



FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all those parent/carers who joined us for our recent parents' evenings. You will have another opportunity to share in your child/ren's learning in March.

In November, we were one of six schools to be part of the authority's new school review process. The focus for the review was:

- Implementing improvement and change
- Effective use of assessment
- Attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Equity for all learners
- Continuity and progression in learning

During the two day visit a number of strengths were identified, including:

- Opportunities for staff to lead whole school improvement
- Self-motivated, polite children who are keen to learn
- Pastoral transition to support children to move from school to school and from stage to stage
- Positive relationships between SfL staff and pupils.

Areas for improvement were also identified:

- Increase parental and pupil involvement in the life and work of the school
- Develop approaches to planning learning, teaching and assessment
- Review approaches to the use of detention and the praise system
- Develop stronger more effective links with HIS to improve curriculum transition

The areas for improvement will feature in next session's improvement plan. We would be very interested to hear from any parent/carer who has any ideas on how we could address the first point on

increasing parental involvement in the life and work of the school.



STAFFING NEWS

Mrs Philp will be leaving us, at the February break, to take up another position with the council. We would like to thank her for all she has done to support the children and staff during her time at King's Meadow. We wish her well in her new venture.

Mr Love, a new member of staff for King's Meadow, will take over teaching P5C on the 21st.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 22nd March. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



HOLIDAY

The school will close at 12:20 on Friday 10th February and re-open for pupils at 08:45 on Tuesday 21st.

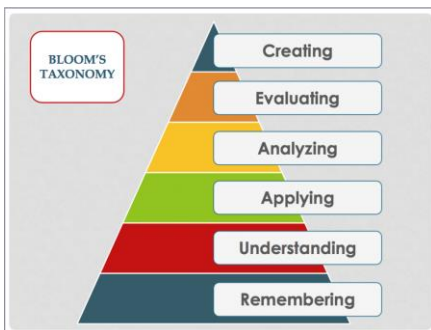
CHRISTMAS FAIR



Thank you so much to all those who came along to our Christmas Fair. The PTA made profit of £768.62 whilst the children's crafts made a profit of £666.83. All of this money will be used to support the work of the school and provide your child/ren with additional opportunities.



HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS



In a continuation of our Improvement Plan work on Higher Order Thinking Skills, staff have been looking at higher order questioning based around Bloom's Taxonomy. Through this we hope to move from the use of questions based around what children can remember to those which encourage them to think of new approaches to a given situation. To see what this looks like in practice, please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/zPeiaBPTxnI>



NATURE DETECTIVES



On Friday we spotted a Dipper, Mallard Ducks, Moorhens, Mute Swans and Goosanders, but the best part was watching 2 Tree creepers picking insects from the bark of a tree. We also saw a little Grebe playfully diving. It was amazing to see all these wonderful birds beside the same river.

by Andrea

ATTENDANCE



Parents/Carers have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child/ren attend school regularly. If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend school please inform the office by telephone, preferably between **8.30am** and **9.15am**. Failure to inform us of your child's absence will initiate a text/phone call to you so that we can check on your child's safety. If we are unable to contact you the absence may be passed to ELC's Children's Wellbeing Team. **ON RETURN, YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD BRINGS A LETTER CONFIRMING THE REASON FOR THEIR ABSENCE.**

Planned absence eg holidays, should be requested as far in advance as possible, preferably two weeks before.



INDOOR SHOES



Please remember that all children should have a pair of indoor shoes to change into upon entering the building. These shoes can also be used for indoor PE. For safety reasons, children should not be walking around the school in stocking soles.



HEAD LICE



Once again, we would remind all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 3rd: P6A assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 7th: P6B and P6C to visit Hopetoun House
- Wednesday 8th: P6A to visit Hopetoun House

- 13th to 20th inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Friday 24th: P6B assembly. Parents/Carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.



AROUND THE CLASSES

P4A had a successful Christmas term, which we finished off with a class mannequin challenge. This can be watched on the P4A web page and has, at time of writing, 132 views!



The children are now settled back into the school routine and have been enjoying our new topic 'Adapting to the Cold'. This topic has cross-curricular links with science and literacy. So far we have looked at how different animals have adapted to the cold. Every child in the class has now chosen an animal to research for homework and they should be gathering information from non-fiction texts and the internet to help create a presentation that they will give on their animal before the February break. We will be looking at how to give a successful presentation in class to support the children in preparing theirs. We will also conduct some scientific experiments into the effectiveness of blubber to insulate from the cold as well as investigating the properties of ice.

In maths, we continue to work on our mental math agility before each lesson. This term our main focus is on fractions and information handling. The times table challenge cards are on-going. Please help your child practise their tables so that they can achieve their bronze, silver and gold award for each table.

This term the class have music with Mrs Roberts, where they are learning the ukulele, and continue to receive P.E. instruction from Mrs Arnold on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please send children to school with P.E. kit on these days. Also make sure swimmers remember their swimming kit on a Wednesday for the rest of the 10-week swimming block.

We will shortly be saying goodbye to Miss Zinner, our student from Midlothian College. She has been with us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays since November. She has immersed herself in the

children's learning and built a positive relationship with the class.



P4B's new topic is Adapting to the Cold, which is a science based topic focusing on the properties of water, measuring the weather, climate conditions and their impact on living things.

Reading lessons and homework are also linked with our topic as the children have chosen to complete non-fiction research on an Arctic or Antarctic animal and will share their information through the creation of a Power Point, poster, flyer or leaflet.

In Numeracy groups, we are currently learning about fractions and by the end of the block we should be able to identify fractions, order and compare fractions, find fractions of a quantity and place fractions on a number line. As part of class maths, we are learning about the different ways we can gather and record data. As part of our topic challenge week the children will be asked to gather data about the weather in the Arctic/Antarctic and Britain then use a variety of graphs to display the information before making comparisons.

On the **21st February 2017** 4B will be participating in the Haddington Schools Athletics Festival at the Aubigny Sports Centre from 10.00 - 11.30am. Please ensure that your child wears suitable sports trousers, their school jumper and brings a water bottle.

Please remember to check our class page on the school website for updates and to find out what we have been learning about.



P4C have a full and exciting term planned. We kicked off our Adapting to the Cold topic with great enthusiasm. We have carried out scientific experiments to compare and

contrast the effectiveness of air and blubber when protecting skin from the cold. We have yet to investigate ice and its properties. We will follow up our experiments with functional writing - summarising the hypothesis, method and results of each of the experiments we undertake.

We are currently working on our reading for information presentations and are looking forward to sharing them with our peers from the 7th February. We also aim to carry on reading for 20 minutes a day in class and the same again at home. Please continue

to support your child by listening to them at least once a week and discussing what has been read.

In class maths, our focus will be information handling - using tallies and creating bar and line graphs. In group numeracy, we will continue to use our multiplication and division skills to support us with fractions.

We continue to have P.E on a Monday morning and a Thursday afternoon. Mrs Arnold has recently remarked that many of our class do not have a change of clothes for gym. Please check with your child that they have suitable items (for outdoor and indoor pursuits) in school for their physical education sessions.

I would like to thank you so much for the very kind and generous gifts I received at Christmas, they were very much appreciated!



P5A have had a very busy start to the New Year. The class chose their new topic before Christmas and they decided that they would like to learn more about the Scottish Wars of Independence. The class have shared their prior knowledge and outlined what they would like to learn about this period in history. We have already learned about the Ragman Rolls, The Battle of Stirling Bridge and key facts about William Wallace. Already the classroom walls are adorned with their work.

In numeracy and maths groups, we are learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. Some children find this a tricky concept but we will be learning and exploring this area through a variety of different contexts so hopefully, with a growth mindset, everybody will rise to the challenge. In class maths, we are looking at 2D and 3D shapes. The children have already produced posters to explain the properties of a 3D shapes and learned about faces, edges and vertices.

We will be continuing to explore more about John Muir this term and will, hopefully, be out in the community with the County Ranger at some point. Our project will be based around the Railway Walk from Haddington to Longniddry and how we can best conserve this area.

The class have the expertise of Mr Connell this term and are currently working on a portrait of William Wallace or Robert the Bruce to complement our Scottish Wars of Independence project.

Gymnastics is the current focus in PE and Mrs Arnold is putting the children through their paces.

In French, we will be learning to count to 30 and the vocabulary of colours. The class are making good progress with counting through playing different counting games. We will also be using a new resource this term in Health and Wellbeing, where the focus is on inclusion, citizenship and equality. The class have already started learning about friendship and the qualities that we look for in friends and the different kind of friendships that we have.



P5B has had a very busy start to 2017. We have all been practising using Scots language and have had a lot of fun writing about 'Me, masel'. Thank you for all the support with collecting Scots words in regular use out of school. This helped us create wordbanks for our writing.

Ma brawest pal is cried Bob. He's a wee plump fella. He likes tattie crisps. He wears blue gutties and a black jaiKET. He got in trouble for comin' hame drookit. (Rory)

Ma brawest pal has a pair o blue een and blondy broon hair. She's nine year auld. She's a lang skinny malink and is awfy guid at badminton. She's a happy wee lassie. (Iona)

Ma freen has broon een and broon hair. She is very hertie and is awfy guid at drawin'. She is gey nice tae a'bodie. (Laura)

After watching a Newsround report on homework, 5B decided to suggest their own homework tasks. As a result of this, we have a very varied choice of tasks linked to our current Scottish IDL. Several children were very keen to include choices such as a baking task while other preferred creating a PowerPoint or writing a story - there should be something to appeal to everyone! Scots poems have been chosen and are home for learning. We look forward to hearing these next week (week beginning 30/1/17).

Our current IDL is Scottish history. The class chose to find out about Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites. Last week we were studying pictures of Bonnie Prince Charlie's silver canteen to try and work out what it was used for. We have also been finding examples of Jacobite secret symbols. We will add some of these to the art work we are doing with Mr Connell.

On February 9th we will be visiting the John Gray Centre to participate in a Bonnie Prince Charlie

workshop. The cost of this workshop is £50. We are asking each child to contribute £1 towards the cost of this. If you have not already done so, please could you do this before the date. Thank you.

As you probably know, the class are taking part in a 'fish in the classroom' project. This is part of our John Muir Award work and is supported by River Forth Fisheries Trust and the angling club, who are meeting the cost of this for us. 250 trout eggs are going to be hatched in a large tank which is set up in the P5 area. It is our responsibility to keep the water below 10 degrees in order to give the eggs the best possible chance to hatch. Once they have grown to the alevin stage we will be releasing them into the Tyne where they can continue their development. It is a really exciting project and we are very privileged to be a part of it. Regular updates will be posted on our web page.

Please have a look at our web page. It is updated regularly but few people seem to comment on all the activities we do. It would be great to know that the posts are being read.



P5C has been learning about Mary, Queen of Scots. They have found the twists, turns and intrigue of her life very interesting. We used our white and black thinking hats to find out about the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley, and decide who we thought the murderer was - by majority P5C thought it was Mary herself! The class have been recording the details of Mary's life in a biography and Mr Connell has the class drawing either Mary or the Earl of Bothwell in his art class.

Our topic, after the February break, will be "Landscapes and Disasters". During this topic the class will investigate Scotland's landscapes and how they were formed, and gain an understanding of how and why natural disasters happen.

As usual in January and February, there has been a focus on Scots language. All children have chosen a poem to learn and will be reciting it in class in the next few weeks. All of P5 are having a Scots event on Wednesday 8th February when there will be dancing and some poetry recitals.

P5C have been doing extremely well with AR. Our class percentage is over 80% at the moment and the children are reading very carefully to help keep it there!

In Maths, the focus is symmetry and the Numeracy groups have been learning about fractions.

Mrs Arnold has had the class summersaulting, jumping and twisting during PE, and after the holiday they will be beginning First Club Golf. This is a programme designed to introduce golf to children in P5. They learn the basic rules of the game as well as how to putt, chip and drive the ball. Towards the Easter holidays the class will visit Haddington Golf Course to play a round there!



P6A have been investigating the lives of Victorian children and comparing them to our own. We have been learning about jobs Victorian children had to do like trappers in the mine, maids, chimney sweeps and factory workers. We have also been learning about Victorian schools and the different kinds of lessons they had. In the next few weeks we are going to learn about Victorian housing and health care. In music, we have been learning songs from Oliver Twist to sing at our class assembly. We are very excited about our upcoming trip to Hopetoun House!

The class has also been learning about higher order thinking skills. We learned about Bloom's Taxonomy and different kinds of questions. We discovered that different types of questions require different kinds of thinking to answer including remembering, understanding, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating. We then worked in pairs to come up with questions for a passage on Queen Victoria. We will be using these across the curriculum to give depth to our learning.



P6B have been very busy upon returning from the holidays. We have begun learning about the Victorians and have already investigated Queen Victoria's family and work life for children. We were very surprised to discover some of the jobs children a similar age to ourselves had to do and how long they had to work for. We look forward to continue learning more about Victorian schooling, homes and health care. We are very excited about our visit to Hopetoun House for a Victorian workshop day. Please do get in touch if you are able to support us with this outing.

We have all been working very hard in numeracy and maths and learning how to solve simple equations in our algebra work and developing our knowledge of

decimals, fractions and percentages. Primary six have also been developing their higher order thinking skills and have begun using Blooms Taxonomy in our reading work to create different types of questions about a piece of text we have read. We will continue to use Blooms Taxonomy to support our higher order thinking across different areas of the curriculum.

In P.E this term, we will be working on gymnastics with Mrs Arnold and taking part in Yoga in our P.E time with Miss Grantham. Please ensure your child comes to school with a full P.E kit as not many have returned following the holidays.



P6C have made a tremendous start to 2017 as they have all been very successful in following the Golden Rules in class and in the playground.

Well done everyone and keep it up!

In class, we began the year by looking back over 2016 and setting our resolutions for 2017. In literacy, the children have begun working with Bloom's taxonomy. We read a passage about Queen Victoria and then worked in pairs to create questions of our own based on what we had read. We worked up the pyramid beginning with remembering questions. Some of us managed to reach the top and compose questions that require people to create something new. We have started to research famous Victorians in order to write a biography of someone we are particularly interested in. In numeracy, we have started working with decimals. So far we have read and interpreted decimals numbers with 1 and 2 decimal places. Eventually we will be linking fractions, decimals and percentages. Our maths topic is algebra and this has involved working with 1 and 2 step function machines. We are working towards writing and solving equations. Our health and wellbeing focus has been on our rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It has been a real eye opener comparing our rights today with the lives of children in the Victorian era.

We have two very exciting events to look forward to. Firstly, we will be visiting Hopetoun House on February 7th to deepen our understanding of life during the Victorian era. Then, on 3rd March, we look forward to sharing with you what we have been learning at our class assembly.



P7A have started this term with two topics - Sustainability and Health Education. In Sustainability, we will be focusing on human impact on the environment, transport and land use. This week we have already looked at fossil fuels, renewable energy and non-renewable energy. Andy Duff supported our class trip, on Tuesday 24th January, when we looked at litter in the environment, how old buildings are, land use and wild life. We had a number of stops completing different activities and filling out our field survey.

In Health Education, we have been looking at physical and emotion changes during puberty. In future weeks we will be discussing the development of a baby.

Amanda Johnston, Haddington Community Police Officer, will be working with the primary 7 year group to discuss anti-social behaviour on Wednesday 1st February.

We finished our novel study posters and these are now displayed in the classroom and P7 area. We worked very hard on the posters; focusing each week on a different aspect of our novels. Well done, 7A, keep it up!



P7B have already had a busy start to 2017 and started the term by making some New Year's Resolutions.....we hope that we can stick to them! ☺

In Health Education, we have been finding out about the physical and emotional changes that both boys and girls go through. We established a class charter and have been very mature during our class discussions. We will be moving on to reproduction and the birth of a baby.

After the February break, we will be starting a block of "Keeping Myself e-safe" lessons. This will encourage us to think about what information we share and how to keep ourselves safe when online.

We've made an exciting start to our sustainable living topic. We've already been out-and-about looking for human impact on the environment in the local area. We are now researching renewable and non-renewable energy sources, focussing specifically on their pros and cons. This research will result in an extended piece of discursive writing. We will also be designing an 'eco-friendly' house and thinking generally about how we can live in a more sustainable way. At the end of our topic we will be visiting Ravensheugh beach for a 'challenge' day. We will be using all the skills and

knowledge we have acquired throughout the topic in this different context.

In class maths, we have started work on money. We have been discussing the difference between credit and debit cards. We will also be looking at budgeting, calculating basic profit and loss, calculating a discount and foreign exchange. All useful life skills, I'm sure you'll agree.

In Numeracy, we are now in new groups working on fractions, decimals and percentages. We have all made a good start ☺ Keep working on multiplication tables to help with rapid recall of facts!

In P.E., we are working on basketball this term. Our basketball teams will be the same as our co-operative learning groups we are part of in the classroom. This will give us further opportunity to get to know about the strengths and weaknesses of our group members.



P7C have come back to school ready and raring to tackle their final 2 terms of primary seven and have settled in very quickly.

In the last few weeks we have started our health education topic. The children have been revising physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty and we will be going on to learn about reproduction and the development of a baby. Following on from this we will be taking part in the Keeping Myself eSafe programme, teaching the children all about the risks and benefits of the internet and how they can keep themselves safe online.

Our second topic of the term is Sustainability. This will involve the children in looking at different types of energy and weighing up the pros and cons of renewable and non-renewable energy sources. They will be thinking about how we can live more sustainably and reduce our impact on the environment. At the end of the topic the children will be asked to apply their learning on an excursion to Ravensheugh and to designing and build an eco-house.

In class maths, we will be learning about money, including looking at profit and loss, credit and debit cards. Our numeracy groups will focus on fractions, decimals and percentages.

We have had some visitors to the class. Last week the Community Wardens came in to talk to the children about the effect of anti-social behaviour on the community. We have also had a visit from Mr

Henry, the drumming instructor from Knox Academy, who is looking for children who may be interested in taking part in drumming lessons that will be starting in school. Andy Duff, from Outdoor Education, will also be coming in to help with our sustainability topic and he will be taking us on a local walk to examine the land use in Haddington and the impact this has had on the environment.

It looks like it is going to be a very busy term!



P7D have settled back into the school life and it now feels like the Christmas holidays were so long ago!

We have started our new topic, Sustainability, and we will be learning about the impact of humans on the environment. This week we have been learning what fossil fuels are and how they are formed. We have been researching how fossil fuels affect the environment. As part of our topic we will be working with Andy Duff, Outdoor Education, who worked with the class during their hillwalking activities last year. Last week Andy took us on a walk around Haddington and we looked at litter in the environment, how old some of the buildings are and wildlife. The class enjoyed it immensely. Next week we will learn about renewable and non-renewable energy.

In maths, we are continuing to learn about information handling and this week we have been looking at pie charts. In numeracy, we have grouped again and this term we are focusing on fractions, decimals and percentages.

Another topic we are learning about this term is Health Education. This week we have talked about puberty and the physical changes that happen during this time. We discussed the importance of hygiene and the class thought of their top 3 tips to stay clean. In P.E. this term, Mrs Arnold is helping the class to develop their basketball skills. The class has Mr Connell, the art specialist, and they are working on a project connected to our sustainability topic.

The class are reading their Accelerated Reader books for 20 minutes in class and should be taking these home to read. I would like to thank everyone who completed their novel study in the time given. The children have now finished them and their great work is now displayed on the wall. Well done!

King's Meadow P.T.A.

February News

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017!

Christmas Fair – a big success!

Our **Christmas Fair** held on Friday 16th December was a fabulous event and very well attended. The children sang beautifully, the Woodwind Warriors and Orchestra both delivered stellar performances and festive spirit was in abundance!



The P.T.A. are delighted that the event raised an impressive **£774.82** which will be used primarily to fund *bus costs for upcoming school trips*.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who supported the event – and particularly those who donated items to the raffle which alone generated an amazing **£488!**

Upcoming Events

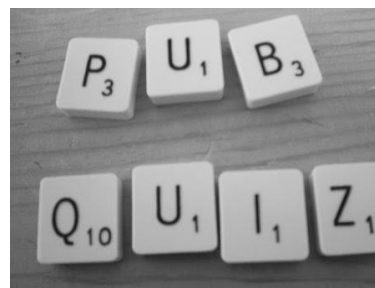
**P5 Movie Night: Tuesday 7th February
6:15-8:15pm**

This has traditionally proved to be a very popular event with our P5's. Come along in your PJ's, with your duvet and favourite teddy, and enjoy watching a film with all your friends! Drinks and popcorn on offer at half-time!



Flyers will be distributed in school bags shortly – make sure you return your ticket money and order form promptly so you don't miss out!

**Pub Quiz: Sat 11th March, 7:30pm
Haddington Rugby Club**



Come along to our first P.T.A. Pub Quiz and pit your wits against other King's Meadow parents, carers and teachers!

Tickets for this adult-only event are priced at £3 each with teams of a maximum of 6 people. Prizes and a fundraising raffle too! **Please hand in raffle donations, which can include alcohol, to the School Office.**

Flyers with ticket info will be issued shortly.

Easyfundraising

Did you know that whenever you book holidays and travel online – from your annual summer holiday to a winter weekend away – you could be raising a free donation for King's Meadow Primary School? There are over 3,000 retailers including Expedia, Booking.com and Thomson who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to King's Meadow to say thank you for shopping with them. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. **Register@**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingsmeadowps/>

2. **Sign up for free**

3. **Get shopping** – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to King's Meadow. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and King's Meadow P.T.A. will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

How can I get involved?

**Next P.T.A. Meeting: Tues. 7th March 2017,
6:30pm in the Music Room**

New members welcome! If you can't make this date, please-mail kingsmeadowpta@gmail.com