



JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

KING'S MEADOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

The end of another school session is fast approaching and, as always, we have a lot to cover before then.

As a staff, our focus for this session has been on working together to develop cooperative learning approaches and Higher Order Thinking Skills. We have also introduced French at all stages. We are beginning to see the benefits of adopting each of these approaches at each stage of the school and will continue to promote and work on them next session.

Next session, we will be working, alongside Haddington Infant School, to review and revise our approaches to learning and teaching and behaviour. We will be looking for your support with the latter. We will also be adopting East Lothian Council's Numeracy Framework.

As mentioned in our May newsletter, we are revising our school Vision, Values and Aims - what we would like our school community to look like, what we think is important for our community and how we are going to achieve this. I would like to thank the Parent Council for their support in helping to seek the views of parent/carers on this. These will be gathered together and added to those of pupils and staff before we share them, hopefully, early in the new session.

A copy of our School Improvement Plan and our Standards and Quality Report will shortly be available on our website, or you may request a paper copy.

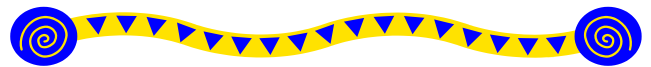


We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents/carers who have taken the time to support the school by helping out with Friday Clubs, paired reading, sporting events, educational outings, work in class, PTA, Parent Council etc. We could not manage without you!

REPORTS



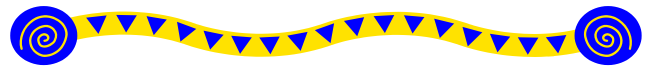
End of session reports will be coming home on the Friday 9th. Please remember to check your child's bag when they return home that day.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School closes at the usual time on Friday 30th June and reopens for pupils at 08:45 on Wednesday 16th of August.

Please check our website for the updated Session Dates for 2017/18.



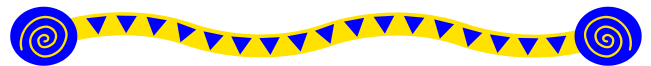
CLASSES 2017/2018



Our class structure will remain the same next session:

P4A	P4B	P4C	P4D
P5A	P5B	P5C	
P6A	P6B	P6C	
P7A	P7B	P7C	

We will be holding a 'moving up' day on Tuesday 20th 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 your their class teacher on the 20th.



STAFFING NEWS



As we head towards the end of session we, once more, find ourselves saying "Good-bye" to a number of staff. We

wish Miss Shand well as she moves on to take up a new post in Montrose. Mrs Scott is also moving on

to pastures new. 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.



We are sad to inform you that Mrs Macdonald is retiring after 16 years of working in King's Meadow. In that time, she has worked at various stages in the school supporting pupils, parents and staff. Mrs Nimmo, our Clerical Assistant, is also retiring after 23 years. I know that you will join us in wishing both ladies a long and happy retirement.



PARENTAL SURVEY

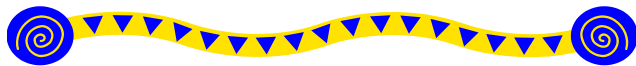


Thank you to those parents/carers who completed our recent survey. We had 52 responses and, generally, the results are similar to last session, with most agreeing with 7 of the 10 statements. However, the responses to the following were not as positive with only the majority agreeing:

- *My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability.*
- *The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress.*
- *I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support them well.*

We would be really interested to hear your thoughts on how we could improve on this. You can do this through the Parent Council or by contacting the school office.

Full results are available on the website.



NATURE DETECTIVES

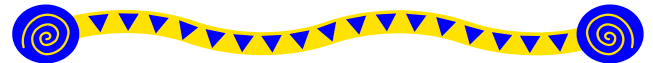


We have had a busy start to Spring with a huge clean-up of the school woodland area. The children discussed the importance of protecting the environment and how dangerous litter can be for our animal friends.

We have also been out and about with the binoculars and were happy to see our resident

swans at the Nungate Bridge with four cygnets. One eagle eyed nature detective spotted a crow stealing an egg from an unsuspecting pigeon's nest; this gave us a chance to talk about how cruel nature can appear to be, but how everything has a place in the food chain.

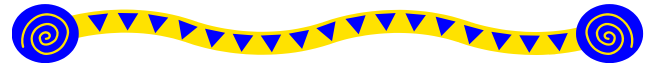
We would like to thank our parent helpers for their invaluable support and would hope to welcome them back next session.



HEAD LICE



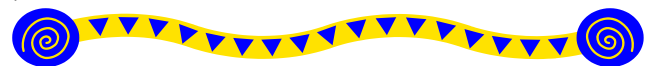
Once again, we would like to ask all parents/carers to check their child/ren's heads **at least** once a week. Parental vigilance plays a vital role in keeping the spread of this problem under control.



MOBILE PHONES



There is no need for children to have mobile phones in their possession during school hours. Children who require a phone for use outwith school hours should hand their mobile in to the office at the start of the day. Any child who is found to have a phone during school hours will have it removed. The school takes no responsibility for children's mobile phones.



DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 2nd: P4B Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Friday 9th: End of session reports come home.
- Friday 9th: Rice Relay Challenge
- Wednesday 14th: P3 - 4 Potted Sports
- Friday 16th: P4C Assembly. Parents of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 20th: P7 transition day at Knox Academy and **Move Up Day** for P3 to P6. 18:00 - P3 parent/carers' meeting
- Wednesday 20th: P7 transition day at Knox Academy.

- Wednesday 28th: P7 Leavers' show for parents
- Friday 30th: Special Assembly. End of session.



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A are still flushed with success from their assembly. A lot of hard work went into it and so it was great to see so many parents, carers and others

who had come along to support the children.

We have been learning about food and have been looking at what makes up a healthy diet as well as the importance of hygiene when dealing with food. We will be putting this into practice with our blindfolded taste test as well as preparing some food in class. We had the SSPCA come out to talk to the class about animal welfare in farming practice and all the children have learnt interesting facts about farm animals. Our final topic for the year will be science based and will be decided upon in consultation with the class.

In RME, we have been looking at religious buildings and how their design reflects the beliefs of each religion. We went to visit St Mary's church to look at Christian religious building design and were treated to a very interesting tour from the assistant minister Martin Ritchie. He dealt very well with a torrent of questions and even saw the carrots in the windows which were discovered by 4A!

P4A will continue to have art with Mr Connell this term and will continue looking at time in class maths and measure in numeracy. We will also look different number systems such as Roman and Chinese systems in numeracy.

Finally I would like to wish 4A all the very best for P5.



P4B have been working hard on their Food and Health topic and are looking forward to sharing what they have been learning with

our parents/guardians and the rest of the school on Friday 2nd June at our class assembly.

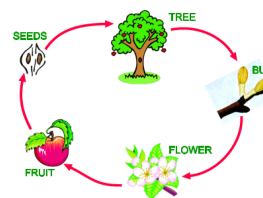
In French, we have been learning the vocabulary for different items of fruit and have enjoyed playing games to help us remember them. We have also been listening to the Hungry Caterpillar in

French and have created our own mini Hungry Caterpillar story books.

Our final P4 topic will be science based and focus on distinguishing between living and non-living things, exploring food chains, growing plants in a variety of conditions and learning about different types of energy. The children will be asked to choose the other curricular areas that we explore this topic through and to agree on the main learning experiences when we create our KWL.

The children showed wonderful sportsmanship and enthusiasm both at our rugby festival and during sports day. P4B would like to thank all the adults who came to support us, with a special thank you to Flo's mum for helping us to keep the scores.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the children in 4B for their hard work this year and hope that they all have a wonderful summer holiday before moving up into P5



P4C are about to launch a topic called Life Cycle Detectives! During this we will touch upon many areas of the curriculum as we investigate the life cycle

of various plants, insects and amphibians.

In maths, we will continue our work on measure and revisit challenges involving money for some extra practice before P5!

In Literacy, we will share what we learn about life cycles through posters, leaflets and detailed labelled diagrams. Written work will continue daily until the very end of term so it is essential that your child has a well-equipped pencil case available to support their learning. We will continue to practise our handwriting and our reading group novels are well under way. We are excited about the opportunity to re-visit and improve our results in the Accelerated Reader Star Test at the beginning of June.

We had a fabulous morning celebrating all the skills we'd recently gained at our rugby festival and - apart from a thorough drenching at half time - we had a great sport's afternoon. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers come to share the time with us. We had a fantastic time and hope you enjoyed it too.

The P7 pupils have an opportunity to lead Friday Clubs for three weeks in June and I know P4C are very excited to see what will be on offer! Pupils from P7 have also supported us in our gardening ventures. We have planted potatoes, beetroot, lettuce and peas. We also have some lovely

strawberry plants which we will tend and water every day.

An important date for your diary is Friday 16th June for P4C's assembly. We look forward to warmly welcoming all P4C parents and carers from 9.00 am. (Lasting approximately 30 minutes) My goodness! What a very quick and amazing year this has been. P4C - you have been an absolute pleasure to teach. Have a fabulous summer!



P5A's year has certainly flown past and the class is getting excited at the prospect of moving into P6. We have had a busy

start to the final term and the children have covered a great deal of work. Our John Muir Award activities have now come to an end and I hope to be able to present the children with their certificates in the next few weeks. We had very successful visits to John Muir's Birthplace Museum and to the Haddington Railway walk. The class found the museum very interesting and found out lots of new information about John Muir. The Countryside Ranger was also very impressed with the children and the enthusiasm that they showed when we were on the Railway walk. The children hung organic bird feeders out for the birds, identified different birds from their bird song, picked up litter and also identified trees. We were very lucky with the weather.

Our Topic, the Safari Park, is now coming to an end. We are now doing a Challenge Week where the children are using everything that they have learned about (food chains, food webs, animal classification, biomes, information handling, etc) to design their own safari park. In literacy, we are creating a guide to the park, which will have maps, attractions, key information, etc that we will share with other classes. We will also create a model of the safari park. Our new topic, which will start in the next week or so and take us to the end of the session, is based on France and will encompass language and food preparation.

In maths, we have been learning about time. Each of the groups has been working on various different time problems and getting to grips with telling the time on an analogue clock, converting between 12 and 24 hour formats and calculating intervals of time. Our last maths and numeracy focus for the year will be measure - this will also come in handy with our food prep!

In literacy, we have been using our Higher Order Thinking Skills and creating mind maps to shape

our fictional adventure stories. We have also continued to actively use our cooperative learning strategies and each of the table teams created their own lessons to teach the rest of the class about different world biomes. They were all very creative through their use of drama, models, literature, worksheets, etc - not a PowerPoint in sight.

In PE, the class has been learning about orienteering with Mrs Arnold and they have been playing the ukulele or playing percussion with Mrs Roberts.

As usual, if you have any queries or information that you would like to bring to my attention or share, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



P5B's time at this stage is disappearing very quickly and we are busy all the time!

We have concluded our John Muir Award work, visiting his birthplace in Dunbar last week. It was a good visit and everyone found out interesting facts about his life in Scotland and in America. We were fascinated to know that John could read at a very young age and started school when he was 3 years old. Mindmaps are a great way to record information. We used different colours to help organise our ideas.

John recorded details through annotated diagrams. We created minibeasts, annotated our diagrams and then made them out of clay.

Our current IDL is Ecosystems and we have created food chains and food webs. We have managed to sort animals into consumers, producers and decomposers - lots of good discussion about this task! We also carried out minibeast surveys in the woodland and in the garden to compare minibeasts and habitats. This information has all been shared through creating pie charts and graphs.



While we were working on our garden survey we also managed to complete our garden tasks! Our box is now planted with strawberries, onions, coriander, radish and carrot. We are waiting for our potatoes to appear in their compost box. In class we are growing tomato plants. They are all thriving on the window ledge. We now need to thin them out as there are too many in each pot. It will be hard to choose

which ones to keep. Everyone will be coming home with a plant in the next few weeks. With care, it should continue to grow and produce tomatoes.

As always 5B make lots of excellent contributions to class work. Everyone works hard and we have a great team spirit. It has been a pleasure to be 5B's class teacher this year. Their attitude and enthusiasm has allowed us to take part in new projects and develop lots of ideas. Thank you all 5B. Have a great summer.



P5C have been busy this term doing lots of learning around John Muir. We have been looking at the complexities of various food webs and how animals are interdependent upon each other. We have been looking closely at different animal types and starting to understand what defines a mammal, amphibian or an insect. Linked to John's adventures and travels across America, we have been planning and writing our own adventure stories full of exciting language, powerful description and nerve-shredding cliff-hangers! Ask your child what happened in their story! We will be consolidating our work with a trip to John's birthplace in Dunbar at the end of May. In our French lessons, we have been continuing to develop our vocabulary by learning the names of different foods and playing games to help reinforce this knowledge. Test your child at home, what foods do they know? In our maths groups we have been looking at - and interpreting - bar charts and pictographs, and also continuing to learn how to read and tell the time (in 12 and 24 hour clock) building up to reading more complex bus and train timetables, developing real life skills for ourselves. We have also been busy in the garden planting strawberry plants in our raised bed - we look forward to harvest time! Sports Day was a huge success with P5C enjoying victory in the P5 relay race! It was great to see the whole class pulling together. Well done those speedy legs!



P6A are now into the last few weeks of term before summer. We have had another reshuffle around the class and all now have new cooperative learning teams to work with. We have started to create our new team names and work together.

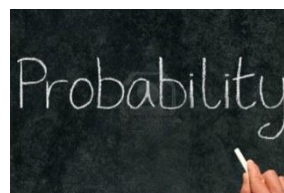
For our last topic we will be investigating Healthy Living. We will examine the interrelationship of daily physical activity, diet, rest and sleep on health and wellbeing. We will look at nutrition and learn to identify simple changes or improvements to own diet. We will learn about different food labelling systems and how to select foods for a specified dietary requirement.

In literacy, we will be learning to identify the difference between fact and opinion with appropriate explanation. We will also examine techniques used to influence the listener, for example, word choice, emphasis, tone and/or rhetorical questions. We will explore these things in relation to our Healthy Living topic. In reading, we will be learning about inferences.

In numeracy, we will be learning about number sequences and in maths we will be finding out about probability.

In PE, we are learning about striking and fielding games and the skills needed to play these. We will have a particular focus on Cricket.

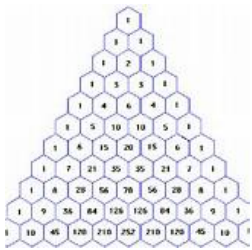
In RME, we will be learning about a world religion through exploration of Islam. We will explore practices, ceremonies, customs and ways of marking a major life event.



P6B have really enjoyed learning about natural disasters and have worked really hard investigating a variety of natural disasters.

They produced some super imagined personal responses, putting themselves into the shoes of a survivor of a natural disaster. As we move closer to the end of term, we will be investigating how to maintain good health as part of our interdisciplinary topic. We plan to investigate the interrelationship of daily physical activity, diet, rest and sleep on health and wellbeing. In addition to this, we will be looking at the food groups and creating a healthy eating plan for specific dietary requirements. We will continue this theme across the curriculum and learn about advertising before creating our own advertising campaign linked to a healthy living message. In numeracy and maths, we will move on to learn about number sequences and probability. As part of our learning in R.M.E, we will be investigating world religions, looking at stories and practices from Islam. Whilst in reading, we will focus on developing our inference skills. Please remember to ensure your child has a P.E kit as we

continue to work on striking and fielding in P.E. with Mrs Arnold.



P6C have a lot to look forward to as we approach the end of the session. We will be investigating stories from a world religion and expressing our opinions on the importance of traditions and customs from the same religion. In our final reading sequence of lessons, we are focusing on inference and will be responding to inferential questions to demonstrate understanding. In maths, we are looking at number sequences which will include activities featuring square numbers, triangular numbers, Pascal's triangle and the Fibonacci sequence. Our last topic is all about healthy lifestyle: physical activity, hydration, diet, and sleep. We will link this to advertising and persuasive techniques. I would like to say a huge thank you to P6C for a fantastic and positive year and I hope you have a brilliant year in P7!



P7A has benefitted from a range of transition events. They really enjoyed the recent PE/Literacy event at Knox. The PE event involved everyone working in mixed school groups, on a theme of countries, and circulating around a series of sports stations organised by Knox pupils. In the afternoon, the groups worked together to produce information posters with the Literacy department. Everyone worked really well and represented KMPS admirably. Well done. The Pathfinders transition group has experienced two day visits to Knox in advance of the general transition visit days on the 20th and 21st. Feedback from those involved in 7A was good. A number of teachers from Knox Academy have visited the school in the last few weeks to teach taster lessons to P7. 7A had a Geography lesson all about volcanoes.

7A sent a team to Meadowmill with Mrs Arnold. Well done to our sporting heroes - Kerr, Ben, Sam, Ruaraidh, Madeleine, Emma, Olivia and Amber.

We have started practising rugby skills and will be enjoying training sessions with the rugby development officer. There will be a rugby festival on 14th June.

We have been learning about Scottish Love in Action and their charitable work with orphans in Tuni, India. The orphanage/school is home to 500

children. The charity provides medical care, education and a home to street children of all ages. With this support, most of them attend further education and are able to gain a good job, which then allows them to return to their communities and help others. 7A will take part in a fundraising rice challenge to support the charity on Friday 9 June. The children have all been given a sponsor sheet to raise money and would really appreciate your support.



P7B have been learning about the work of the charity Scottish Love in Action. (www.sla-india.org) SLA supports destitute and vulnerable children in India. We have been comparing our lives with the lives of the children who live in one of SLA's home/schools. On Friday 9th June, the whole school is taking part in a fundraising event for SLA called 'The Rice Relay Challenge'. The classes will be competing against one another to see who can 'feed' 500 children the quickest! Please remember to sponsor us if you haven't already done so.

We have also been continuing our work on substance misuse. We have been researching drugs; both legal and illegal. In particular, we have been looking at reasons why people take these drugs and, more importantly, the risks associated with them. We also had a visit from our community police officer to tell us a bit more about drugs and the law.

After a very successful sports day, we have now moved on to rugby in PE. We have had one session with the Haddington RFC Development Officer and will have another couple after Benmore/Activity week.

In class maths, we have just finished looking at negative numbers and we are now moving on to volume. In numeracy groups, we are carrying on with our work on time.

The children have attended transition events at Knox; working with some of the staff and children from other cluster schools. The "Pathfinders" group have also been visiting Knox and trying to gather information for the rest of the year group. They have worked hard to find the answers to questions that 7B had.

The children are currently enjoying their Benmore/Activity week and I'm sure they will all be having great fun enjoying the range of activities on offer.

This term, P7 have been given the opportunity to plan and run our school Friday clubs for a 3 week block. They worked extremely hard to plan for these and have come up with a great selection of activities to offer. We held a marketplace and invited the rest of the school along to sign up for each club. The planning, delivery and resourcing will be the responsibility of the children; however, each club will be supported by an adult. The P7s seem very excited to be given this responsibility. 7B have also been working alongside the rest of P7 on an enterprise project with Virgin Money. Each group is planning and costing for the set up and running of a stall for our whole school "Fun afternoon" event on Thursday 8th June. We are hoping to "make £5 grow" and everyone is working hard to ensure that their stalls are a great success.

Auditions have been held for our end of term show "The next big step". All of the children who came along to try out for a speaking part were excellent and have made the job of choosing main parts difficult for the staff. Well done everyone! We will be starting to rehearse for this next week. You may hear your children humming or singing some of the songs from then onwards - some are very catchy!

We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting end to our year-there is a lot to do before we say farewell



P7C are now in their final month of Primary Seven and it promises to be a very busy one. I hope that the children

all had a fantastic time at Benmore and that those who stayed behind enjoyed their week of activities in school. We are now ready to begin practising for our Leavers' Assembly.

P7 are going to be organising and running two different enterprise events this term. The first is our Friday Club project. The children are working in groups of 6 to plan and deliver 3 Friday Club sessions in their chosen field. A variety of clubs has been offered to the rest of the school, including ball games, food from around the world, dance, gymnastic, rugby and art.

Our second enterprise project is "Make £5 Grow". This initiative is run by Virgin Bank. Each child in P7 has been given £5 and they are now working in groups to develop small businesses in order to make their money grow. The money they raise will be put towards the cost of their end of term trip.

In numeracy and maths, the children are still focusing on time but will then move onto to look at negative numbers and area.

Our class novel, "Abomination", is still ongoing and the children are really enjoying it. We have recently been writing poems about the main characters in the book.

The whole school will be taking part in the Scottish Love in Action Rice Relay Challenge. To support this event we have been learning in class about life in India and in particular looking at the daily life of children who live in the Light of Love children's home in Tuni, India.

To finish off I would like to say that 7C have been an amazing bunch! They are full of enthusiasm, positive energy and creativity. These are all qualities that I'm sure will stand them in good stead as they move on to Knox Academy and I wish them all the very best. Have a great summer!

Other important dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 14th - Rugby Festival 10am-12pm

Thursday 15th - P7 enterprise afternoon

Thursday 29th - P7 trip to Dunbar Leisure Pool and Lauderdale Park.



P7D have been very busy 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 made up of a mixture of pupils who will be in next session's S1. There were lots of stations with events for us to try. We tried high jump, timed running, gymnastics and even indoor curling. Well done to everyone who was involved in organising the event. The children will have two transition days at Knox on June 20th and 21st where they will meet their teachers, familiarise themselves with the school and, hopefully, make new friends.

As we have learning about Drug Education, PC Lynn Black has been into class to inform us of different drugs and how harmful they can be.

P7 had responsibility for being team leaders at Sports Day and worked with Mrs Arnold and S3 pupils to ensure that everyone was involved in the activities and the morning was a success.

After the visit to Benmore, we are going to be focusing on the Virgin Money Project. The children have already been busy working in groups to plan what kind of activities they would like to run at their stalls. The children will hold a 'Fun Afternoon' on Thursday 15th June where they hope to make a profit. We are also busy preparing for

the P7 end of term show 'The Next Big Steps' - more details to follow. The children who auditioned for speaking parts were excellent and we are in the process of allocating roles. 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. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting end to P7.



For some of you, this may be your last King's Meadow newsletter as your child/ren move on to high school. We would like to wish Primary 7 pupils and their parents best wishes as they move on to the next step of their educational journey.

As P7 move on to high school, we look 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 do to support your children and to wish pupils, parents and staff a very restful and relaxing summer holiday.

Leonard M. McCalliway



King's Meadow P.T.A.
June Update



Hope you've all enjoyed the recent sunshine. This is our last newsletter of this session but there's still plenty going on for the P.T.A.!

Round-Up of Recent Events



Our recent **P6 Challenge Night** held on **Tuesday 9th May** saw the kids, working in teams, take part in lots of fun games & activities. Everyone who attended gave it their all – the tug of war proving particularly popular as the grand finale! Congratulations to the winning team and thanks to everyone who both came along on the night & who were involved in the organisation.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary

**Joint Haddington Infant & King's Meadow
Schools P.T.A. BBQ
Friday 16th June, 5:30 – 7:30pm**



Following on from the success of last year's joint BBQ, we are delighted to announce that the P.T.A.'s of both schools will join forces for the final fundraising event of the School Year.

As well as the BBQ itself, there will be lots of activities to keep the kids busy giving the adults a chance to hopefully relax and chat!

We also plan on holding a **Second Hand Bike Sale** at the Summer BBQ – an event which has always proved popular.

Look out for flyers which will be issued shortly and please come along and support both P.T.A.'s.



**ADVANCE NOTICE!!
Table Top Sale
Saturday 23rd September**

A fantastic opportunity for the kids to have a good clear-out of their bedrooms! A chance to sell their pre-loved, good-quality toys, games, books, DVDs etc. for some extra pocket money, whilst also helping to raise some money for the P.T.A. More details to follow after the Summer Hols.



Parents and carers can request to join our Facebook group by visiting **King's Meadow PTA**.

easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Do it through easyfundraising.org.uk and raise a free donation for Kings Meadow Primary School every time you shop! 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!

How can I get involved?

**Next P.T.A. Meeting: Our A.G.M. - Tuesday 5th
September 2017, 6:30pm in the Meeting Room**