



JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the session. We have, as always, been very busy working to ensure that King's Meadow continues to provide not only a good learning environment but one in which all partners feel valued and respected. This session, along with revisiting a number of policies, we have introduced Accelerated Reader and initial indications show that this has had a very positive effect on our children's attitude towards, and ability in, reading. Next session, we will be focusing on science, outdoor learning and taking a closer look at our curriculum. A copy of our Standards and Quality Report and our Development Plan, which sets out our priorities for improving your child's education, are available on our website, or you may request a paper copy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who have taken the time to support the school by helping out with paired reading, sporting events, educational outings, work in class, PTA, Parent Council etc. We could not manage without you!

End of session reports will be coming home on the Friday 13th.



STAFFING NEWS

WE WILL MISS YOU!



It is with regret that we have to say "Good-bye" to a number of staff at the end of the session. Miss Freeman, Mrs Jamieson, Mr Scott, Miss Sutherland and Mrs Richardson will all be moving on to pastures new and we would like to thank them for the support they have given to pupils, parents and staff during their time with us. We wish them all the best.

On a happier note, we wish Mrs Higgins and Mrs Murphy both well as they leave at the end of the term to await the births of their babies.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School closes at the usual time on Friday 4th of July and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 20th of August.



CLASSES 2014/2015



We will be holding a 'moving up' day on Wednesday 18th June when your child will spend the day in her/his new classroom with her/his teacher and classmates for next session. In common with the Infant School, children will be allocated to classes according to age. Classes are as follows:

- P4a - Mrs Gentil
- P4B - Miss Edmunds
- P4/5 - Mrs McGinlay/Miss Carmichael
- P5A - Miss Smith
- P5B - Mrs Gilfillan
- P5C - Mrs Guy
- P5/6 - Mrs Reid/Mrs Roche
- P6A - Mrs Philp/Ms Gillan
- P6B - Name to be confirmed
- P7A - Mrs Macdonald
- P7B - Miss Hainey
- P7C - Mrs Murray

As we think about the start of the next session, it would be helpful if parents could remember to provide their child/ren with a basic 'tool-kit' of pencil, rubber, ruler and sharpener.

ROAD SAFETY



Some parents are still choosing to ignore the parking restrictions in Neilson Park Road and Victoria Road. This not only puts their child/ren at risk but poses a threat to others. Should you see someone, who does not have a resident's permit, using either of these streets during the restricted times we would encourage you to note their registration number and phone the police on 101.

We would continue to encourage all parents to use a 'park and stride' approach and use either the car park at Tesco or the Aubigny Centre; taking care to ensure that it is safe to drop their child/ren off.



BIG COOK, LITTLE COOK



We are very proud of the children we sent to Knox Academy to take part in the annual "Big Cook, Little Cook" competition. We sent three teams to participate in the heats:

- Holly and Brioni
- Adnan and Carrie
- Kyle and Struan.

Thank you to all of you for your hard work and excellent behaviour.

We are delighted to tell you that Kyle and Struan went through to the final, which took place last week. As you can see from the photo, they came joint first with Dunbar Primary School! Jamie Oliver may well have some competition in the future.

A wonderful achievement, boys!



P7 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY



P7 have started practising for their leavers' assembly, *'Let Loose!'*

This will take place on Tuesday 1st July at 6.30pm in the school hall. Each parent/ carer will be given one ticket for this presentation with additional tickets (maximum 3 per child) available

at a cost of £2 each. All money raised will be used to buy playground equipment.

Tickets will be available from Monday 16th June.



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



- Week beginning 2nd: Commonwealth Week
- Wednesday 4th: Sports Day
- Friday 13th: End of session reports come home
- Tuesday 17th: P7 transition day at Knox Academy
- Wednesday 18th: P7 Transition Day at Knox Academy and Move Up Day for P3 to P6.
- Thursday 3rd July: P4 PTA baking sale.
- Tuesday 1st July: P7 Leavers' Assembly
- Friday 4th July: End of session.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A's topic this term is all about the Celts. The class are enjoying learning about how the Celts lived and we shared what we have learned so far with the rest of the school through our class assembly. All of the children did very well with their performances - learning lines in a very short space of time, well done everyone! ☺ We have been reading a story called Hanna of Traprain, which tells the story of a young girl and her family who lived on Traprain Law. This has helped us imagine what life was like for the Celtic people.

We have also been learning about the Commonwealth in the lead up to the games in Glasgow. We talked about what the commonwealth was and what its aims are. Each class in the school

has to learn about a country in the commonwealth in preparation for our celebration week next week. 4A have been finding out some interesting facts about South Africa. We are also learning a South African style dance for the opening ceremony.

We are very excited about the Commonwealth week in school and have been preparing for some of the activities. We have had 2 orienteering sessions in the playground to help us familiarise ourselves with maps and controls. P4 will be involved in many events throughout the week including a rugby festival with P3 from Haddington Infant School, orienteering in Neilson Park, a swimming gala at the Aubigny and the P4/5 sports day. Your child should have brought home a timetable of the main events.

Linking in with all the sporting activities, this month 4A will also be learning about the importance of keeping healthy. We will be thinking about how to look after our bodies and discussing why a healthy diet is important. We hope to prepare some healthy snacks in school and possibly visit our local Tesco to find out about where our food comes from.

We have been working hard in maths to improve our mental maths strategies. We are continuing to learn about fractions and finding fractions of numbers and are working on equations. In June, we will be focussing on problem solving strategies and learning about different aspects of measure. Times tables cards are still on the go and all the children should be focussing on learning these for homework.

P4B have just finished work on our class assembly about guide dog puppies. The children really enjoyed finding out about the guide dog charity and greatly enjoyed a visit from Gill Santos, a guide puppy trainer, and her dog, Nesta.

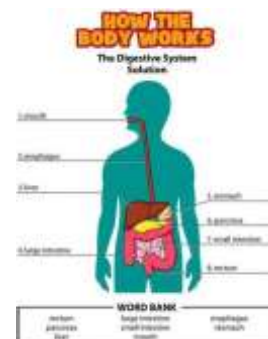


We still have our nearly new toy sale to organise, however, and I would like to thank the children who have already brought in donations of used toys for us to sell. We are hoping to raise enough money at our sale to sponsor a guide puppy for a year. The class will be putting together a committee to organise the sale and ensure that all of the toys that we sell are in good condition. The children will also be pricing the items, advertising the stall and helping to run the event on Thursday the 12th of June.

We also have Commonwealth Week coming up and as part of this we will be doing some food tasting and preparation. The children will be learning about food hygiene and will be creating some healthy recipes using the new cooking equipment that we have in school.

As part of Commonwealth week the children have been learning about our allocated country, Jamaica. They have been using the internet to carry out research, creating a traditional Jamaican dance and performing to traditional Jamaican music.

As this is our final newsletter article of the year we would like to thank all of 4B for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the year. They have been a joy to teach and we wish them all the best for the year ahead.



P4C have been working extremely hard in their healthy living topic. A big well done to them all! To help round our topic off we are getting a visit from Glasgow Science Centre. We will be seeing a 'Disgusting Digestion' show and each class will get to take part in an exhibit.

We are using what we have learnt in this topic to form our assembly. We will be telling the whole school what we have been learning and the class have had some very creative ideas!

We have been learning about fractions in maths. We have been finding fractions of whole numbers and placing fractions on number lines.

In the lead up to Commonwealth week, we have started to learn about Kenya. Kenya is the country that 4C are representing during our opening ceremony for sports week. The boys and girls have been working hard to adapt dance moves they have seen online and make them into their own dance!

Sports week begins on the 2nd of June. A huge thank you to the boys and girls who spent time doing their baton design homework. We had some excellent entries and the class found it difficult to choose just one! However, there had to be one winner and we have chosen one baton to represent Kings Meadow and 4C. A small group will make the baton design come to life shortly!

We have been doing some orienteering recently. We have learnt about map setting, legends, thumbing and how to draw a map from a bird's eye view. The class have picked up these orienteering skills quickly and I have noticed how well the class have been working together to complete activities and games, well done! We will be using these skills again when we have our whole school orienteering event during sports week.

We have also been learning about Sikhism. We have been learning about the story of Guru Nanak. We will be learning more about this religion and will be looking at traditions and symbolism in Sikh worship.

4C have been enjoying rugby sessions over the last three weeks. There will be one more session and then the rugby festival will take place on the 3rd June at Neilson Park!

As a class, we create a blog entry every Friday about what we have been learning throughout the week! Please feel free to have a look and leave a comment if you wish!



P4D have been working very hard recently. We have been learning about our skeleton and body systems and we have each written our own "Guide to Healthy Living" to persuade our

readers to be healthy. In RME, we have been finding out about the Sikh religion and the beliefs they have. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and lots of children have been working on the Mathletics website in school and at home. We have worked so hard that as a class we have achieved over 40 certificates!

We have been busy preparing for Commonwealth Week which takes place at the beginning of June. Our class are representing Bangladesh. We have researched facts about the country in ICT and have made our own flags, designed batons and have learned a dance for the Opening Ceremony. We have a fun week planned which includes orienteering, a rugby festival and our sports day.

We have started a short block of music lessons with Mrs Roberts where we will be working towards a musical presentation for our class assembly, which takes place on the 13th June.

To finish the term we will be learning about the Celtic people who settled on Traprain Law. We will be learning about how the Celts lived and finding out about different types of historical evidence. In Math, we will be developing our skills at using money and continuing to work hard on the Mathletics website to achieve even more certificates.

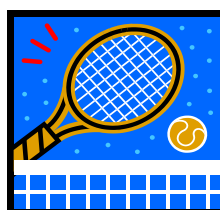


P5A had a fabulous time visiting Dirleton Castle. It was a cold, damp and misty day which only added to the mystery and excitement of the castle and gave the children a realistic feel for

life in medieval times. As well as exploring all of the dark passageways and chambers, the children could go down into the dark dungeon and see into the bottle-neck pit. Some thought that they could see bones down there! Thankfully, at least one group had a torch! Thank you to all of the parent helpers.

We visited the Aubigny Centre with Stuart Brown, the tennis development officer, to get started on a six week tennis programme which will conclude with a tournament during our Commonwealth Week, 2-6 June. Everyone has really enjoyed it and has made good progress with coordination and ball skills. We have a very busy sporting timetable during the Commonwealth Week and we will also be visiting Haddington Golf Club on Wednesday 11 June for a game session.

We will be concluding our John Muir Award by organising and planting bee-friendly flowers in the gardens and by cleaning and closing our bird feeding equipment and station for the summer. In addition, we will be visiting the John Muir Birthplace Museum in Dunbar on 28 May. Our next topic, Classification of Plants and Animals, will hopefully develop and enhance our understanding of the natural world and complement our John Muir work.



P5B have had another busy few weeks. The children have enjoyed our Castles topic which is now coming to an end. The class had a great time

exploring Dirleton Castle and we would like to thank the parent helpers who came with us. We hope you agree it was a super day! In class maths, the children created fantastic model castles as part of our work on 2D and 3D shape. We will now be working on our John Muir award and looking at the classification of living things. As part of the John Muir award, we will be visiting John Muir's Birthplace in Dunbar.

The children have made a good start to their independent novel studies. It would be very helpful if parents/carers could ensure that the children are reading their novel at home and completing any reading tasks that are sent home as part of the independent study.

In P.E., we have been working through a variety of skills and games provided by the Development Officer. The Development Officer will be taking the final tennis session on Thursday 5th June. We are hoping this will be a mini tournament which will allow the children to use all the skills which they have been learning.

In class, we are working towards our whole school Commonwealth Week which is the week commencing the 2nd of June. Our class have chosen to represent Singapore. We have been making flags, designing a baton and creating a Singaporean dance all of which will be used in the Opening Ceremony. As part of this week, there will also be a whole school orienteering event. The children have been working to develop the skills required for orienteering e.g. map reading, setting the map, thumbing and handrailing. This should be a good fun week with lots of active learning.

We cannot believe that the end of term is approaching so quickly. It has been a wonderful year and we would like to wish P5B well for the future.



P5C have a very busy six weeks planned in the run up to end of term. We are very much looking forward to our visit to Dunbar and the birthplace of John Muir to kick off our investigation into

plant and animal classification. We will use our new found knowledge to ready the playground for visiting birds, bees and other creatures.

We have been learning a few simple chords on the guitar in music. We really gave Ringo and Paul a run for their money singing 'Yellow Submarine' last week and we plan to get the 'Whole World in our Hands' this week. We thank Mr Gill for coming in

to show us the range that can be achieved using a guitar. We are all very excited to learn more!

In the lead up to our Commonwealth Games themed health week that commences on June 2nd, P5C have adopted the country of Australia. Miss Komori, a teacher at King's Meadow last year, now teaches in southern Australia and we hope to link with her class through video e-mail to ask about their culture and heritage...and maybe answer a few questions the Australian children have for us.

Jakub won the class vote for best baton design. He will be making a 3D version to enter the finals of the school competition, where the best two batons will be exhibited through the streets of Haddington on the morning of June 2nd. Good luck, Jakub!

We continue to study co-ordinates and compass bearings in class maths. Let's hope that this helps us with our orienteering challenges in P.E over the next couple of weeks. Later in the term we will be using the information we discover from our classification topic and garden surveys to create and read bar graphs and other methods of information handling.

We will continue to aim for 20 minutes of reading a day in class, mirrored by 20 minutes at home in the evenings. We recently gained over 11,000,000 words read as a class and we would love to see that number reach higher still! 5C loves a challenge....can we make it 12,000,000 by the summer?



P6A had a fabulous trip to the Scottish Parliament on the 13th of May and enjoyed their tour of the building; learning more about how the Parliament works. Iain Gray MSP will

be coming into school to chat to the children about his role in Parliament. The date for his visit is still to be confirmed.

Well done to the children who went to the Meadowbank athletics championship and those who took part in Big Cook, Little Cook.

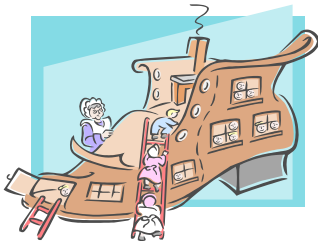
We are continuing with our orienteering topic and the children are learning about maps and improving their map reading skills. We are getting ready for Commonwealth Week and the class chose India as their Commonwealth country. We are rehearsing our Indian Dance for the Opening Ceremony and our class baton, designed by Thomas Guy, looks amazing; we hope to see it being used for the

baton relay. The class have been learning about what life is like in India. Their homework on an aspect of life in India looks great and is full of wonderful information.

There are other events to look forward to as well: a rugby festival on Tuesday 10th of June, and cricket workshops on Thursday 12th and 19th of June.

After Commonwealth week we will be learning about The Victorians. Our Victorian school day is to be on Tuesday 24th of June. Parents and carers are invited to join us for some of the afternoon. Details to follow.

I can't believe it's nearly the summer holidays but, as always, please feel free to get in touch if necessary.



P6B are having a very busy term. We all enjoyed a visit to the Scottish Parliament on May 13. During our visit we were given a tour, worked in the Education Centre and spent some time in the Debating Chamber. Unfortunately, our MSP, Mr Iain Gray, was not able to meet us as planned; however, he is going to come into school to meet P6 and answer their questions, sometime in the next few weeks. Many thanks to Mr Broadley, Mrs Evans, Mrs Pryde and Mrs Ramage, who kindly gave up their time to come with us. It was a very interesting experience for both adults and children.

On May 15, our Community Police Officer, Lynn Black came in to speak to the class about Internet Safety. Each child also received a leaflet called "Stay Safe Online".

As you will know, our school will be taking part in a Commonwealth Week, beginning on June 2nd. We have chosen Canada as our country. Euan Aitken created the winning design for our baton, and will be working with Owen West, Rachel Broadley and Mrs McLaren to make our baton.

On June 19, pupils from P6 will be visiting the nursery children at the Infant School. They are going to pair up with a nursery child and read them a favourite story from their time in nursery. They are all really looking forward to going back to meet former teachers and to working with the nursery children.

At the moment, P6 are finding out about the Commonwealth and about orienteering. We will be beginning a new topic - "Victorian Life" - On June

16. As part of this we intend to have a Victorian school day, with both adults and teachers dressing up. This will be on June 24th and parents will be invited to join us in the afternoon. There will be more information about this nearer the time.



P6C are going to start June with Commonwealth Week at King's Meadow. We will be celebrating the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow by having a week of activities for the children including our very

own Baton Relay, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Sports Day and a P6 cricket event. A copy of our timetable for the week was sent home and we look forward to seeing lots of family and friends cheering us on throughout the week.

The sports don't stop there though! On the 10th of June, the children will be taking part in a Rugby Festival with our Rugby Development Officer, Scott Marnoch. Nic Wilson, the Cricket Development Officer, will be taking the children for some cricket sessions on the 12th and 19th of June.

Our final topic of the year is going to be the Victorians. We will be looking at what life was like in Victorian Times and the children will get the opportunity to spend a day in role as a Victorian child on our Victorian School Day. Most of the children are looking forward to it, having seen other year groups take part in the past; however, those who know a little more about what it was like back then are a wee bit apprehensive. Either way, I'm sure it will be a day they won't forget for a while.

It's going to be a race to the finish in P6, and we will definitely need our holiday when it comes!



P7A's time is disappearing quite quickly and we have so much to do!

We are busy practising our dance for the opening ceremony of Commonwealth week. Our

chosen country is Barbados. Sophie C has been fabulous in choosing music and putting together a dance routine for us. Thanks, Sophie. We had an in class competition to design a baton for the ceremony. Everyone had to vote and Catriona's was the winning design. Luke and Jessica were the

runners up! There were lots of great ideas. At the moment we are building the baton. The winning class baton will be carried at the opening ceremony. One of our class will be carrying the baton for part of the journey - I wonder who it will be? Commonwealth week looks so busy. We have activities every day - everyone should sleep well next week!

Scripts are out this week for 'Let Loose!', our end of year show. We are very fortunate to have so many talented people in Primary 7 this session - not just the performers but also the back stage crew who will be creating props! The songs for the show are very catchy and it looks like being lots of fun. Performance times and ticket information will be out soon.

Everyone is excited about the two day visit to Knox Academy. We were there last week at a science lab. The school seems very big and it will be challenging to find everywhere - luckily we have been working on map reading skills through our orienteering activities!

Our P7 personal profiles are under construction. We are looking back over the year and reflecting on our learning and the activities we have taken part in. Once we have written lots of information we will share them with you through Google sites.

Thank you for all your hard work this session, 7A. You are a very creative, if sometimes chatty (!) class. Enjoy Knox Academy!



P7B we are very excited to be starting our P7 leavers' assembly called 'Let Loose!' We have held auditions and begun practising our songs. We are all very excited to begin learning the scripts,

as well as creating props and costumes for the show. We have also been preparing for Commonwealth week. Our class chose Nigeria as the country we wish to represent; we have been learning about various aspects of Nigeria and making flags and choreographing our Nigerian dance for the opening ceremony. We have also been designing a Commonwealth and King's Meadow Baton. The class will be deciding a winning design and, once the winner has been selected, it will be built and carried in our opening ceremony. We are very much looking forward to sports day and getting the opportunity to participate in various sporting activities. This month, we will also be completing our P7 profiles and using Google apps

to create them. June is going to be a very busy and exciting time in primary 7 and we are looking forward to our last full month!



P7C have been learning about explorers and doing a bit of exploring themselves with their kayaking expeditions down the River Tyne. We are

now preparing for our Commonwealth Games week (2nd - 6th June) by learning about our chosen country, Cyprus. We are learning a traditional Cypriot dance, have made Cypriot flags with a copper coloured map and olive branches, and are designing Queen's batons. Please come and help or spectate at any of our P7 events during the afternoons of that week. Preparations for our Leaving Assembly are also underway. Auditions have taken place, props are being resourced and the dulcet tones of P7 singing "Bus Driver Blues" or "Midnight Feast" can often be heard. In fact, I hope you are also hearing them at home too because we need lots of practice to learn so many words and make "Let Loose" a really spectacular show! In Maths, some children have been applying their money skills to real life problem situations and have been planning and budgeting for camping trips, parties and film sets. In writing, P7C are learning about the key features of a newspaper article, including the orientation paragraph, and are currently writing articles about the discovery of Captain Scott and two of his team in their tent in Antarctica. Our French learning this term has included being able to say what foods we like and don't like. How do you say "I like pizza but I don't like ham"? Don't forget there is a parent evening at Knox on Monday 16th June for all P7 parents and on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th June all the pupils will visit Knox and find out their new classes. It is an exciting time to be in P7 - keep up the good work, positive behaviour and can-do attitudes right up until the fourth of July!



Best wishes go to Primary 7 as they move on to the next step of their educational journey.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils, parents and staff a very restful and relaxing summer holiday.

Leonard M. McCullough