



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

As I look out from my office, I can see the leaves on the trees in the courtyard turning yellow and one lonely apple on our tree waiting to drop. This can only mean that we are well into our Autumn term. The children have settled in their new classes and made a good start to the session. I've certainly seen lots of children for Positive Referrals!

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.

### PARENT COUNCIL



There have been some changes to the Parent Council's Constitution. This can be viewed via the following link: <http://www.edubuzz.org/kingsmeadow/wp-content/blogs.dir/968/files/2008/08/ConstUpdate.099.pdf> Parents wishing to respond should contact the Parent Council via their email address, [parentcouncil@kingsmeadow.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@kingsmeadow.elcschool.org.uk), by noon on Tuesday the 21st October.

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 21st October. **All parents/carers are welcome to attend.**



### OCTOBER HOLIDAY

The school will close at the usual time on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October and re-open for pupils as normal on Tuesday 21st.



### FRIDAY CLUBS



We are really keen to have additional support when we start our Friday Clubs on the 31st. 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 - we will support you. For our first block of clubs, you would only need to make a commitment to 6 x 45 minute sessions. The Meeting Room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



### PLEASE REMEMBER

If you have not done so already, to return your child's Annual Data Check form as soon as possible, additional copies of this form can be obtained from the School Office.

- Payments for trips, photographs, school milk etc can all be paid online at: [www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit](http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit)
- Your child should come to school with everything they need for that day and/or after school activity. In order to relieve the pressure on the office, we will no longer make telephone calls home to request any items to be brought in during the school day.



### ROAD SAFETY

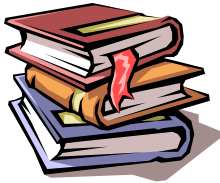


We would like to remind parents/carers that, despite having traffic restrictions at the beginning and end of the school day, Neilson

Park Road and Victoria Road are not traffic free. This means that there is still the possibility of residents and permit holders using the road during this time. In the interests of safety we would advise pedestrians to stay on the pavement and not to stray on to the road. We would be grateful if parents/carers could remind their children of this. If you notice cars without permits using the road during restricted times please contact the police by using their non-emergency telephone number, 101.



### BOOK FAIR WEEK



Our annual Book Fair will place from Monday 10th November to Friday 14th 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 to top up our sets of group novels.



### 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

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: P7A Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup>: Special Assembly - invited parents only.
- 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup>: Whole school flu vaccination
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup>: Friday Club (1 of 6)
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November: Friday Club ( 2 of 6)
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup>: P7B Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (3 of 6)
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup>: Friday Club (4 of 6)

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup>: P7B Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (5 of 6)



### AROUND THE CLASSES



**P4A** have been working very hard over the past few weeks and delved into learning all about pirates. The children have been working hard during writing to create wonderful short stories and pirate letters. They have enjoyed researching and reading information to learn about where pirates travelled, what they wore, the features of pirate ships and discovered different pirate myths and facts. The children have been creating their own PowerPoints based around a famous pirate they have researched. In maths, after learning all about shape properties, we have made some 3D shape models. We are now making our own pirate treasure maps using co-ordinates. Whilst some of us are at swimming, we have been investigating floating and sinking and are going to try and make our own pirate ships that float. Please remember, the children need their swimming kit every Wednesday and a P.E kit every Monday. Homework should be completed for a Thursday. The children have now completed their STAR tests and will begin using Accelerated Reader. Additionally, they have had a book to practise reading at home and in class. This might mean that reading groups may be re-organised slightly to reflect your child's development. You will be notified of any changes.



**P4B** have all survived our first few weeks as the lovely Primary 4B class! I want to thank the children for being so positive about the changes in classes and thank the parents for their support at home. It has been lovely having the children coming in smiling, being ready and positive for the day ahead. We have been exploring the Scottish Government and independence vote through looking at how we make decisions in class and how to be kind and fair to each other. Friendship has been a big focus within our class and we have used Monsters University as a stimulus to explore how to make friends, how to be a good friend

and how to recognise our own and other's talents in the classroom. The children have been fantastic during this and it has been a pleasure seeing friendships blossom.

As some of you may be aware, the children have all completed Star Assessment quizzes in school which have generated a ZPD score of reading for each individual child. At King's Meadow, we are actively encouraging the children to read lots, but more importantly enjoy the reading they are doing. Accelerated Reader allows the children to use their ZPD to select books at their level of understanding and take quizzes and earn points. The focus here is about their understanding rather than their ability to just read the words. This may mean that reading groups could be re-organised slightly to reflect your child's development. I appreciate Accelerated Reader is new to you all and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about it.



**P4/5** have all had a busy term and have been working hard! There have been lots of new routines and information to take on board but everyone has settled in well ☺

Through our topic, we have been finding out what qualities a superhero would have and have discovered that we are all superheroes! We have learned that people can be "smart" in different ways and have identified our own strengths- thinking both about what we do in and out of school.

We have been finding out about different superheroes by reading and highlighting key information, taking notes under suitable headings and using these to create new texts. We have used the internet in our ICT time to use a search engine and find specific information for our task. We have also created our own superheroes and decided on which super powers they would have. We had to think about how they became a superhero and what their weakness might be. We had fun thinking about their disguise and creating a mask to conceal their identity!

We have been looking at newspaper articles and have identified the key features included in these. We have given thought to writing our own article about our superheroes in action!

In Maths, we have been looking at the properties of 3D shapes and can identify the number of edges, vertices and faces these have. In Numeracy, we have been looking at place value; the value of digits within numbers, ordering numbers and rounding numbers to the nearest 10/100.

P5 have been enjoying participating in the Club Golf sessions with Miss Smith this term. They will have a final session with Kate Green, our golf development officer, on Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> October where they can show off all the skills they have learned☺

Everyone had great fun celebrating Roald Dahl day and we were pleasantly surprised by the amount of effort put in to dressing up - well done everyone! The class enjoyed participating in different lessons; creating dreams with the BFG, helping George to design a new medicine for Gran and inventing a way to keep Wonka's chocolate from melting☺

The class are enjoying earning both table points in class and house points for their team. We have been celebrating success by handing out many certificates for great work and modelling good behaviour, a positive attitude or being thoughtful towards others. Well done everyone on a positive start to our year and keep up the good work!



**P5A** have had great fun this term, learning all about golf and the Ryder Cup. Who knows, maybe we have the next Rory McIlroy in our class right now! A huge thank you to all of the

helpers who supported us during our PE lessons. We genuinely couldn't have done it without you! Our game session with the Golf Development Officer has changed to Tuesday 7th October 9:00-10:15. Any helpers on that day would be greatly appreciated as we need one adult per hole of the course.

Moving on, our next topic is going to be electricity. The children will, again, have the opportunity to reflect on their knowledge on this topic and come up with their own questions to answer. There will be lots of hands on experimentation and hopefully a few light bulbs being switched on in their heads.

This topic will only be over 2-3 weeks, depending on where the children want to go with it. Afterwards we will be moving onto a country comparison project. At the beginning of the year, the children chose Brazil as the country they most wanted to learn about. We will be looking at lots of different aspects of the country,



from the climate and landscape to the language and culture. Throughout we will be making comparisons to Scotland. I can see lots of opportunities in the expressive arts and I my aim is to have the children dancing by the end of the project.

In other curricular areas, we are continuing with Accelerated Reader and Book Detectives in reading, working on rules and patterns in spelling and focussing on our number skills in numeracy. After the October break, the children will also have to opportunity to work with Mr Connell, our art specialist, which they are very excited about.

There are lots of exciting things to look forward to!



**P5B** are coming to the end of their topic about the Ryder Cup. Many thanks to everyone who sent in articles for our display and to those who gave their time to come in and support the delivery of Club Golf. The children will be participating in a final golf session on the morning of Thursday, October 9. I would be very grateful if any parents were able to join us that morning to support the children. If you are interested in coming along, please put a note in your child's diary.

Next week we will begin a new topic about "Electricity", covering the following CfE outcomes:

- *I have collaborated in experiments to compare magnetic, electrostatic and gravitational forces and have explored their practical applications. SCN2-08a.*
- *I have used a range of components to help make a variety of circuits and I can represent my circuit using symbols and describe the transfer of energy around the circuit. SCN2-09a*

Later in the session we will take part in the John Muir Project. As part of this, we will be looking at particular trees through the seasons and noting changes etc. I would like the children to choose a tree they would like to follow throughout the year and so would like to take them on a walk around the River Tyne on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 29- weather permitting!. I would be delighted if any parents, grandparents etc would be able to come with us. We would be leaving school at 1.15 and returning by 3.00.

I look forward to meeting you at the Parents, Nights on October 7 and 8.

Dear Parents/Carers

My name is Jenni McBirnie and I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year teaching student from Edinburgh University, on placement at Kings Meadow Primary School. I am currently working with Mrs Gilfillan and P5B for 4 weeks. Then I will spend a further 5 weeks working with Mrs MacDonald and P7A at the beginning of November. The staff and children have all been very welcoming and I am really looking forward to being part of the school community.



**P5C** are making their best efforts to settle into an established routine in what can only be described as a very busy term. Homework routines have taken hold and I am heartened to see the fantastic effort being made a cross reading, spelling and maths at home. Thank you to all involved in the support you are giving us.

Mrs Roberts, our music specialist, continues to be impressed by the care that 5C takes when listening to and carrying out instructions when playing the tuned percussion instruments. The class were asked to demonstrate their skills to others, which I know 5C enjoyed a great deal.

We have been busily designing and completing our Christmas cards for ordering soon. Every card is of very high quality and will be a 'must have' on your shopping list for Christmas, I'm sure! Accelerated Reader continues to build momentum as more of us achieve results and build our word count with every quiz. It is great to see so much enthusiasm and success in reading! We have just completed Mr Stink, written by David Walliams, as our class novel. This was a very popular story and I look forward to finding out what the class vote as our next good read.

In maths, Ms Gillan continues to work with the class on compass points and co-ordinates while I work on whole number, rounding, addition and subtraction on the alternative days.

Mrs Arnold has been working with the class on Club Golf skills. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered their time to help, you are very much appreciated!

If any parents of P5C have any available time in the week to volunteer in class there are always rich and rewarding ways you can support the work we do, including; playing maths games, supporting reading or writing tasks. You would be made very welcome.

Please just let me know through our home-school diary if you can help.

In the coming weeks our topic will be Electricity and Magnetism. The class were able to tell me a great deal about what they already know about the subject and have asked fantastic questions which, when answers are explored, will broaden our understanding of such a fascinating subject. The experiments in static electricity we have already undertaken have proved a big hit as the children transfer their new found skills to become the next *Dynamo!*



**P5/6** have been working hard over the past few weeks. In Topic, we have chosen candidates who are running for election to be our class representative on the School Parliament. Our candidates are Daniel, Sandy, Sam, Matthew, Brooke, Amber, Rachel and Louisa. Each party has created their own policies, made manifestos and working on creating different media to promote their candidate. Each candidate will be asked to write and make a speech before our class election on the 1st October. Good luck to all of the candidates!

P5 pupils have enjoyed playing Club Golf with 5C and Mrs Arnold on Wednesday mornings. They have been developing chipping, putting and driving skills. P5/6 will be participating in a Club Golf tournament on Thursday 9th October at Neilson Park. P6 have been enjoying rugby taster sessions and have been learning how to be good team players. Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to support us with Club Golf and rugby.

In music with Mrs Roberts, we have been developing our guitar skills. We have been learning how to read music and to play melodies rather than chords. Mrs Roberts is really pleased with our progress - well done P5/6! P5 pupils will be taking part in a taster session for the National Youth Choir of Scotland Singing Groups on Tuesday 30th September. Letters will be sent home with further information.



**P6A** children have been busy learning about the work of the Scottish Parliament. The class enjoyed their visit from the Outreach Service when they formed parties and took part in an

election. The children are looking forward to the visit by Iain Gray MSP, who is coming into school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October for a question and answer session.

The class have been working hard in their political parties to create manifestos, badges and posters. The elections for the P6A school parliament representative takes place on Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October and party leaders have been given a sheet to help them write their speeches.

The class are up and running with Accelerated Reader and the P6A word count is over 1 million words already!

P6A have been having rugby taster sessions with Scott Marnoch, the Rugby Development Officer, for the last few weeks. These sessions have been fun and the children have improved their ball handling and game skills. In school, P6A have been focussing on hockey in PE. The class have been taking full responsibility for their teams by being players, referees, scorekeepers and coaches.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch.



**P6B** have had a very exciting few weeks. There were some fantastic costumes modelled during our fashion show as part of our celebration of Roald Dahl. We loved reading 'The Magic Finger' and used the story as inspiration for our own piece of creative writing.

As part of our Scottish Parliament topic, we have chosen candidates who are running for election to the School Parliament. Good luck to: Tom, Marcus, Olivia, Amelia, Keir and Stuart. The candidates have been supported by their political parties to create their own names, logos, policies, manifestos and posters. On the 1st of October, the candidates will make a speech before the votes are cast in the class election. We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Scottish Parliament Outreach Team during which we passed the Reintroduction of Native Species (Wolves) Act 2014.

We have appreciated our rugby taster sessions in the autumn sunshine. As well as improving our ball handling skills we have been developing teamwork and co-operation. In P.E. with Mrs Arnold, we have been taking on various roles including referee. Mrs Arnold is delighted with the progress we have made.

Learning French is a very exciting part of P6 and so far we have sung the months of the year, made birthday cards for our classmates and started to use classroom commands. Don't be surprised if you are asked to 'asseyez vous' and 'ecoutez' in P6B!

**P7A** have been finding out about life at the Home Front during WW2. We have created family groups and wrote character biographies about the people in them. Some families have some really interesting stories to share. Grandfather Leroy Jenkins has a wooden leg which he can detach when he has a bath or goes to bed. His granddaughter Maggie turned 17 two weeks ago and for her birthday she got a repainted bicycle that used to belong to her dad!



We have also been discovering what life might have been like for evacuees. We wrote letters.

Eleanor wrote: 'When we got off the train we were all ready for a hot meal and a warm bed but before that the teachers took us to the town hall and lined us up in order of our second name. We were last of course as we are Willow. The billeting officer was a hard man who looked like he never smiled. He was shouting at some other children at the other end of the line then he came to us and told us to take of our labels and give them to him. After a moment [it felt like hours] he said he had a sister who would take us in, and away we went to meet her.'

Verity wrote a letter as though she was a mum: 'How is your little brother? It is terrible that a six year old is alone for so long. I was talking to Mary from the flat up stairs the other day and she says her grandson is only a bit younger than our Henry and he gets to go with his mum. Henry is too wee to get his own letter but tell him that mummy loves him and he is my big brave boy.'

We are going to learn about 'food and farming in WW2' when we visit The Hirsal Estate to take part in the Coop 'From farm to fork' workshops. The Coop in Haddington is kindly providing us with the vegetables we will need for our cooking task. We will also be learning about rationing as part of this outing.

WW2 homework has been fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this. In 7A we have had many examples of food such as carrot treats,



potato and cheese dumplings, lentil soup, oatcakes, bramble jelly. People have also been busy cooking at home - the toad in the whole and the corn beef fritters looked tasty! Our Anderson shelters are amazing and they will all be on display in our area. 7A are certainly showing their creativity through these tasks.



**P7B** have been very busy this month as we continue to enjoy learning about WW2. We have been creating very detailed and descriptive pieces of writing about evacuees, the blitz and rationing. In music, we have composed and created various sound tracks to various events in WW2 and, in drama, we have produced short plays about evacuation. We are looking forward to our trip to the Borders at the end of October. Where we will be visiting The Hirsal Farm, as part of their Farm to Fork programme, and learning all about farming and food. We will also be taking an exciting trip to the John Gray Centre where we will learn more about propaganda. There are lots of exciting things coming up as we look forward to another month in 7B.



**P7C** have been learning about WW2 in lots of lessons like music where we hope to perform to the year group. We will be singing several WW2 songs and dancing to the cheery tune 'In the Mood' by Glen Millar. In topic, we have made gas masks, written biographies and are writing letters home from an imaginary evacuee and we sometimes watch videos about the war. Our reading books are based on the war as well. Art with Mr Connell is on Tuesdays and we are drawing soldiers and nurses. We are also going on a trip to The Hirsal Estate in Coldstream to learn all about WW2 farming and cooking. It is over an hour on the bus because it is in the borders. In PE with Mrs Arnold, we are using Sport Education which means we choose teams and then our coaches and captains hold the lesson and teach us what they have planned. We are playing hockey at the moment.  
By Eilidh Graham 7C