been learning about the importance of friendship and what makes a good friend.

Towards the end of the month we will be doing lots of fun Christmas tasks and, of course, having our P7 Christmas party! We look forward to another great month in P7B and wish you all a Merry Christmas from us when it comes.



P7C have been cooking up a storm in the classroom! While learning how to grate, chop and peel safely, we have created fruit kebabs, chocolate fruit squares

and delicious salsa wraps. We are demonstrating a good awareness of safety and food hygiene when preparing food, learning how to weigh accurately and are beginning to be able to follow recipes. Please ask your child if you don't know what the bridge hold or the claw grip is! In writing, we have been learning how to write clear instructions and can now independently write up the recipes we have made.

Alongside the food education topic we are also running sex and relationship education and have begun with the changes of puberty. We have agreed to adopt a sensible and mature approach during sensitive discussions and will move on to learning about birth and parenthood.

The class were very proud of themselves after they performed a school assembly in November to demonstrate their learning about the importance of

diversity and difference in a group. Well done for some fantastic singing, drama, presentation skills and musical talent!

In French, we have been creating TV weather reports of the weather. A Haddington il pleut.....10 house points for anyone who can tell me the weather report for Haddington?















Merry Christmas to all when it comes.





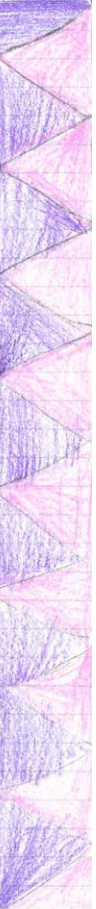





Best wishes to all pupils, staff and parents for the New Year.

Seonaid McGillivray

Poems from P6

	<h1>Oceans</h1> 	
	<p>O is for over the world, the places the seas have conquered.</p>	
	<p>C is for covered the sea bed with fish and shells</p>	
	<p>E is for earth where water swishes and sloshes.</p>	
	<p>A is for animals that live under the waves</p>	
	<p>N is for nasty whirlpools, eels and sharks.</p>	
	<p>S is for sensitive from litter, oils and fuel.</p>	
	<p>by Elise H</p> 	

		
	<p><u>Is There A Frog In The Pond?</u> Is there a frog Who croaks and creaks Jumps and sneaks? Is there a frog in the pond?</p> <p>Is there a frog Whose eyes shine bright In the moonlight? Is there a frog in the pond?</p> <p>Is there a frog Who's small as mice And at night eats lice? Is there a frog in the pond?</p> <p>Is there frog Who leaps up high And touches the sky? Is there a frog in the pond?</p> <p>Is there a frog Who's mean and lean And is never seen? Is there a frog in the pond?</p> <p>Is there a frog Who is deadly With their poison medley? Is there a frog in the pond?</p>	
		

By Amelia