



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Summer is slowly drawing to a close and the nights are beginning to draw in however there are lots of exciting things going on in school that should help to banish the pre-winter blues.

You will shortly be having your first formal chance to meet with your child/ren's class teacher/s. This is a time for the two-way sharing of information. We look forward to meeting you.



OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 11th October and re-open for pupils as normal on Tuesday 22nd.



HELP REQUIRED



We are really keen to have additional support with Golden Time on a Friday. An extra pair of hands and eyes can make the difference between a good activity and a great activity. We would also be interested in hearing from parents who have a skill that they would

like to share.

The Meeting Room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Golden Time.



PARENT COUNCIL



The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Meeting Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 8th October. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**

P.T.A.



King's Meadow PTA is continuing to work hard to support our school. The cake stalls which worked so well last session will continue this year. The first one will be led by Primary 7 on Thursday,

October 10, at morning break.

Also, we will again be using Cauliflower Cards to print the children's Christmas cards and gift tags. This raised a lot of money last year and we are hoping that parents will continue to support us in this. The money raised has provided playground games, wet weather games and new accelerated reader books for our library.

There will be a disco for the Primary 4 on November 12. There will be more information about this soon.

Many thanks to all the parents and friends of the school for all the money that has been raised over the last year. This has been invaluable in enabling the school to provide the best possible resources for our children.



PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS



We have recently put some new equipment out into the playground. We were able to use donations from the PTA to buy this equipment, so a big **THANK YOU!**

Mr Smith (Depute Head) and Mrs Wilberforce (Parent Council) have been meeting to discuss how we can continue to improve the playground. They recently visited Whitecraig Primary School to see how they organise their 'loose play' materials. These are resources such as poles, tents, tyres and plastic sheets, which the children can use to make shelters and dens. We are hoping to introduce these

resources at King's Meadow after the October holiday.



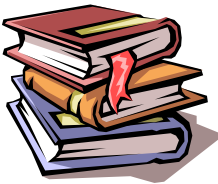
ROAD SAFETY

In the interest of the safety of your child/ren, we would urge parents **not to use the car park.** Children should, where possible, be encouraged to walk to school or, if they **have** to be brought by car, dropped off in one of the neighbouring streets.

If you do have to bring your child by car, please consider the safety of the other children who may be using this route to school. We would also encourage you to ensure that your child gets out the car on the pavement side rather than on to the road in the path of traffic.



BOOK FAIR WEEK



Our annual Book Fair will place from Monday 11th November to Friday 15th November. All classes will be allocated a viewing time for choosing books and a purchasing time later in the week. Parents/carers should not feel obliged to make purchases but any money raised will be used to buy books for our school library.



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.



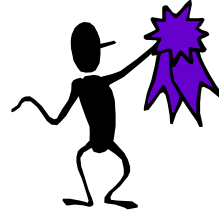
DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wednesday 3rd: Primary 7 will be having a visit from Sarah Cowie, Museum Services
- Wednesday 9th: P6 year group assembly
- Thursday 10th: PTA will be holding a baking stall for P7

- 14th - 21st inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Thursday 23rd: P6 visit to Dynamic Earth
- Tuesday 29th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Wednesday 30th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Tuesday 12th November: P4 Halloween Disco - PTA



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A have had a busy term. There have been many new routines and lots of information for the children to take in, but they have settled really well into King's Meadow and are

working very hard.

We have been celebrating success in 4A with various rewards. The children are enjoying earning lots of house points. We have had our first 'Star of the Week' and have given out many certificates for great work and modelling good behaviour, a positive attitude or thoughtfulness towards others.

Our topic at the moment is Haddington - Our Community. We began by looking at maps and identifying where Haddington is in Scotland. For homework, the children were asked to write a postcard from their favourite place in Scotland. We received some super postcards for the class (see the website for some examples).

As part of the mapping, we really enjoyed using the laptops to work on activities on the BBC website. This helped the class to learn about compass points, map symbols and keys. We used this to help us draw our own map from a 'Birds Eye View'.

We have also explored the different types of housing available in Haddington and discussed how housing can meet the needs of people in the community. The children have been given a homework task to draw their house from the outside, including as much detail as possible. These drawings will be part of a class display on our town.

A major part of this topic will be investigating how we can help our community. We are hoping to work with the countryside ranger to look at ways of reducing litter in our school playground as a starting point.

The focus for writing so far has been personal writing where the children have been working hard to use interesting words and include their feelings in order to interest and engage the reader. The children began

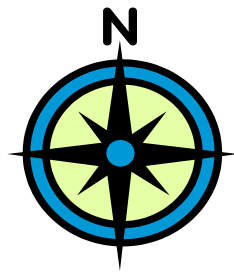
by writing about a 'Special Person'. The writing was excellent! Please look at our website for some examples.

We continued the personal writing theme with the children writing about themselves and sharing their feelings about their learning. Again, we had some super work. Our next piece of writing will be a list poem about 'My House'.

Swimming has been going really well with all the children coming back to school happy on a Wednesday morning. Last week, many of them were practising back stroke and even managing some hand stands in the pool! We have relied upon the help of parents to accompany the swimming groups so thank you so much to those who volunteered.

Over the next few weeks we will be focussing on number work in maths. We will be exploring and sharing mental and written strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

We are delighted that the children are using their journals regularly and are very organised with homework. It's been a super start to Primary 4. Keep up the effort, 4A!



P4B have enjoyed the start of our Haddington topic. We have been learning about Haddington's location within the UK and Scotland and this has led us on to looking at mapping. We have learned about scale,

grid references, compass points and keys. Linked to this we have been studying compass points and directions in maths and the children have all done very well with this.

This week in maths, I introduced the children to "Mathletics". This is a website that encourages the children to practise the skills they have been learning in maths through earning points and credits. They can practise their mental maths by playing live against children from all over the world. The website can be accessed at home with their passwords at the following web address www.mathletics.co.uk.

The children have also been reflecting on the strengths and skills they would like to develop by writing their own school report. Through doing this I have learned a lot about the children's varied

interests along with their ambitions and hopes for the future.

We are continuing to work very hard on Accelerated Reader (A.R.). Many of the children have earned 100% in their book quizzes and are now members of our "Class 4B 100% Club". As a class we have now read 124,726 words and the children are enjoying seeing this wordcount rising every week. The children began taking their AR books home last week and I would recommend that they read these books for 20 minutes a night.

At the moment, we have a student teacher for the University of Edinburgh working in 4B. Her name is Miss Armstrong and she will be with us until the 18th of October.

With the October holidays coming up I hope that all of the children and their families have a good break and I look forward to seeing them again in the new term.



P4C have had a busy start at King's Meadow! Over the last few weeks we have been learning a lot of new things. Our topic has been on Haddington. We have looked at maps of the UK and labelled Scotland, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales,

East Lothian and Haddington. We have also thought about, and drawn, our four favourite places in Haddington.

Since we were looking at maps, in maths we thought it would be a good idea to improve our mapping skills. We have done a lot of work on compass directions. We created our own maps, where there was hidden treasure to find, and wrote out directions to get to it! We were also learning about the other key things needed to read a map properly - grid references, the scale and the key.

In writing, we have been doing a lot of personal writing. We have just completed our 'School Report', where we had to write about our feelings regarding different subjects in the curriculum. We have just started to write out our final drafts so they can go up on the wall for everyone to see!

In the upcoming weeks, we will be continuing to learn about Haddington. We will be looking at the different types of housing in Haddington and thinking about who would live where. We will also be using housing in our writing. We will be creating a list poem about our own

houses! We will also be starting to do work in maths on the laptops - on a website called 'Mathletics'. Here, we will get to practice our mental maths and get to compete against other children from all over the world!



P4D's first month at Kings Meadow has been very busy and packed full of exciting activities. The class finished their first piece of writing, My Special Person, and these are displayed proudly with photographs and drawings. The pupils are just finishing their second piece of writing, a School Report. The pupils have written a personal account of their favourite subjects in the form of two stars and a wish. Over the next few weeks we will start writing a list poem describing our home and how it makes us feel. Through our local study topic, the class have been focusing on mapping. The class designed their own map including a compass, key, scale and grid references. The pupils worked in pairs to describe and record simple instructions for turning left and right, through a right angle and using a four point compass. The class have enjoyed reading their Accelerated Reading book in class every day and are enthusiastic about taking a quiz. The class 100% club is bursting with stickers. Well done Primary 4D!

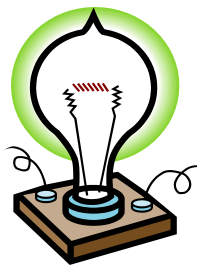


P5A's Electricity project is progressing very well. So far, children have been surprised to discover that not all metals are magnetic and that some materials are much better insulators or conductors than expected. In addition, we have been using the term 'hypothesis' to describe what we anticipate the outcome of an experiment will be. On Monday, 30 September, staff from Torness Power Station will visit each class to demonstrate how nuclear power is used to generate electricity. P5 Club Golf is now in full swing! So far we have practised the chipping and full launch swings and have been practising the correct stance and club grip. Everyone is progressing very well. Bee Friendly - We are soon to start our John Muir Project which will be focused on improving the

school grounds. There are a lot of young trees to replant and areas of garden at the front of the school which we want to develop to encourage bees and other pollinators. In addition, we need to try to save the willow tunnel which, unfortunately, has been damaged over the summer holidays. If any parents would like to volunteer to support this project either with your time or with plant/bulb donations, please speak to Mrs Murray in 5A. Thank you.



P5B have had a busy month! Our topic this term has been electricity. The children have enjoyed carrying out the electricity experiments, especially, building the circuits. In writing, the children have been learning how to write up scientific experiments using interesting new terms like hypothesis. In P.E., the children are having good fun participating in club golf with Mrs Murray. Thank you to our parent helpers for volunteering to help out with this. The children are enjoying getting to grips with the new Accelerated Reader programme. Many children have scored well in the AR tests that they have sat. A few children are even members of the 100% club! 5B have made a superb job of designing and colouring their Christmas cards which will be available to order soon. Our theme for the cards is robins. Next term, our topic will be friction, light and sound. We will also be looking at Sikhism in RME. We look forward to meeting all parents at the October parents' evenings.

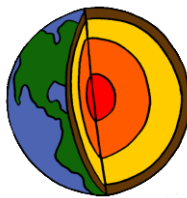


P5C have settled extremely well into an established routine in what can only be described as a very busy term. Miss Gillan has commented on our studious manner in ICT and is very pleased with the progress we are making. We thoroughly enjoyed the highly informative and enjoyable visit from Torness Power Station's education department. The visit really added depth to our understanding of generating electricity. The experiments in static electricity, magnetism and circuits we have undertaken were a big hit. I think there are more

than a few budding scientists among us! Mr Connell has been really impressed with the care that 5C has taken when designing and completing their Christmas card designs for our fundraising enterprise this winter. Every card is of very high quality and are going to be a 'must have' on your shopping list for Christmas I'm sure! Mrs Arnold has started our Club Golf and we are working on our position and movement when taking different shots. Thank you to the Parents who volunteered their time to help, you are very much appreciated! Accelerated Reader continues to build momentum as more of us achieve status in the 100% club. Reading is a hot topic in the class and 5C are regularly using the quiet garden in our break times to squeeze a little more reading into our day. A few of our class were lucky enough to visit The Hub in Tranent recently. We met Jamie's teachers and had a chance to take part in a sensory lesson. We plan to share our findings with the rest of our class soon. In the coming term we plan to further our thirst for scientific discovery when investigating friction, light and sound. Productions start for our Christmas Assembly extraordinaire: singing, prop design, costumes, lights, cameras, action. Can you tell we are excited?



P6A have had a busy few weeks. Our Roald Dahl day was a great success with lots of fantastic costumes. The adults enjoyed being Oompa Loompas for the day. In our topic work we have moved onto our study about The Solar System. The children have a piece of class homework to complete about a planet in our Solar System. Our trip to Dynamic Earth is confirmed for Wednesday the 23rd of October. Children should come to school as normal and we will be out of school all day. This year again, the whole school are designing Christmas Cards to be made by Cauliflower Cards. Your child's design will be coming home on Tuesday the 1st of October and orders should be back to school by Friday the 4th. Preparation for our Assembly continues apace, with singers, dancers and actors practising their roles. We are performing on Wednesday the 9th of October at 9.30am and tickets will be arriving home shortly. We look forward to seeing you then.



P6B have been working hard. In Topic, we have been finding out about the Earth's layers. We also learned how Aristotle worked out that the earth was a sphere. In the next few weeks, we will be making plasticene models showing the different layers within our Earth, as well as participating in some practical science activities related to our topic.

In P.E, the class have been working on their fitness levels. Congratulations to Iris and Elise, who were the last two standing at the end of the BLEEP Test. Well done, girls! The class will be working on their Volleyball skills next.

Accelerated Reader is going very well indeed. At the moment, we have four members of the 100% Club- this means they have achieved five scores of 100%. Well done, Finlay, Lewis, Adam and Euan. I am sure there will be many more members joining this club in the near future. It has been lovely to see so many children with their noses in a book! Many of them have been choosing to read at breaks and lunchtimes in the quiet garden area of the school.



P6C are nearly at the end of a busy first term. Lots of children in the class came dressed in fantastic costumes for Roald Dahl Day. We all had great fun having a fashion show, watching 'The Magic Finger' and melting in the Chocolate factory.

We are in the middle of our Solar System Topic and the children are enjoying looking at the different planets and are keen to find out if there is any life out there! We also have our trip to Dynamic earth on the 23rd of October, which the children are very much looking forward to.

Rehearsals are well underway for the Harvest Assembly, but there is still a lot of hard work ahead of us before show day! The children will need their holiday to recharge for Term 2!



P7A have been very busy lately preparing for their WW2 museum and their rugby festival. We have had some GREAT homework from all classes including some amazing war time baking, Anderson shelters and if

you go to the Kings Meadow website you can see more of the cool gas masks that 7A made!

Earlier this week the year group experienced an air raid when they had to grab their gas masks and take cover under the table. We had a couple of casualties and we want to say get well soon to Campbell who sadly got injured in the incident. (By a pencil pot!)

Some people have been chosen to play hockey with Mrs Arnold on Friday and hopefully most of them will make the team to go to Meadowmill. We will also be having a rugby festival with Scott Marnoch. We have been practising our rugby skills for a few weeks in preparation for this.

We will update you with all new information in the next newsletter and the school website. 7A have some photos of our gas masks in our class web page. It would be great to have comments on our postings. By the news team (Sophie, Dillon and Jessica)



P7B have been learning more about our topic of WW2 in the last month. We have been learning about rationing, evacuees, the home guard as well as the various leaders in WW2. We have been linking WW2 to

our writing and art lessons. We have also made gas masks and are now prepared if the air raid siren goes off in school. We have been receiving lots of fantastic homework, including Anderson shelters, for our museum which we hope to get started next week.

Over the next month we will be taking a trip to the John Gray Centre and we will take part in a rugby festival. We have a special guest coming into our class to talk about creating the P7 museum and will be taking lots of hints and tips from her.

We have all been working hard reading various different books and completing AR quizzes. We are delighted to say that we have lots of members of the class in the 100% club. We all look forward to the next month in P7B.



P7C would have been found under their desks last week when we practised what to do when the WW2 air raid siren was sounding in school! In maths, the children learned to

use accurate measuring to plan and make gas mask boxes and masks. They enjoyed having the opportunity to use them. In writing we have been imagining what it was like to be an ARP Warden during The Blitz or what it felt like to be evacuated to country and separated from you family. We have learned a lot about the rationing of goods, with some delicious homework coming in, and many of us found it challenging to buy a year's wardrobe of clothes with only 48 coupons. Over the next few weeks P7C will begin to learn more about the treatment of Jews during WW2 by investigating the life of Anne Frank. We also have a planned trip to the John Gray Centre to learn more about spies and code cracking and our local Museums' Education Officer will be visiting on October 3rd to help the children plan their own interactive museum. Reading continues to be a huge focus in P7 and we have been learning to "read like a detective, write like a reporter" by mind-mapping and summarising what we know of a text so far. We are looking for photos of children reading their AR books in unusual places.....send them in! Rugby is continuing on Wednesdays, with a final "festival" on Tuesday 8th October.