



JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

As I write this, P7 children are heading off for a week's visit to Benmore. The children have been advised to take sunscreen with them - a first?! A sign that we are almost at the end of the summer term and the completion of a school session.

This has been another busy session with staff working to develop our curriculum. Groups of staff have been engaged in developing progression frameworks in maths and spelling and these will be fully implemented next session. A framework for using outcomes as part of interdisciplinary studies has also been developed and this will be introduced next session.

Next session, staff will be working together to develop cooperative learning approaches and Higher Order Thinking Skills. We will also be introducing French at all stages.

A copy of our Standards and Quality Report and our School Improvement Plan, which sets out our priorities for improving your child's education, will shortly be 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 Friday Clubs, paired reading, sporting events, educational outings, work in class, PTA, Parent Council etc. We could not manage without you!



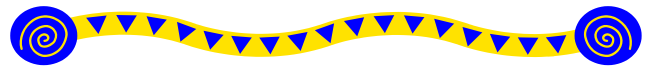
REPORTS

End of session reports will be coming home on the Friday 10th. There will be a chance to discuss these with teachers at a drop-in session, from 4-7pm, on Tuesday 14th of June. **Please note** - There will be no appointments for this session. Class teachers will be in the hall and parents/carers will be seen on a first come, first served basis.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School closes at the usual time on Friday 1st July and reopens for pupils at 08:45 on Wednesday 17th of August.



CLASSES 2016/2017

Our class structure will remain the same next session:

P4A	P4B	P4C	
P5A	P5B	P5C	
P6A	P6B	P6C	
P7A	P7B	P7C	P7D

We will be holding a 'moving up' day on Wednesday 22nd June when your child will spend the day in her/his new classroom with, hopefully, her/his teacher and classmates for next session. At this point in time, we are unable to say which teachers are allocated to specific classes; however, your children should be able to tell you their class teacher on the 22nd.



STAFFING NEWS



This is the time of year when, traditionally, we find ourselves saying "Good-bye" to a

number of staff. Mrs McVitie is moving on to pastures new. Ms Gillan, who has been a member of staff for 28 years, will be leaving King's Meadow to devote more time to her union duties. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both ladies for their hard work and the support

they have given to pupils, parents and staff during their time with us.



On another note, Mrs Gilfillan is retiring after 30 years of service to the school. She started King's Meadow as a class teacher before becoming a principal teacher. During her career, she has taught many children, some of whom are now parents of our current pupils. She has been a great supporter of the school and, latterly, has represented staff on the PTA. I know that you will join us in wishing her a long and happy retirement.



PARENTAL SURVEY



Thank you to those parents/carers who completed our recent survey. We are pleased to note that the results are more positive than last session;

however, we will continue to seek ways to engage parents/carers more in the life and work of the school. If you have any suggestions for this we would be delighted to hear from you.

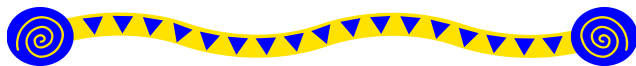
The results are available on the website.



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL



A group of twelve Primary 6 children will be participating in the Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival at Dalkeith Country Park on Friday 3rd June. This will be the first time that a group of King's Meadow children has taken part in the event. The twelve children who are going to the event all completed the course at the Orienteering Festival at Vogrie Country Park at the start of May in under 14 minutes. Good luck!!



HEAD LICE



Once again, 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

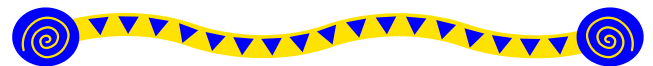
role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Wednesday 8th: P3/4 Potted Sports
- Friday 10th: P4C Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 10th: End of session reports come home.
- Tuesday 14th: Drop-in parents/carers meetings 4-7pm
- Tuesday 21st: P7 Transition Day at Knox Academy.
- Wednesday 22nd: P7 transition day at Knox Academy and **Move Up Day** for P3 to P6
- Friday 24th: Special Assembly
- Wednesday 29th: P7 Leavers' show for parents
- Thursday 1st July: End of session.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have thoroughly enjoyed our food topic and have worked very hard learning about how different foods contribute to a healthy diet. They have developed their food preparation skills and understand the importance of hygiene to prevent germs from spreading. We all had a great time listening to our visitor from the SSPCA about food and farming and learnt lots of new information. Primary 4 have also been working hard on their novel studies and would like to thank our parents and carers for their support with these. We are now looking forward to our final topic 'The Theme Park', which will have a science focus. We plan to investigate forces, magnets, electricity and sound and use our knowledge to design a fairground attraction. We will be learning about fractions in our numeracy groups and working on information handling in mathematics. Mr Connell will continue to teach us Art and Design for this term and we will be basing this around our new topic. We will continue to have P.E on a Monday and Wednesday, please keep reminding your child to bring an appropriate P.E. Kit. Lastly, I would like to thank Primary 4 for all

their fantastic work and effort throughout the year. Well done, primary 4A! Keep up the great work in primary 5.



P4B have been working extremely hard on our Food Education topic and have enjoyed learning about the food groups, the

Eatwell plate, food hygiene and developing our cooking skills. We also enjoyed sharing what we have been learning with our parents and the whole school at our Food Education assembly. Our next topic will be the Theme Park, which will focus on science and technology outcomes.

We had a very interesting visit from the Scottish SPCA who told us all about their role in inspecting farms and keeping farm animals safe and healthy. We enjoyed playing the top trumps game and watching the videos.

In Reading, P4 have been working well on our novel study project and have completed some excellent work! The class particularly enjoyed creating a map to show all the different settings from our novels and designing our own comic strips to share the key points of the plot. We will be peer assessing the novel studies and giving feedback using two stars and a wish. Thank you for all your super pieces of Reading homework as part of this project!

I would like to say a special thank you to P4B for a fantastic, hardworking year and I hope you have a wonderful P5!



P4C are about to embark upon a topic, Fairground, which is based upon friction, electricity and magnetism. During this we will touch upon many areas of the curriculum

as we investigate the finest ways to create and advertise a thrilling fairground attraction.

In number, we will explore equations and fractions and look at the concept of probability. In maths, we will explore the properties and 3D shape and their nets.

We had an informative visit from an SSPCA officer this term where the children found out a great deal about the acceptable conditions our

farm animals should be kept in on farms before being introduced to our food chain.

What a fantastic day we had for sports' afternoon last week. The class thoroughly enjoyed the activities and is looking forward to the results being announced at this week's assembly. Further sporting events P4 are involved in include a potted sports transition afternoon with P3 for Haddington Infant School on the afternoon of June 8th

You will already have your hand written invitations to our class assembly entitled, 'A Year in P4'. This is just a wee reminder that parents and carers are very welcome to attend at 9:00am on Friday 10th June. Thank you to those of you who have already RSVP'd by way of card, note or diary message as this helps us cater for the number of chairs we may need on the morning.



P5A are set to have a busy last few weeks of Primary 5. We are about to

start our final topic centred around the Olympics. During the topic, we will be looking at the athletes and how they look after themselves and prepare for their events. We will also be looking at this year's Olympic hosts, Rio, and comparing and contrasting the Brazilian weather, climate, lifestyle and culture with our own. We will be taking a closer look at Samba and Capoeira dancing and will be creating dances of our own in the same style.

In PE, we will be continuing to develop our tennis skills and are hoping to go over to the tennis courts to test them out. The Rugby Development Officer will be working with us over a couple of sessions before we have a rugby festival later in the month (date to be confirmed).

We have been learning about the Buddhist religion in RME and we are very lucky to be receiving a visit from a practising Buddhist Monk. Gomchen Kelsang will be guiding us through some meditation on Monday 6th June.

We are almost at the end of our John Muir Award. We visited Amisfield Walled Garden on Wednesday 25th May and had great fun hunting for bugs and building giant birds' nests that would be left as bug hotels. Our last task is to create a leaflet with a map helping people find the garden. We think it is a brilliant place to have on our doorstep and want to encourage more people to visit.

We will be ending the term with the trip Miss Smith promised. On Wednesday 29th June we will be going to Stirling Castle. After learning all about the Scottish Wars of Independence and the Battle of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn, we will get to visit the land where it all happened and put out Scottish History knowledge in context. Finally we would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers who have supported us this year in class, at home and on our many outings. We couldn't have done it all without you!



P5B's next topic will be the Rio Olympic Games 2016. There will be a main focus on the country, Brazil, but we will also be covering healthy eating and dancing.

This gives P5B an opportunity to get excited about sport, friendly competition, national pride and counting medals!

The class really enjoyed taking part in all the different activities on sports day and particularly enjoyed the whole year group race and obstacle course. Well done! The sun was out and it stayed dry all afternoon so everyone was happy. The class are currently working on Reading Detective Skills on their AR book. Each week the class will focus on one particular skill to help develop understanding of their book. The children are continuing to develop their writing through art. The class will be taking part in rugby workshops over the next few weeks, which will lead to a festival. In ICT, the class has been working on a programme called Scratch to create their very own maze game.



P5C worked very hard on their personal talks, Well Done! It was clear that a lot of time and effort had gone into preparing for these and the children were excellent at sharing what they had learned. The Ecosystems topic is coming to an end and the class has worked hard to classify and identify animals, create food chains and webs and learn the process of plant reproduction. We are just beginning our Olympics topic - and will be learning about the Olympics and also comparing Brazil to Scotland.

Our John Muir Award is almost complete too. Sadly, our litter picking data shows that the

amount of litter being dropped at the railway has not reduced - in fact it has increased! However, the class have done an amazing job and maintained a positive attitude. Our walk on the 1st of June has been postponed to the 14th and will now be a cycle. Longniddry Primary P5s have also been using the Railway Walk for their John Muir Award and we plan to cycle to the midpoint at Cottyburn, meet up and share what we have been doing, have some lunch and then cycle back to school. A letter is on its way with more information.

The class had their visit to Craigmillar Castle. The children enjoyed finding their way around the castle and learning how to walk and dance as Mary and her court would have.

On Monday 6th of June, we have Gomchen Kelsang visiting us. He is a Buddhist monk and he will talk to the children about his life and religion and lead them through a short meditation.

Primary 5 are going to be having rugby workshops in school. These finish with a rugby festival - dates are still to be confirmed.

In numeracy and maths, we will be learning about money and length. Using Scratch, in ICT, has been a great success and the children are now creating their own games.

I would like to thank all parents/carers who have helped this year, and I hope everyone has a great summer.



P6A - it is amazing to think that this is the final class newsletter!

In class maths, we will be exploring "Time" by looking at intervals, timetables and calculating time taken when given speed and distance. Our focus in group maths will be word problems and the correct order of operations.

In spelling, beginning on June 6, we will be looking at common word lists for the last few weeks of term. The children will be given a dictation containing common words. This will identify which words they need to work on. They will then be given a word list highlighting the words they don't know, and this will be their spelling focus for the week.

I hope you all received a copy of our Flapjack recipe. The class had a great time making these. A really delicious aroma wafted around the school and the resulting flapjack was very tasty. The children also had to work out where all the

ingredients came from, how many food miles they travelled and how we could reduce the food miles by using local produce.

As part of our P.E this term, the children have been working with Mrs Matthews, our PGCE student, to develop and improve their tennis skills. This has been a learning curve for us all as Mrs Matthews is a tennis coach. The class have really benefitted from her input.

As you already know, we are working on individual topics about the Rio Olympics. In conjunction with this, we will also be participating in a short series of creative dance lessons. We will be looking at the music and culture of Rio and then creating our own Rio style dances. This will give us an introduction to the city where the Olympic Games are being held this summer.

Finally, as part of the P3 transition to P4, we will be welcoming the P3s to spend time with the P6s. As the P6s will be prefects and house captains next session, it is a lovely opportunity for both to get to know each other. The P3s will be visiting on both Thursday June 2 and June 9. We will be asking the children to choose a book they enjoyed when they were younger and to share this with a P3 buddy on June 9.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

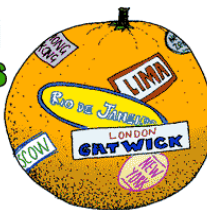


P6B are counting down to the end of term and trying to fit in as much as possible. In Health and Wellbeing, we are continuing our

Mindfulness project indoors, and outdoors, in P.E, we are striking and fielding. In Literacy, we will continue our independent reading tasks alongside Accelerated Reader. We currently have 3 AR Millionaires and are hoping for a few more before the end of the year. In Writing, we are looking at biographies where we will be writing about the life and work of famous people. In class Maths, we are about to start time, speed, distance, and in group Maths we are looking at BODMAS and word problems. We have just finished our food topic in French and now we are learning 'les adjectifs'. The children will soon be able to describe themselves, their friends and you! Our Expressive Arts will include working with Mr Connell, our Art Specialist, and we will also be learning creative dance to make a carnival dance to tie in with the Olympics in Rio. As mentioned, lots

to do before the end of term. Please continue to support the learning in school by encouraging AR, Mathematics and times-table practice at home! Thank you!

Food Miles
How well travelled is your dinner?



P6C, can you believe we are almost at the end of Primary 6? However, we still have a lot of exciting things to get through before the end of term!

We are almost finished our food topic. We have been looking at the differing nutritional needs of people at different stages of life and also how factors such as religion or finance can affect what people eat. We completed a fun design challenge which allowed us to evaluate, adapt and improve our work. We also prepared and cooked a healthy flapjack in class. We worked out the food miles involved in making the flapjack and discussed how we could have reduced these food miles by, for example, buying more local produce. Finally, our two competitors in the Little and Large Cooking Competition at Preston Lodge High School, Gillian and Elma, got through to final. Well done, girls!

In class maths, we have been learning how to estimate and measure volume. Next, we will be moving on to time. We will be learning to interpret electronic and paper-based timetables. We will also be learning to estimate how long a journey should take, based on our knowledge of the link between time, speed and distance. In group maths, we have been looking at pattern and we are moving on to looking at the order of calculations and word problems.

We are still working on independent novel studies in reading. We have been completing tasks both in school and at home. We will be looking at some reading detective skills such as word finder, link-maker and question master. Everyone should now have finished reading their independent novel.

In P.E., we have been doing athletics. We have also been playing hockey and we enjoyed putting our hockey skills into practice at the hockey tournament. We are now moving on to striking and fielding skills. We will also be doing a short series of creative dance lessons. We will be looking at the music and culture of Rio and then creating our own 'Rio style' dances. This will give us an introduction to the city where the Olympic Games are being held this summer.



P6D have a lot to look forward to as we approach the final month of this school year. We are going to be learning a little bit about the structure of the Curriculum for Excellence, which will allow us to

select the context for our final topic. We know that we will be bringing together maths, science and technology in a way which we find interesting and motivating.

In writing, we will be exploring biographies before researching and creating one of our own about the life and legacy of a famous person connected to our topic. To begin, we will find out what the appropriate structure, content and vocabulary of a biography is. To conclude the year in group numeracy we are going to be learning about the correct order of operations and then tackling a wide range of word problems covering some of the topics we have looked at this session including algebra, decimals and negative numbers.

As we begin to look forward to the summer Olympics, we will be exploring creative dance on a Rio theme. We will learn how to connect ideas, thoughts and feelings to movement and music and how to convey ideas, thoughts and feelings through dance. We will also continue to improve our touch typing skills. We hope to be able to confidently type all the letters, numbers and the most common symbols, with proper ten-finger touch typing technique.



P7A has had quite a hectic time recently.

Since our last newsletter, we have been over at Knox Academy for Transition Sports. This was a fun morning, organised by S3 and supported by S1 team leaders. Our teams were mixed from each of the schools that will have pupils in next session's S1. There were lots of stations with events for us to try - each station was an event that will be in this year's Olympics. We tried high jump, timed running, gymnastics and even indoor curling. The winning team received medals. Everyone was very supportive - great sportsmanship. Thanks to everyone at Knox for this fun morning.

We have had a short block of badminton, going to the Corn Exchange to practise and improve our skills. This has been great fun. The favourite station seemed to be hospital badminton - if you

miss the shuttle you 'lose' the use of an arm or leg. Some players ended up lying on the floor but kept the shuttle in play - well done. Thanks to our badminton players for teaching us new fun activities.

In class we have been working on Keeping Myself Safe and, more recently, Keeping Myself E-Safe. We have had many discussions about the issues raised in these topics - from cyber bullying to plagiarism. It has been really interesting. Hopefully, some of the content of these lessons was shared with families through the recent homework task. PC Lynn Black has been in to school to discuss Drug Education with the classes. We have been finding out what substance misuse is all about and the harm it can cause. Internet Safety has been another focus this term. We are hoping to have a Police visit to give us more information on this topic and answer some of the questions we have gathered.

P7 had responsibility for being team leaders at sports day and worked with Mrs Arnold, Mr MacKinnon and S3 pupils to ensure the morning was a success and everyone was involved in the activities. There have been many positive comments about the event (and some suggestions) which show how much everyone liked the competitive activities. Thank you to everyone who worked on this.

Our 'Pathfinder' group has been visiting Knox Academy and last week had lunch there, as well as joining some lessons. The group has been super at finding answers to our questions and sharing their newly acquired knowledge of Knox.

At the moment we are busy writing our 'P7 Personal Profiles' sharing information about our achievements. A copy of this should be home before the end of term.

Miss Dornan has been working with us on 'Transition'. We have a different focus for each session. So far we have been discussing confidence and peer pressure. Everyone has been listening carefully and offering good contributions and asking very topical questions. This work should hopefully help us feel more comfortable moving on and also coping in unfamiliar situations.

Please visit our web page to watch our Music video - '7 years by 7A'.

Our BIG focus at the moment has been our enterprise afternoon. Virgin money gave the year group a loan of £250. We had to use this money to make money! We keep any profit we make.

All the stalls at the 'P7 Fun Afternoon' were very successful. Everybody seemed to have lots of fun.

We have many entrepreneurs in 7A - Joe's lemonade stall was a sell-out. Jack worked tirelessly to keep up with the demand for warm donuts. There was always a queue for the chocolate fountain. Erin didn't have a spare minute as she had to keep up with all the hair styling. Thomas' Iron Man target challenge was a popular choice as were the tin can challenge, hit the can, the lucky dip and 'Bean Boozled' - and THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the home baking stall.

Thomas, Melissa and Finlay counted the money and were pleased to report we made a profit of over £300. This is a terrific achievement for the year group. Thank you to everyone who helped us with our event.



P7B have, along with 7A and 7C, been working on an enterprise project with Virgin Money where they had to plan an event and see if they could make a profit. The children in P7

organised a 'Fun Afternoon' in the school on Thursday 26th May and we are delighted to say that this was a great success. The children worked in groups to plan and run their stalls/activities and they did a fabulous job. The P7 staff are very proud of them.

30th May- 3rd June is the week of the P7 residential to Benmore. The children and staff are looking forward to the exciting activities on offer at the centre. We hope that they have great fun and that the weather is kind to them. The children who are not going to Benmore have a busy week planned with Mrs Higgins, with activities including animation, a hockey tournament and fire building!

It is a very busy month for Primary 7 and there is a lot to do before we say farewell. After Benmore, 7B will begin their food topic. We will be discussing foods which help to keep us healthy and will be learning how to prepare food in a safe and hygienic way. We need to ask for a contribution towards the food to allow the children to prepare and make some healthy snacks. A letter for this will be sent home week beginning 6th June. It is essential that you let us know as soon as possible of any food allergies your child has that we do not already know about.

We are also very busy preparing for the P7 end of term show 'Do You Remember the First Time?'. The performance of this will take place in the

evening of Wed 29th June- more details to follow. The children who auditioned for speaking parts were excellent and we are in the process of allocating roles. Some speaking parts are quite demanding so we will get scripts out to the children as soon as possible and would really appreciate your support in helping your child learn their part. Hopefully, you will have heard the children humming or singing the songs we have been learning- they're very catchy!

As part of our transition arrangements for moving on to Knox Academy, the P7 children will spend 2 days at Knox. This will be on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd June. These visits will give the children a chance to work in the different departments, meet some of the teachers and, hopefully, meet new friends. We recently spent a morning at Knox for a sports event, organised and ran by the S3 pupils. The children met Mrs Ingham and the guidance teachers and enjoyed the organised activities.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting end to P7.



P7C have reached the final stages of their primary school career. We have a busy few weeks ahead with Benmore/Activity week, transition days to Knox, and various leavers' events.

In the final week of term the children will be putting on our leavers' show "Do You Remember the First Time?". The children will be expected to learn the songs from the show off by heart and will be given a song book to practise at home. This will be part of their homework for the last few weeks of term. There will be a daytime and an evening performance of the show on Wednesday the 29th of June. For those children with speaking parts, scripts will be coming home week beginning 6th of June.

Over the last few weeks the class has been working with Tegan Dornan from Knox Academy on her transition study. They have taken part in a variety of questionnaires and surveys and are now participating in a series of lessons that will, hopefully, improve their confidence during transition and also help to provide them with a forum to discuss any concerns they may have about high school. The lessons have dealt with

issues such as self-esteem, confidence, peer pressure, friendships and bullying.

In class, the children are currently working on their P7 profile. This is a document entirely written by your child about their progress in different areas of the curriculum throughout P7. It also looks at their achievements out of school. A copy of this will come home before the end of term.

In P.E., we have been taking part in the Woodland Workout. The children have been using the school grounds to design and create their own workouts and have enjoyed generating their own workout cards.

Finally, I want to congratulate the children on the success of their enterprise project. The money to fund the project was given to us by Virgin Bank and the children were challenged to "Make the money grow". In groups of 4, the children came up with ideas for a stall that could be part of a fun afternoon. We had lots of brilliant ideas including popcorn and doughnuts, smores and lollipops, beat the goalie, soak the prefect, a raffle, a lucky dip and Nerf Gun archery. The children were given a budget for their group and had to source and order all of their own products. They then had to design and run their stall. The afternoon made a profit of £347! A big well done to them all!



We would like to wish Primary 7 all the best as they move on to the next step of their educational journey.

As one door closes another door opens and we are looking forward to welcoming our new P4s in August.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of King's Meadow for all the hard work they have put in this year on behalf of your children and to wish pupils, parents and staff a very restful and relaxing summer holiday.

Leonard M. McMillan