



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy start to the new session including updating our school website. We would be delighted if you would take a look at this and make a comment on your child/ren's class page/s. (Please note: The website is not monitored on a daily basis so please do not use the website to contact the school for any other reason.)

Parent/Carers' meetings take place before the October break. 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 14th October and re-open for pupils, as normal, on Tuesday 25th.



PARENT COUNCIL



Unfortunately, the September meeting of the council failed to appoint a chair. If you would be interested on taking on this role, or just being part of the council, please come along to the next meeting which takes place in the Drama Room at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd November.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend

PTA



The PTA meets regularly and new members are very welcome. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4th October at 6.30pm in the Meeting Room.

Please see our page on the school website to read our latest newsletter.



FRIDAY CLUBS



We would really like to have some additional support when we start our Friday Clubs on the 28th. This session's clubs are: Art; Board Games; Chess; Choir; Create, Act, Record; Dance; Food Prep; French; I Can Animate; Invasion Games; Nature Detectives; Portrait Drawing; Quiz; Science; Scratch; Sewing and Table Tennis. For our first block of clubs, you would only need to make a commitment to 7 x 60 minute sessions or you could just come along when you can. A room is available for parents to meet, have a coffee and a chat before or after Friday Clubs.



BOOK FAIR WEEK

Our annual Book Fair will place from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th 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.



HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS



As you may know from our Development Plan (available on our website, along with our Standards and Quality Report), we are looking at the development of Higher Order Thinking Skills. As part of this, we have been considering De Bono's 6 Thinking Hats. P5 have posted some of the work they have been doing on their webpages. You might find the following link interesting:

https://youtu.be/Rwu1YlveU_4



BIKES AND SCOOTERS



Children who bring bikes or scooters to school do so at their own risk. We would encourage children to secure them to the bike shelter with a padlock and make sure that they take them home at the end of the day.



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.



FLU IMMUNISATION



A reminder that for King's Meadow, this will take place on **Thursday 6th October**.

The following link provides answers to frequently asked questions:
<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/HealthInformation/PrimarySchoolFluVaccination/Documents/PrimarySchoolFluProgrammeParentFAQs.pdf>



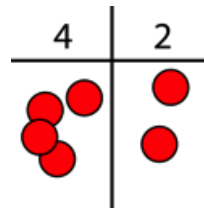
DATES FOR THE DIARY



- Friday 6th October: Whole school flu immunisation
- Friday 7th: P7B Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am.
- Tuesday 11th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Wednesday 12th: 4-7pm Parent/Carers' Meetings
- Friday 14th: Special Assembly - invited parents only.
- 15th to 24th inclusive: HOLIDAY
- Friday 28th: Friday Club (1 of 7)
- Friday 4th November: Friday Club (2 of 7)
- Friday 11th: Friday Club (3 of 7)
- Friday 18th: Friday Club (4 of 7)
- Friday 25th: P7C Assembly. Parents/carers of this class are welcome to join us at 9.00 am. Friday Club (5 of 7)



AROUND THE CLASSES



P4A enjoyed our Olympics project and have demonstrated some fine PowerPoint skills to display some of the information they have researched. Our new topic is called the Magic Castle and we will be working hard to decorate our classroom and complete some pieces of writing to show our guests from the Infant School.

In numeracy, we have finished our place value topic and are moving on to addition and subtraction. In maths, we are now looking at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We plan to use mental maths, number games, practical activities and written work to develop our understanding and skills. The Problem of the Week is proving popular, with quite a few house points being given out for good explanations of solutions. Please continue to use the Mathematics website if you wish to practise number work at home.

A new way of looking at higher order thinking skills has been introduced to class this term. It is De Bono's Six Thinking Hats. There are 6 different coloured hats and each one allows you to look at a problem or question from a different viewpoint. This has been

introduced to the class this term and will continue to be used throughout the year to help develop higher order thinking.

Please remind your child to bring their homework diaries and spelling jotters to class every day. The diary has the passwords that they need for things like AR tests and the spelling jotter allows us to take our active spelling outside of the classroom.

Finally, on the subject of AR, we have our first class member on the achievement wall beside the library with over 50,000 words read already. As this term progresses I am hoping that many more pupils from the class will make it onto the wall. Please support your child with their reading homework and reading for pleasure so that we can get as many pupils as possible onto the wall.



P4B's new IDL topic is 'The Magic Castle'. This is a literacy based topic focusing on Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking and Social Studies. We will be learning about the features of different castles and what life was like for the people who used to live in them. We are also hoping to turn our classroom into the Great Hall of a Medieval Castle.

A secret panel has appeared in the classroom and the children are writing imaginative stories based on what could be behind the panel or where it might lead them - an enchanted forest, haunted castle or even under the sea. Through this writing activity the children will be using their knowledge of adjectives, structuring their writing using paragraphs and reading their work through at the end to check it makes sense. We are hoping to share our completed Secret Panel pieces with P3 children from the Infant School.

We have also been developing our higher order thinking skills using Edward De Bono's 6 Thinking Hats. This is a tool that can be used when completing group discussions or individual tasks, involving 6 coloured hats. Each of the hats represents one kind of thinking. Our introductory lesson involved listening to the 'Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson, then splitting into 6 different groups and completing a task using one of the

thinking hats. Please ask your child what each of the coloured hats mean.

In Numeracy (Monday/Tuesday), we will be focusing on addition and subtraction using both mental and written strategies. It would be good if you could encourage your child to play Mathematics live in order to continue to develop the speed and accuracy of their mental arithmetic. In Maths (Wednesday/Thursday), our lessons will be based on 2D and 3D shape and will link with our Magic Castle topic.



P4C have impressed me greatly with how quickly they have settled into new surroundings and routines - it has been a real pleasure to get to know the individuals in my care. It is also heartening to see the fantastic efforts being made across reading, spelling and maths homework. Thank you to all involved in the support you are giving us.

Our new topic is called 'The Magic Castle' and is a literacy based project inspiring creative writing, reading, talking and listening tasks. We plan to investigate life of medieval times within a castle and convert a section of our classroom into a great hall. We are going to write a story about a secret panel within our class and the magic its contents will bring! We plan to invite some children from Haddington Infant School to come and listen to our stories, giving us a chance to share our excellent work with a 'live audience'.

In numeracy, we have just completed our place value revisit and are about to jump head first into a super addition and subtraction topic. We will be firming our knowledge and speeding up recall of number bonds to 10, 20 and 100 - solving problems using formal written and mental calculations.

We have been busily designing and completing fundraising Christmas cards. Every card is of very high quality and will be a "must have" on your shopping list for Christmas, I'm sure!

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 sharing, J.K. Rowling's, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone over the next few weeks.

If any parents of P4C 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 let me know through our home-school diary if you can help.



P5A have completed 5 "Titanic" missions in class covering the building of our own Titanic, researching interesting facts to make fact files up, finding out about the

different classes on Titanic and creating our own fictional Titanic passengers and making biographies for them. We have used these characters to create our own diaries about being on board and surviving the sinking. We are currently working on an evacuation plan for our class, should an emergency happen in school - there will be plenty lifeboats to get P5A out! The class have been using their Higher Order Thinking Skills throughout our topic switching their De Bono Thinking Hats from white (facts), green (Creative), red (Feelings) and we'll soon be using our black hats to give our opinions.

The class has performed extremely well in class maths and we have now covered two digit grid references. We have mastered the language of direction and co-ordinates and can accurately plot points on a grid. We will soon be moving onto angles which is a natural progression to our last topic of co-ordinates. In group numeracy, we are learning more about addition and subtraction.

We continue to enjoy having the expertise of the Mrs Arnold for PE and the children have been enjoying learning and playing netball. There are lots of rules and positions in this game and the class have risen to the challenge. Mr Connell is working with the children in Art and he has been helping them create some stunning pictures of the Titanic. I'm really impressed with the children's work - they are going to look magnificent when they are finished.

French has been a big hit in the classroom. We are currently making cartoon strips of our "French" characters greeting each other, telling each other how they feel and asking each other their name.

They are incredibly colourful and artistic and I'm sure that you will love seeing them on parents' night along with the children's other work.

I look forward to meeting you all at Parents Night and sharing your child's progress with you. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.



P5B hope you are visiting our web page to see photos of our activities. Please post a comment to show you are following our busy school days!

Unfortunately, one of our rugby sessions was cancelled but we have been practising our passing skills and

are looking forward to the P5 rugby festival on Wednesday 28th September. In PE, with Mrs Arnold, we have been working on using space in games and are now quite familiar with netball. As you will have noticed from our web page, we go out for PE even when it is wet!

We are extremely knowledgeable about the Titanic. We have recently created characters that might have sailed on Titanic and wrote biographies about them.

In Bella William's suitcase she has a photograph of her grandparents because they passed away recently. She also has her grandmother's teddy from when she was very young. One of the teddy's eyes was missing but that made it even more precious to Bella. (Beth)

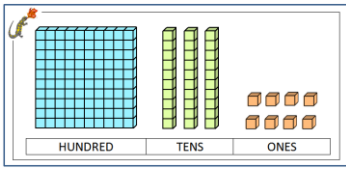
There are lots of pieces of great writing related to this topic -

The ship is so tall I couldn't even see the funnels from the dockside. It was so busy and loud I couldn't hear mum and I just about got lost. The walkway was so big. I saw Captain Smith. He was checking the ship. I also saw Auntie Mary in the crowd waving a yellow handkerchief. (Jamie)

I thought the ship was the biggest thing I had ever seen. It was so noisy and busy at the dock. I had to hold both my mum's and dad's hands - my dad even had to lift me up! (Leah)

We will be continuing with our Titanic topic as we still have lots to discover about the journey.

Everyone has made a finger puppet to help us with our French conversation! The puppets meet and greet each other, checking names and how everyone is. We will be finding out more about France and comparing some aspects of life in France with life in Scotland.



P5C have been using Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats for the last few weeks. We wore our white hats when we were dealing

with facts and information, when the children learned about the class system aboard Titanic. We wore our green hats when we were being creative - we imagined a passenger and created a profile about them. These were then turned into paper models and look great on our class display. We will be wearing our black hats when we try to work out who was to blame for the disaster.

Our numeracy block on Place Value has come to an end and the children showed brilliant progress in their post topic assessment. The next block will focus on addition and subtraction.

Our rugby taster sessions with Tom, the rugby Development Officer, have been fun. The children have been developing their skills and are looking forward to the festival at Neilson Park.

Mrs Arnold has been teaching netball this term. The class have been learning the, quite complex, rules and positions and have enjoyed the challenge of competitive games.



P6A have been learning how to write newspaper articles as part of our Mock Court topic. We have worked very hard and produced some fantastic work. We have

recently found out what roles we will be taking in the case. These roles include lawyers, witnesses, court artists and gown makers. Everyone is very excited to attend the trial at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

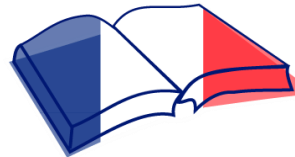
Following the October holidays, our new topic will be Body Systems. We intend to carry this theme across the curriculum with interdisciplinary learning in science, social studies and health and wellbeing.

Over the next term, we are going to introduce cooperative learning in our classroom. We will begin to build learning teams within the classroom learn how to work cooperatively with one another. We are also beginning to introduce De Bono's 6 Thinking

Hats to explain and support different ways of thinking when approaching tasks.

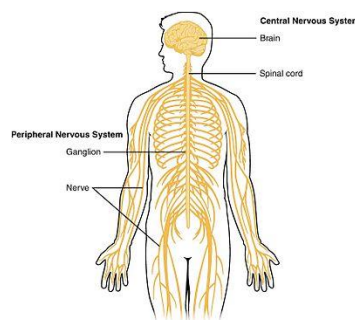
In numeracy, we will continue to enhance our mental agility with daily practice. We will also be learning about multiplication and division. In maths, we will be learning about fractions as well as a small research project on a famous mathematician.

In reading, we will be learning about non-fiction book and the skills needed to access them. We will continue to develop our writing, spelling and handwriting.



P6B have had a busy start to the term and are now well and truly immersed in our Mock Court case project. The children are looking forward to

presenting their cases when we visit Edinburgh Sheriff Court to compete against other schools. We have all enjoyed learning French and have been taking part in lots of games and activities to practise the new vocabulary we have learnt. We will continue to develop our French skills throughout the term. Following the October break, we will move on to investigate body systems with an interdisciplinary learning focus encompassing science, health and well-being and social studies. In our reading, we will develop our non-fiction skills, whilst in numeracy and maths we will be looking at multiplication /division, simplifying fractions and investigating how mathematics impacts on the world around us.



P6C are making tremendous progress with our Mock Court topic and beginning to focus on our days in court at the beginning of November. The witnesses and lawyers are creating the story which will allow us to write our script

ready to perform in front of the sheriff. The gown makers have been planning fabulous designs for the lawyers to wear and the artists have begun the artwork which will illustrate the newspaper articles that we have all been working on. We will be moving onto diary entries and rehearsals before we know it!

In French, we are confident when greeting each other and can hold short introductory conversations. We are learning the alphabet and were surprised to hear that some letters are just the same as they are in English.

Once we return from the October break we will be investigating various body systems. In addition, we will be working collaboratively to develop non-fiction skills in order to research how mathematics impacts on the world and the important part it has played in advances and inventions.



P7A deserve a huge THANK YOU for performing their class assembly. The classes were given the responsibility for planning and creating this and all their hard work paid off. They managed to include a variety of different areas and highlight pupils' strengths. We would also like to thank all the parents and carers who managed to come along and hope that you enjoyed it as much as the pupils did performing it.

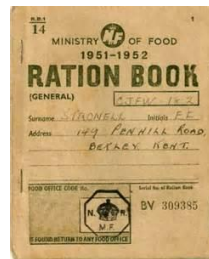
The class are well on their way to learning about World War 2. They wrote personal letters describing how an evacuee child would have felt leaving home and staying with a host family, not knowing when they would return, and described their journey from the train station to their new home and school. The class enjoyed researching the different leaders during the war and creating a poster to display the information they had discovered. The pupils had personal choice of which leader they would like to research and worked with a partner to create their poster. The class can explain the different jobs women had before and after the war; explaining how their roles changed when the men went to fight the war. The class will be moving onto learning about the Blitz, Air Raid Precaution Warden and the Holocaust. The Primary 7 year group will finish with a VE Day lunch on Thursday 13th October to celebrate the end of the war.

We have been so impressed with the standard of the topic homework. We have received excellent information and propaganda posters. Trying all the wartime recipes has been a great success and it is lovely to see photographs from home showing this.

Photographs of the homework will be on the school website over the forthcoming weeks.

The class are continuing to read their AR books and taking quizzes. We are working on our class word count and trying to beat personal goals. AR books should be going home every night and brought back into school each day.

The class will be taking part in a Spy Workshop on Wednesday 5th October at the John Gray Centre.



P7B have been enjoying learning all about what life was like during WWII. We would, once again, like to thank everyone for their support with our homework tasks. It has been great to see the amount of effort that the children have put in to them. 😊

In class, we have recently been thinking about the different roles that woman had during the war and are moving on to finding out about the Blitz. We have been using our knowledge of the "Home Front" to inform our imaginative writing. We have written some super evacuee letters detailing what it would have been like to leave home and travel to the country. This week, we are writing an account as an ARP warden during the Blitz.

7B are also starting to think about how we can share our work with you in our upcoming class assembly. The children have had lots of ideas and are working together to develop these. We hope that you can make it along.

As our topic comes to a conclusion, we will be visiting the John Gray Centre to take part in their WWII Spy mission workshop. We are also planning on holding a VE Day celebration lunch for the pupils to enjoy- more information to follow.

Linked to our WWII topic we are finding out about Judaism and its associated beliefs and customs. We are also enjoying listening to and discussing our class novel "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas".

Now that AR is up and running, we are trying hard to increase the overall word count in 7B. We already have some children who are passed the 200,000 mark! Well done to them 😊 Books should now be coming home and we should be reading for 15/20 mins each night.

We have been continuing to practise our hockey skills and we are enjoying putting them into action in games.

We are hoping to organise a P7 hockey tournament towards the end of this term.

In class maths, we have finished our work on 2D shape. We now know how to recognise an equilateral, an isosceles and a scalene triangle and also how to draw circles using a pair of compasses. We are now moving on to co-ordinates. In group numeracy, we are continuing to work on place value and rounding.

Finally, we will soon be introducing Edward de Bono's "Six Thinking Hats" method to the classroom. Each of the coloured hats stands for one kind of thinking. We will be using this tool to help us achieve quality thinking, decision making and problem solving.



P7C's World War 2 topic has been a great success. The children have greatly enjoyed it and I would like to thank all of the people at home who have been

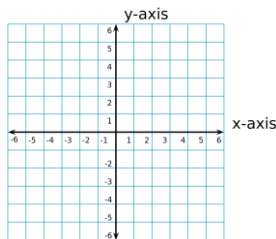
involved in producing some fantastic homework pieces. We have had a wide selection of WW2 recipes, some very detailed models of Anderson shelters, as well as individual research projects and poems. Well done to all involved! In class, we have been learning about evacuation, the role of women in the war, the Blitz and are now moving on to look at the holocaust and how the war ended. To end our topic we are going to recreate a VE Day street party lunch. This will take place on Thursday the 13th of October. Appropriate foods from the time will be served and we will share some of our learning and sing songs.

Our class novel has been "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas". We have had a lot of discussion around the novel and have been creating our own questions about the text. All children should now be bringing their Accelerated Reader books home. This is a book that they have chosen by themselves and should be within the own ZPD (you can find this noted at the front of your child's homework diary). We would recommend that they are reading this for around 20 minutes a night along with completing their maths and spelling homework.

In class maths, we have been looking at 2D shape. The children have been learning to describe and identify the shapes by looking at their properties.

We have also been learning about circles and having fun drawing some intricate circle patterns. Our next maths topic will be coordinates.

A final note, the class will be visiting the John Gray Centre to take part in a Spy Workshop related to our World War 2 topic. The visit will take place on Wednesday the 12th of October.



P7D would like to thank everyone who has supported them in their WW2 homework tasks. It has been wonderful to see the range of activities that have been undertaken. All the

children have put in tremendous effort and have enjoyed sharing their homework with the class. The homework has ranged from power point presentations to artistic Anderson shelters to home baking from war recipes. Mary Berry would be proud. Well done!

The children are still very much enjoying the WW2 topic. We have been researching some of the war leaders and have made posters about them. The children worked in groups to research different roles of women in WW2 and then presented their findings back to the class. We have also looked in detail about evacuation and the children had to write a letters home as an evacuee. The children transferred the knowledge of what they had learnt about evacuation into their letters well. The children will be visiting the John Gray Centre on the 5th October to take part in WW2 themed interactive workshop.

In maths, we have just finished a block of learning about shape and are now going to be learning about coordinates.

The children are enjoying taking part in Accelerated Reader again. These books can be taken home to read. Well done to the children who have been selected for the school hockey team. They have been working hard practising their skills with Mrs Arnold.

Anna has been selected as 7D's Class Rep and she has been doing a wonderful job keeping the class informed of all the news.